



Alive!

No One Is Ever Forgotten

A Utah family finds peace after reading about the last days of their brother in *Alive!*'s 'People We See.'

— PAGE 14



ABOVE: Jessica Mertlich holds a photo of her late brother, Troy, who was featured in a 2015 "People We See" story by Association CEO John Hawkins.

Cheap Tickets. Enhanced Benefits. Unparalleled Service.



Employees Club of California
311 South Spring Street, Suite 1300
Los Angeles, CA 90013



Fairly Awesome!

Club Members pay just \$14 (adults) and \$10 (children) admission to the LA County Fair!

www.employeesclub.com

**THEME PARK DISCOUNT
SAVE ON TICKETS!**

EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM

**FAMILY FUN
Club Discount**

**THEME PARKS, MOVIE TICKETS, SHOWS,
ATTRACTIONS, SPORTING EVENTS...**

‘This Person Is a Person’

When **Jessica Mertlich** – neither a Club Member nor an LA resident – emailed the Club last November, one of the first thoughts I had was: Angels Flight. I’ll tell you why in a moment.

Jessica had just found her long-lost brother, **Troy Mertlich**, in a “People We See” feature created by Association CEO **John Hawkins**. He had interviewed Troy in 2015.

(“People We See” is the Club’s series of interviews of those who live on the streets of Los Angeles. They



Troy Mertlich and Association CEO John Hawkins, 2015.

have names, stories, tragedies and sometimes wisdom, just like the rest of us.)

John’s interview with Troy was the 70th in the series. This month’s “People We See” is the 108th. And yet John remembered Troy immediately from eight years ago. Our editor, **John Burnes**, also remembered Troy. I did, too – I last saw him years ago sitting on the ground near Angels Flight downtown.

John Hawkins told Jessica why he interviewed the homeless, including her brother. He said: “This person is a person.” It is as simple as that.

I like to think that Troy sitting next to Angels Flight is meaningful: After at least two decades living on the streets, he still knew his family – and strangers like us who saw him there – didn’t forget about him before he took his final flight to the angels. Truly no one is ever forgotten.

Thank You, Sgt: I congratulate **Sgt. Belinda Nettles** on her retirement from Airport Police after 34 years of City service. When we restarted *Alive!* more than 20 years ago, we needed contacts to help us tell the good-news stories of City employees. Sgt. Nettles proved cheerful and very helpful in telling those stories from her department. Thank you, Sgt. Nettles. We wish you a happy retirement.

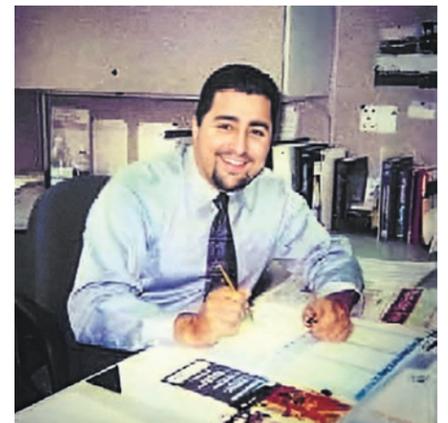
ROBERT’S BLOG

by Robert Larios, CEO, The Club



An Anniversary:

In 1998, I started my first job after college at the Los Angeles City Employees Association, Inc. and the Employees Club of California. I was 22 years old and had no idea what I was doing. Twenty-five years later, I’m celebrating my silver anniversary at the same organization. I have learned many lessons over the years, but the four that stand out to me on this special anniversary are:



Robert Larios, circa 1998

1. Be grateful for what you have rather than dwelling on the things you do not have.
2. Save the people rather than saving the numbers. Put people before profits.
3. The path to your fulfillment includes actions that have meaning, relevance and contribution.
4. A support network is important for success in life.

Thank you all for being a part of my journey. I look forward to serving you now and well into the future.

¡Gracias por leer!

— Robert Larios

#ClubMobile Schedule*



We’re bringing Club benefits and authentic Los Angeles City gear to you!

Schedule a Site Visit

Contact Lupe Lira, Club Store Manager:
(213) 819-0350, or mobile@employeesclub.com



At a recent Mobile Team site visit.

Follow Club social media for other days, times and locations as they are scheduled.



* Mobile Team site visit dates are subject to change due to the pandemic. Make sure to check with your supervisor to confirm dates and times, up to and including on the scheduled day itself.

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

Wednesdays:

May 3, June 7, and July 5

Harbor Boys and Girls Club

100 W. Fifth St., San Pedro • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Monday, May 1

North Central Sanitation

452 N. San Fernando Rd.
6:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 17

LADOT Exposition

11214 Exposition Blvd.
8 a.m. – Noon

The Club Mobile Team will bring Club benefits and authentic Los Angeles City apparel for purchase at Club prices (hats custom-made on site). It’s one of the best ways for staff to feel appreciated. Your employees will be grateful!

For your continued safety: The Mobile Team is accepting only outdoor set-ups for now.

Tuesday, May 23

LADWP

22500 Jawbone Canyon, Cantil
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 24

Metropolitan State Hospital

11401 Bloomfield Ave., Norwalk
6:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Saturday, June 3

LADWP Retiree Picnic

Whittier Narrows
750 S. Santa Anita Ave.
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

ATTENTION SUPERVISORS:
Raise employee morale! Bring the Club to your worksite!



'People We See'

No One Is Ever Forgotten

PAGE 14

COVER STORY:

No One Is Ever Forgotten 14-17

An *Alive!* Special: A family from Utah discovers one of the last days of their long-lost brother via "People We See."

STORIES

The Club

It's an *Alive!* tradition – sending your love to the special moms in your life. See them all here! 8-9

Arlene Herrero is busy presenting Club benefits to new City employees. Schedule her for a visit! 10

Club's Joannie Mukai Scholarship increase in number, stipend amount; Deadline is June 30, 2023 7

Airports

LAX shows off its big bed of flowers, thanks to LA's overwhelming rain this winter... 11

General Services

Film liaison unit wins statewide industry award 22

Harbor

New Officer Marquez-Macias joins the Port Police family 9

LAFD

Capt. II Paul Egizi named Firefighter of the Year 19

Dept. hosts Girls Camp to encourage fire awareness, possible career direction for high-school-aged young women 27

Dept. promotes 38 sworn personnel. 10

Firefighter Brian G. Corntassel, Club Member, dies unexpectedly at home April 4 19

Mayor's Office

Three staffers added to leadership team. 9

Personnel

Michi Slaughter leaves the City for employment in Texas. 22

Public Works

Sanitation hosted sixth annual Earth Day event. 11

Sanitation completes its major project to reconstruct the North Hollywood Conveyance Facility 12

Sanitation's popular open houses return after a three-year pandemic pause ... 26

Sanitation completes its major Dual Force Main sewer line project between Venice and Playa del Rey 7

Rec & Parks

Traci Goldberg named new head of Aquatics. 25

SECTIONS AND COLUMNS

Alive! Around the World. 18

Club Insurance: Long-Term Disability. 5

Club Mobile Schedule. 2

Club Team. 4

Cooking with the Club 13

Deaths: In Memoriam 24

Graduations 25

LACERS 27

Larios in the City 11

People We See: Kenyatta McNeil 28

Picture Perfect Contest Winners 26

Picture Perfect Theme for the Month 23

Ready for Retirement 6

Retirements 24

Robert's Blog: From the CEO 2

FOR RETIREES:
RLACEI Pages 20-21

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

Coloring Contest: Kids Web

Claims Monthly Web

Library Top Ten Web

Advertiser's Index

Rosebud Marketing. 27

United Agencies 10

NEW THIS MONTH **ONLINE!**

alive.employeesclub.com

Cooking With the Club

In this month's issue: Chef Larios revisits his delicious recipe for buttered shrimp baguettes with lemon slaw and seasoned potatoes. — See page 13



Rest Insured

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



John's Picture Perfect

John's Picture Perfect – see all the winners from this month's contest with the theme "baseball."



Coloring WITH THE CLUB

CONTEST DEADLINE: MAY 10

Color it and **WIN**
4 free tickets to the

SAN DIEGO 200

Ask an adult to print the coloring page:
alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest



The Club
Is Here
to Help

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

Contact the Club

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

help@employeesclub.com
(800) 464-0452

The Club Store Online
Open 24/7
employeesclub.com

Alive!

May 2023 • Volume 22 – No. 5

Alive! is the official publication of the **Employees Club of California**
311 Spring St., Suite 1300
Los Angeles, CA 90013

TELEPHONE: (800) 464-0452

CONTACT US: admin@aliveemployeesclub.com

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

ALIVE! EDITORIAL OFFICES:

311 Spring Street, Suite 1300,
Los Angeles CA, 90013 • (800) 464-0452

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

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

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

Alive! Staff

John Hawkins and Robert Larios,
Managing Editors

John Burnes, *Editor*

David Jamgotchian,
JJLA Associates,
Design and Production

LACEA (Association) Board of Directors

Phillipe Chou, *LADWP*

Carlos Rodriguez, *LADOT*

Jackie Koci Tamayo, *Santa Clara County*

Andrew Virzi III, *LADWP*

Capt. Danny Wu, *LAFD*

LACEA Insurance Services (The Club) Board of Directors

Terry Carter, *LAPD, Retired*

Marilyn Holley, *Public Works: Bureau of Sanitation, Retired*

Rose Hyland, *Office of the Controller, Retired*

David Muraoka, *LAPD, Retired*

Rita Robinson, *County of LA, Retired*

Andrew Virzi Jr., *DWP, Retired*

The opinions expressed in articles, photos, images and responses contributed to the *Alive!* newspaper and Website, video and social media by those outside the Club staff and vendors are of the contributors, and not the Club. While the Club aims to publish materials that are exceedingly enjoyable and enhancing to Membership as part of the value we return to Club Members, outside materials do not necessarily reflect those of the Club, its staff and vendors or its Members.

In addition, the Club strives to publish only those elements that are produced by the Club itself, are in the public domain, or whose rights have been negotiated.

Club Members who have questions on these points may write to: alive@employeesclub.com

Alive! does not accept advertising from persons or organizations believed to be unreliable or financially irresponsible. *Alive!* is not responsible, however, for the performance of advertisers, the delivery or quality of their merchandise or services, or the legality of any particular program. Before making any purchasing decision, we recommend you consult additional sources as needed. Please contact the Club if you have any bad experiences with an advertiser. LACEA management reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to refuse any advertisement.



Meet the Club Team

The Club Team is here to help you receive the full power of your Membership and bring value, financial confidence and fun to your families. We honor your hard work and service! How can we help you? Contact us, and we'll be in touch with urgency. It's our promise to you!

Contact our help desk for all your Club needs:
help@employeesclub.com

Member Experience Team



Noelle Kauffman
Director of Sales



Cynthia Ha
Member Services Counselor



Cheryl Martin
Member Services Counselor



Dylan Noel
Member Services Counselor



Dalila Vielma
Member Services Counselor



Cesilee Castillo
Customer Service Representative



Hannah Hawkins
Social Media Assistant



Dylan Herrero
Customer Service Representative



Neil Kauffman
Member Services Operations



Marcus Martin
Customer Service Representative



Genesis Martinez-Flores
Customer Service Rep



Mike Conner
Member Services Counselor



Scott Hanock
Member Services Counselor



Toby Pass
Member Services Counselor



Eva Ramirez
Member Services Counselor



Lydia Rivera
Member Services Counselor



Ian Sollenberger
Member Services Counselor



Kati Yniguez
Member Services Counselor



Joseph Koralik
Member Services Counselor

Retail Operations



Guadalupe Lira
Retail Operations Manager



Danielle Carrion
Customer Service Representative



Rebecca DeBolt
Customer Service Representative



Eduardo Escalona
Mobile Operations Representative



Noah Hawkins
Customer Service Representative



Raul M. Salgado
Customer Service Representative



DeAngelo Thompson
Mobile Operations Representative

Tickets & Benefits Procurement



Mariana Guevara
Tickets and Benefits Procurement



Megan Eckert
Tickets and Benefits Procurement Associate

Claims



Monica Zamudio
Claims Administrator



Mikayla Sprague
Claims Coordinator

Business Development



Arlene Herrero
Vice President of Business Development

Information Technology



Petros Khachatryan
Director of IT



Rey Hernandez
IT Senior Developer



Alan Bound
IT Business Analyst



Ronald Cortez
Assistant Quality Assurance Analyst

Accounting



Leigh Thompson
Controller



Clara Flores
Senior Accountant



Citali Bon
Data Quality Manager



Natalia Guevara
Data Processing Coordinator



Edith Bon-Sanchez
Data Processing Coordinator



Daniel McAlinden
Senior Accountant



Tuyet Pham
Senior Accountant

Executive Office



Robert Larios
President & CEO,
LACEA Insurance Services, Inc., DBA Employees Club of California



John Hawkins
President & CEO, Los Angeles City Employees Association, Inc.



Summy Lam
Chief Operating Officer,
LACEA Insurance Services, Inc., DBA Employees Club of California



Brian Trent
Chief Financial Officer



Frank Ochoa
Accounting Assistant

**It's Fair
to say the
Club has great
deals on
LA County Fair
admission**

**Go to:
employeesclub.com**

Pay Tribute to Your Mom with a...

Picture

INSTRUCTIONS: Submit a photo of you, your mom (or both), and add a brief message. Your tribute will appear online just before Mother's Day.



DEADLINES:
May 10:
 to appear online only

- or -

Video

INSTRUCTIONS: Submit a short video of you, your mom (or both), and add a brief message. Your tribute will appear on the *Alive!* website starting May 13.



DEADLINE:
May 9: to appear online starting May 13

Tell your Mom you love her, for all the world to see ... and hear!

The Club's Mother's Day tribute photos are an *Alive!* tradition. But for the first time ever, the Club welcomes Mother's Day video greetings, too. Shoot a video selfie and send it to us. We'll post it on the *Alive!* Website for Mother's Day. Let Mom see your face and hear your voice, across the miles or anywhere.

It's free for Club Members. *That's Club value.*

START HERE:

alive.employeesclub.com/mothersday

...or scan this code with your smart phone.

All the instructions are on the simple, online form.



Club Member Exclusive Deal!
 Celebrating the Work and Lives of Municipal Government Employees

Budget CLUB MEMBER EXCLUSIVE
 MEMBERS SAVE UP TO 50% OFF BASE RATES

Dodgers CLUB DISCOUNT TICKETS SEPT HOME GAMES

USC FOOTBALL GAME
 USC vs ARIZONA SATURDAY OCTOBER 30

Club CALIFORNIA

EXPERIENCING CALIFORNIA LIFE AND WORK, TOGETHER.

Are You Hearing About the Hottest Club Deals?

Club Member Exclusive Deal!
 Celebrating the Work and Lives of Municipal Government Employees

46th ACURA GRAND PRIX LONG BEACH
 SEPT 25th - 26th

Member Discount

SUNDAY - 9/26
 CLUB MEMBER \$53 \$73

More details online

SIGN UP FOR THE CLUB'S EMAIL BLAST, AND YOU WILL!

Sign up now for all the great Club news, delivered right to your in-box – exclusive deals, great benefits, Club news, *Alive!* content ... and more!

Some of our best deals sell out quickly. Don't miss out! It's free, it's safe, it's the Club ... right to you!

SIGN UP NOW!

Go to the Club's Website, click on "Join our e-news" on the bottom right, follow the instructions, and you're done.

...OR PHOTOSCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR PHONE TO SIGN UP TODAY:



Long-Term Disability Insurance

FROM THE CLUB

The most important product you can get at the Club.

Get it today. Here's why:

- Protect your monthly income! You never know what might happen to you.
- How would you pay your bills if you couldn't work?
- City and DWP employees have limited sick time or salary continuation and no State Disability Insurance (SDI). The Club's Long-Term Disability Insurance is more than an option - it's vital.



Cheryl Martin
 Member Services Counselor
 cmartin@employeesclub.com
 Work cell: (213) 819-0794
 (800) 464-0452, Ext. 136
 23 years of insurance experience
 CA LICENSE NO: 0C12823



Phone and virtual meeting appointments available.

Email: help@employeesclub.com
Or call: (800) 464-0452

LACEA Insurance Services, Inc. ('Employees Club of California') is a licensed insurance agency offering insurance benefits to qualified Club members. The Club's CA DOI Lic. No. is 0B98000.

READY FOR RETIREMENT



Resources for Club Retirees or Those About to Retire



YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO INSURANCE

By Noelle Kauffman, Director Of Sales

Club Life Insurance: Designed for Retirees

Why would a Retiree need life insurance?

Does anyone rely on your income as a Retiree?

A life insurance payout can help pay for things such as your final expenses, outstanding debt or the loss of any income you were still providing to your loved ones.

Life insurance can also be used to replace all or a part of your spouse's pension benefits.

Have peace of mind knowing that your loved ones will be taken care of in

the event of your passing.

The Club provides Group Rated Term Life Insurance for its Members. Celebrate each new season of life, knowing the Club has your back!

Speak to our Retiree Specialist today for guidance on life insurance and other retirement benefits such as Long-Term Care insurance and Funeral Pre-Planning.

For Retirees, or Those About to Retire: Take the First Step to Retirement Success

Let's stay connected! Staying informed on your Membership and insurance details is key, so make sure you share with us your personal email address and phone number to ensure nothing slips through the cracks. Retirement doesn't have to mean disconnection – get in touch now for peace of mind tomorrow.

Please email info@employeesclub.com or call (800) 464-0452 to speak with a Customer Service Representative to update your current contact information.

Retirement should be a stress-free process, and the Employees Club of California can help you make it just that! Get expert guidance from our team so you can start your retirement journey with peace of mind.

You've worked hard for retirement – now let the Club help you enjoy it fully! Speak

with one of our Retiree Counselors and take advantage of group-rated Life Insurance benefits, Accidental Death and Dismemberment coverage, Pre-Funeral Planning services, Long-Term Care protection and exclusive access to MetLife Legal Plans. What better way is there to start your golden years on solid ground?

Staying informed about your Membership and insurance details is key, so make sure you share with us your personal email address and phone number to ensure nothing slips through the cracks.

Schedule an appointment today with a Retirement Specialist and learn why life insurance remains so important in retirement.

Ready to take the next steps in your financial independence journey? Our

Retirement Specialists can give you an edge – book a consultation today and start planning for tomorrow! With their help, you'll be well on your way towards achieving financial security and living out the retirement of your dreams. Don't wait – secure your future now.

JOIN THE CLUB

As a Retiree, you are entitled to group rated insurance benefits including life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment, pre-funeral planning, long-term care, and our popular legal plan by MetLife.

SIGN UP ONLINE



Retired or Retiring Soon?

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



Cheryl Martin

(800) 464 -0452,

EXT. 136

Work cell: (213) 819-0794

23 years of insurance experience
CA LICENSE NO: 0C12823

2023 Events

June 3 LADWP Employees Assoc. Picnic (for retirees)

Whittier Narrows Recreation Area (The Meadows)

750 S. Santa Anita Ave.
South El Monte

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

June 7 LARFPA Annual Picnic and Benevolent Fundraiser

Almanson Court
700 S. Almanson St., Alhambra

Noon – 3 p.m.

\$10 admission

Reservations:
events@larfpa.org

Contact Information

Employees Club of California

Club contact:
help@employeesclub.com

Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) (City Dept.)

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

LADWP Retirees Association

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

Fire and Police Pensions (City Dept.)

(844) 885-2377
pensions@lafpp.com

LA Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA)

(888) 288-5073
membership@larfpa.org

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)

See page 20

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



FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

Are You Ready for Retirement?

Here are some current programs to help with your planning:

Webinars

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

Sat., May 13 (in-person)

Wed., May 24 (webinar)

Thurs., June 29 (webinar)

Wed., Aug. 16

(Tier 3) (webinar)

All webinars/events begin at 9 a.m.

Applying for Retirement Online

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

For example, if your desired retirement date is July 15, 2023, you would have aimed to submit your retirement application in the portal on May 16, 2023. For more information, please visit lacers.org/applying-retirement.



Club Scholarship Deadline Next Month

APPLY BY 11:59 P.M., JUNE 30, 2023.

CLUB: Applications are now being accepted for the Joannie Mukai Memorial Club Scholarship on the *Alive!* Website.

The Club has increased the number of awards to be given – at least 30 – and the amount given to each awardee – \$750, up from \$500.

Those eligible for the scholarship program include Club Members; their spouses; their children, grandchildren, step-children, and foster children; and nieces/nephews who are in college or will be attending an accredited college or university in Fall 2023. There is no age limit for Member or spouse, but all others must be under 25.

All materials must be completed on the *Alive!* Website and submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. June 30, 2023. Winners will be notified by July 31 before school starts.

The Club expects to award each recipient a stipend of \$750.

INTERESTED CANDIDATES MAY BEGIN THE PROCESS DIRECTLY ON THE *ALIVE!* WEBSITE AT:

alive.employeesclub.com/scholarship

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- All Club Members and their spouses of any age; and children, grandchildren, step-children, foster children and nieces and nephews of Club Members under the age of 25; are eligible to apply. Club Members must be in good standing.
- The successful candidate must attend an accredited four-year college or university full time in the fall semester 2023. Current high school seniors matriculating to a four-year school in Fall 2023 are eligible.
- Candidates will be judged for academic excellence, community service and financial need.
- Scholarships are expected to be awarded in equal amounts of \$750 (each).
- Deadline: Applications must be completed online at the *Alive!* Website and submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. **June 30, 2023.** 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.



Cameron Palacios incoming student at UCLA, and son of Shirley Palacios, Harbor, City of Los Angeles, received a stipend last year as part of the Mukai Scholarship Program.

\$750

\$500

Club Scholarships

APPLY NOW!

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 long-time Association Board Member, she died in March 2010. The Club's annual scholarship program was named in her honor. "She believed in education and training, and in preparing for success," CEO Robert Larios said. "That's what the Club Scholarship is all about, and we're delighted to name it after her. It's a perfect way to keep her memory alive."



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

DEADLINE

11:59 p.m.,
June 30, 2023

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

The Pipes Are Calling

SANITATION OPENS ONE OF ITS BIGGEST ONGOING PROJECTS.

PUBLIC WORKS: On March 16, the day before St. Patrick's Day, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment celebrated the completion and opening of one of its most prominent projects – the Dual Force Main sewer line. The project constructed a second main sewer line from the Venice pumping plant to the Hyperion Water Treatment Plant in southern Playa del Rey.

The new force main sewer will be used in tandem with the existing force main sewer to provide sewage conveyance capacity, pipeline redundancy, and the ability to assess and conduct maintenance activities on the existing line, which dates from 1960.

Construction on the second-line project began in 2017.

Several departments contributed efforts to make the project a reality, including Public Works/Engineering, Public Works/Contract Administration, Mayor's Office, City Council, LADOT, and others.

Congratulations to all! ●



Pulling the symbolic lever to officially open the Dual Force Main sewer line project were (from left) John Reamer, Inspector of Public Works/Contract Administration; Susanna Reyes, Commissioner, Board of Public Works; Barbara Romero, Director and General Manager, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment; District 11 Councilwoman Traci Park; Tracy Quinn, Heal the Bay; and Ted Allen, City Engineer



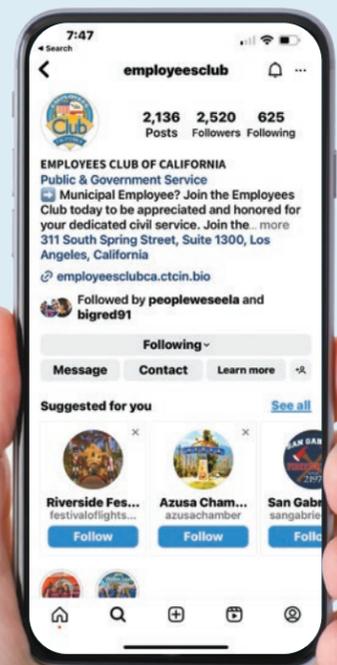
Follow The Club on Instagram!

Along with our presence on Facebook, Twitter and email, the Club is sharing its fun videos on Instagram.

Here's how to follow us on Instagram:

ON YOUR DESKTOP
www.instagram.com/employeesclub

ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE
open the app, and search for:
@EmployeesClub



Employees Club of California



Happy Mother's Day

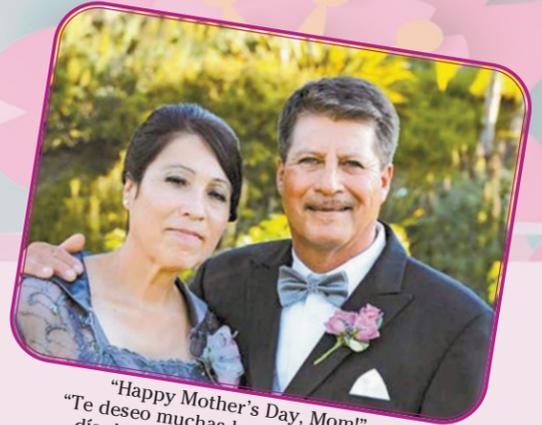
From the Club



"Happy Mother's Day, Mom and Grannoni (RIP). I am forever grateful. Thank you so much, I love you!"
April Davis, LADWP



"Happy Mother's Day to my beautiful wife. Thanks for our wonderful children and for the best life we have together."
Miguel Lozano, Airport Police



"Happy Mother's Day, Mom!"
"Te deseo muchas bendiciones en este día de la madre. ¡Te quiero, mamá!"
Robert Larios, President and CEO, the Club
(pictured: Robert's mom and dad)

More Mother's Day Messages on Web Alive!

It's not too late to publish a photo of you and your mom (or just your mom)... and a two-or three-sentence message of Happy Mother's Day. Submissions received by May 6 will appear on Web Alive!

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



"Thank you for all of your love and support, Mom! I love you so much. Happy Mother's Day!"
Faye Serafin, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment



"Sometimes I simply can't believe where I am in life. Then, I remember it's all because of you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."
Jessica Kellogg, Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara



"Happy Mother's Day, Mama. Thank you for everything that you did for us (even though we drove you crazy). Lots of love."
Sandra Diaz, Library



"I love my mother more than words can say. She's a strong woman of God and a living testimony to the healing power of Jesus. Praise the Lord for my mom!"
Sarah Richardson, LAPD



"Cheers to our last Mother's Day, both as department employees! Thank you for everything you've given to me and for all that you still give!"
Candace Montgomery, LADWP



"Happy Mother's Day to the best mom ever! Thank you for teaching me my moral values and being compassionate toward others. I love you!"
Tracie Montgomery, LAPD



"Mom. Mama. Nana. You are the reason my children and I strive to be good people. We love you! Feliz Día de Las Madres!"
Michele Canela, City Attorney's Office



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



"Happy Mother's Day, Linda! Thank you for all you do for our family. We are all so lucky to have you in our life! We love you so much!"
Charles Garcia, Retired, Public Works/Street Maintenance



"Happy Mother's Day!"
Jenny Jacinto, Housing



"On June 10, my mother, Ethel Spaulding, will turn 85. She taught my three sisters and me to work hard, and you can achieve your dreams. Kisses, Mom."
Debora Fore, Retired, LAPD



"I miss my mom. She made me who I am today."
Tom Pazdernik, Airports



Happy Mother's Day. I love you!
Eric Wilson, LADWP



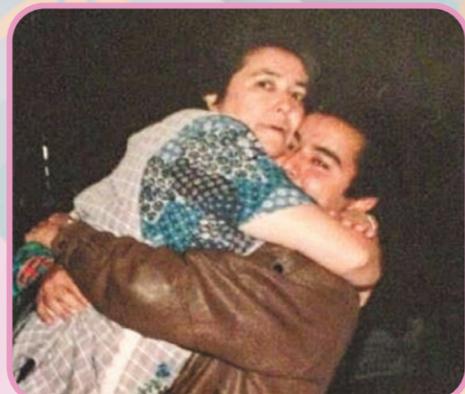
"Happy Mother's Day to my soon-to-be Lala (grandma). Thank you for all your love and support."
Jessica Lee, Public Works



"At 100 years young, my momma, Rafaela Trinidad, is still the best mom in the world to me because of her faith and caring heart. Happy Mother's Day, Mom!"
Rachel Griffin, Retired, Convention Center



"Happy Mother's Day!"
Cecilia Manzo, LADWP



"Happy Mother's Day in heaven, Mom! I love you."
Jose Manzo, General Services

Story courtesy Mayor's Office

New at the Top

THREE STAFFERS ADDED IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE: Three employees were added recently to leadership in the Mayor's Office. They are:



Joey Freeman

JOEY FREEMAN, DEPUTY MAYOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Joey Freeman currently serves as Director of Policy and Budget Initiatives for the Mayor's transition, where he has focused on developing the Mayor's budget proposal. He will now serve as Deputy Mayor of Intergovernmental Affairs with responsibility for advancing the Mayor's agenda at the county, regional, state and federal levels of government.

Most recently, Freeman served as Sr. Adviser and Policy Director on the Bass for Mayor campaign. Prior, he worked as the Chief Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary for Gov. Gavin Newsom, where he served as senior staff to the Governor and helped lead negotiations with the State Legislature on key issues like reopening public schools in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, mandating California's first all-mail state election and passing significant resources to tackle the homelessness crisis. Freeman was Policy Director for the Newsom for Governor campaign and a Chief Policy Consultant for then-Lt. Governor Newsom. Freeman has also worked for the Special Olympics World Summer Games and on local, state and federal campaigns. He is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley and the Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs.

BERNYCE HOLLINS, SR. DIRECTOR OF CITY BUDGET

Bernyce Hollins brings significant public sector experience with a City career that spans more than 20 years. As Sr. Director of City Budget, she will be responsible for the development of the Mayor's annual budget and financial policies. Most recently she served as a Chief Administrative Analyst for the City Administrative Officer, responsible for oversight of municipal facilities, capital programs and portions of the City budget. Hollins served as one of the City's Equity Officers and received a City Council Resolution in 2018 for her career performance and long-standing service to at-risk youth and unhoused individuals. She began her City career with the former Community Development Dept., administering workforce development grants. Prior to joining the City, she worked as a classroom instructor in South Los Angeles and participated in volunteer activities both domestic and abroad. She graduated with honors from Williams College as a political economy major and also studied in London and South Africa.



Krista Kline

KRISTA KLINE, DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Krista Kline will serve as the Director of Legislative Affairs, where she will be responsible for advancing the Mayor's policy agenda with the City Council and overseeing relationships with Council offices. Previously serving Council District 11 in a number of roles, including as Chief of Staff, she managed the City Hall and district teams, and oversaw the development of policies, projects and legislation in key priority areas such as homelessness, transportation, sustainability and land use planning.

Kline previously served the City as Planning Deputy for Council District 14, Urban Planning and Design Coordinator for Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and Sr. Project Coordinator for Housing. Before returning to the City, she worked at the Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Welcome (and welcome back) Joey, Bernyce and Krista! ●



Port Police Officer Marquez-Macias is congratulated after graduating from the LAPD Academy by Port Police Chief Tom Gazsi (left) and LAPD Chief Michel Moore.

Welcome, New Officer!

OFFICER MARQUEZ-MACIAS JOINS THE FORCE.

HARBOR: The Club welcomes Port Police Officer Marquez-Macias, who just graduated from the LAPD Academy in April and has been sworn in to her new duty protecting LA's critically important port.

Welcome, Officer Marquez-Macias!



A group photo of the 38 LAFD personnel promoted at the event held March 23.

Information and photo courtesy LAFD

Well Done, New Leaders

LAFD PROMOTES 38 SWORN EMPLOYEES.

LAFD: On March 23, the LAFD honored 38 sworn personnel who completed the process of promoting in rank or status within the department. Fire Chief Kristin M. Crowley oversaw a formal promotion ceremony at the LAFD Frank Hotchkin Memorial Training Center. Individually honored at the event were (listed according to new rank or status):

Promoted to Chief Deputy
Orin Saunders

Promoted to Deputy Chief
David Perez

Promoted to Battalion Chief
Logan Fields
Michael Flynn
Mario Garcia
Scott Hilton
Patrick Leonard

Promoted to Captain II
Robert Barna
Raul Cabrera
Adam Davis
Aaron Girvan
Timothy Halloran
Scott Kingsland
Matthew Long
Nicolas Riddall
Matthew Sanchez
Craig Wobig

Promoted to Captain I
Frank Barraza
Clinton Cadena
Ethan Fields
Matthew Lowenstein
Jason Mastro
Juan Penuelas
Christopher Thyfault

Promoted to Arson Investigator
Afara Lalaind
Rodger Polk

Promoted to Apparatus Operator
Sean Baker
Todd Bringhurst
Nathan Carver
Shawn Foster
Robert Jackson
Jared Kobylka
Ryan Larson
Eric Lugo
Christian Miyasato
Antonio Navarro
Brandon Wickman

Promoted to Inspector II
Gabino Martinez

THANK YOU!

The Club thanks these newly promoted LAFD staff for their service, and PIO Margaret Stewart for providing some of the information in this article.



Congratulations to all those whose work and dedication help to make LA the great City it is, and to their families for their sacrifices in making these careers possible. ●

New Discounts on MERCURY INSURANCE SAVE MONEY TODAY!



United Agencies Inc.
INSURANCE

100 N. 1ST St., Ste. 301, Burbank, CA 91502
877-801-5522 CA License #0252636

Club Members! Save on your Auto Insurance!

(888) 801-5522

DIRECT LINE FOR CLUB MEMBERS



Home and Auto Insurance Services provided for members of the **EMPLOYEES CLUB**

Get a **\$50 Arco Gas Card**
For Club Members if they purchase by May 31

We also have great rates on Homes, Boats, Motorcycles, RV's, Rental Properties and Apartment Buildings.

A FREE Benefit to members of the Employees Club

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

Arlene on the Scene

SCHEDULE A MEETING!

THE CLUB: Club Vice President of Business Development Arlene Herrero has been busy as always, saying hello to new City employees and Club Members, and telling them all about great Club benefits.

April 4, she visited and presented to the LAPD Custody Class's new employee orientation at the Ahmanson Training Facility. April 13, she visited the Harbor's Police Officers Association Board and Membership meeting.

Schedule her for presentations!

AHERRERO@EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM



Club VP of Business Development Arlene Herrero (lower left) gets ready to present to the LAPD's Custody Class new employee orientation. With her are Club Counselor Dailia Vielma (center) and the Club's Dylan Herrero.



A Southwest Airlines flight lands on Runway 7L near a floral carpet.

Photo courtesy Airports

April Showers, May Flowers

FLOWERS ARE EVERYWHERE IN THE CITY.

AIRPORTS: Those looking to view awesome flowers this spring in California – due to the record-setting rains earlier this year – need look no further than our own LAX. *Alive!* saw this gorgeous photo on LAX’s Twitter feed, and we wanted to share it.

Well done, Airports, for managing this beautiful floral carpet to greet the City’s visitors! ●



At the sixth annual Sanitation Earth Day April 22.

Photos by Jose Lozano, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment

Earthy Fun

SANITATION HOSTED SIXTH EARTH DAY EVENT.

PUBLIC WORKS: On Sat., April 22, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment held its sixth annual Citywide Earth Day LA event at the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant in Playa del Rey.

Attractions included City vehicles for kids to explore, games to play, prizes to win, sustainability workshops, plant giveaways, 50 exhibitors, customer service, and fun for all ages. Free beverages and snacks were available. All exhibits were related to City services and sustainability.

Here are two images of the fun!



At the sixth annual Sanitation Earth Day April 22.



Joseph Cornejo takes the wheel of a Sanitation trash truck simulator in Hyperion’s Environmental Learning Center. With him is Chermaine Fontenette in person and on the poster board behind him.

JOSEPH’S FIRST EARTH DAY

TRASH TRUCK FRIEND JOSEPH CORNEJO HAD FUN ATTENDING HIS FIRST EARTH DAY!

As we’ve chronicled in *Alive!*, Joseph loves trash trucks, and has made a great friendship with Chermaine Fontenette, Sanitation Refuse Collection Truck Operator and Club Ambassador. (See the March and April issues of *Alive!* online to get the full story.)

“We went to Sanitation’s Earth Day,” reports Joseph’s mom, Sara Panameno. “It was so fun and good! We met up with Chermaine and Councilwoman Traci Park. We can’t wait for the May 6 open house!”



Joseph with Councilwoman Traci Park



Joseph meets several Sanitation employees.

Larios In the City

By Robert Larios, Chief Executive Officer



Robert Larios, Club President and CEO, honors Club Members with the coveted Club Retirement Plaque.



Gladys Darlene Berry-Porter
LADWP, Retired after 36 years of City service.
She retired June 1, 2020.



Robert B. Myers
Harbor, Retired after 24 years of City service.
He retired July 27, 2013.



Christine W. Reed
ITA, Retired after 36 years of City service.
She retired July 26, 2006.



Elvia Nambo
Rec and Parks, Retired after 29 years of City service.
She retired Oct. 21, 2022.



Reyindah Brown
Harbor, Retired after 32 years of City service.
She retired Aug. 11, 2021.



Chandra V. Mosley
LADWP, Retired after 34 years of City service.
She retired Feb. 1, 2012.



Ben Cordova
LADWP, Retired after 35 years of City service.
He retired Feb. 1, 2023.



Calvin Davis
LADWP, Retired after 42 years of City service.
He retired Jan. 1, 2023.

FREE! CLUB RETIREMENT PLAQUE

Retiring soon?

Receive your own personalized Club Retirement Plaque, free! (Must be a Club Member for at least five consecutive years.)

Get started here:





A group photo with a ceremonial ribbon cutting included Councilman Paul Krekorian; Art Dibene, Wastewater Collection Supervisor; Aura Garcia, Board of Public Works President; Susana Reyes, Board of Public Works Commissioner; Simboa Wright, Wastewater Collection Worker II; John L. Reamer Jr., Public Works Inspector; Ted Allen, City Engineer; Barbara Romero, General Manager and Director; Traci Minamide, Chief Operating Officer; Julie Allen, Assistant Director, and Sanitation staff.

Photos by Jose Lozano, LA Sanitation and Environment



Barbara Romero, General Manager and Director, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment, said "the reconstructed facility ensures a timely response to any storm drain system or sewer system emergencies."



Councilman Paul Krekorian (left) with Simboa Wright, Wastewater Collection Worker II, Public Works/Sanitation, looking at the project boards of the work.



Ted Allen, City Engineer, spoke on behalf of Public Works/Engineering.

Growing the Flow

SANITATION OPENS ITS RECONSTRUCTED N. HOLLYWOOD WASTEWATER CONVEYANCE FACILITY.

PUBLIC WORKS: On April 10, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment celebrated the opening of the newly reconstructed North Hollywood Conveyance Facility, which has been redesigned to better support community residents in the East San Fernando Valley. The rebuild was designed to improve wastewater management throughout the area with the convenience of a more modern and environmentally sound infrastructure.

"This spring's extraordinary rainfall has reminded us all of our need to maintain the maximum capacity and efficiency of our wastewater management resources," said Council President Paul Krekorian, whose district includes the new project. "The reconstruction of the North Hollywood Conveyance Facility is only the first in a series of updates to this critically important system. The completion of the North Hollywood site is a major milestone."

The building features high-efficiency solar panels as well as a cool roof.

The North Hollywood Conveyance Facility is the second of the five existing conveyance facilities slated for complete redevelopment. Public Works/Engineering's Architectural Division has been working with Sanitation and Public Works/Contract Administration since 2006 in planning these facilities for design and construction.

The reconstruction of the North Hollywood facility, which was built originally in 1967, took approximately two years.

In March, Sanitation also celebrated the opening of another major distribution project – the Venice/Playa del Rey Dual Force Main sewer line.

Congratulations to all for the completion of this important conveyance system. ●



Councilman Paul Krekorian spoke at the opening of the reconstructed North Hollywood Conveyance Facility.



John L. Reamer Jr., Public Works Inspector, spoke on behalf of Public Works/Contract Administration.



Staff and dignitaries in front of a Vactor truck and the new conveyance facility.

Art Dibene, Wastewater Collection Supervisor, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment, thanked the staff and management.



Simboa Wright, Wastewater Collection Worker II, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment, thanked the staff at the event.



Aura Garcia, Board of Public Works President, gave remarks.



Board of Public Works Vice President Teresa Villegas gave remarks at the event.

Susana Reyes, Board of Public Works Commissioner and liaison to Public Works/Sanitation, speaks at the opening of the North Hollywood Conveyance Facility.



MY CLUB DEALS

by 

Easily access savings on the go with coupons that can be used on your phone or printed directly from home. Enjoy a wide range of discounts on dining, shopping, services, and travel throughout the United States and Canada at any time.

▶ EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM/ENTERTAINMENT



Cooking with the Club



Photos: Patty M. Larios

with Chef Robert Larios



Warm Buttered Shrimp Baguettes

with Creamy Lemon Slaw and Seasoned Potato Wedges

Try a shrimp roll! It is warm and yummy. All of the ingredients that are mixed together – including celery salt, garlic powder, paprika, and lemon juice – make the shrimp rolls taste amazing. The roll comes in a toasted baguette with crunchy cabbage slaw and garlicky potato wedges. Close your eyes when you take a bite – it will be so delicious that you'll want more!

¡Buen provecho!

Chef Larios

Warm Buttered Shrimp Baguettes with Creamy Lemon Slaw and Seasoned Potato Wedges

INGREDIENTS: Serves 2

- 12 ounces Yukon Gold potatoes
- 2 scallions
- 1 lemon
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 tablespoon mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoon sour cream
- 1 teaspoon celery salt
- 4 ounces coleslaw
- 10 ounces shrimp
- 2 demi baguettes
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 2 tablespoons butter
- Sea salt and pepper, to taste

UTENSILS YOU WILL NEED:

- Grater
- Medium pot
- Strainer
- Large pan
- Medium bowl
- Baking dish
- Aluminum foil



DIRECTIONS:

1 Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Wash and dry all produce. Cut potatoes into ½-inch-thick wedges. Trim and thinly slice scallions, separating whites from greens. Zest and halve lemon.

2 Toss potatoes on a baking sheet with a large drizzle of olive oil, half the garlic powder (you'll use the rest later), salt and pepper. Roast on top rack until browned and tender, 20-25 minutes.



3 Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, combine mayonnaise, sour cream, half the celery salt (you'll use the rest later), a big squeeze of lemon juice, and 1 ½ teaspoons sugar. Add coleslaw and scallion greens; toss to coat. Season generously with salt and pepper. Set aside to marinate.

4 Place 1 tablespoon butter in a small microwave-safe bowl; microwave until melted, 30 seconds. Slice baguettes lengthwise, stopping before you get all the way through. (Alternatively, halve buns lengthwise.) Spread melted butter onto cut sides of buns; toast until golden brown.



5 While buns toast, rinse shrimp under cold water; pat dry with paper towels. Toss in a second medium bowl with a large drizzle of olive oil, a big pinch of salt and pepper, half the paprika, remaining garlic powder, and remaining celery salt. Heat a large drizzle of olive oil in a large pan over medium-high heat. Once hot, add shrimp and scallion whites. Cook, stirring occasionally, until shrimp is pink and cooked through, 3-4 minutes. Turn off heat. Stir in 1 tablespoon butter and lemon zest to taste.

6 Fill toasted buns with shrimp and as much slaw as you like. Divide shrimp rolls between plates along with potato wedges. Slice any remaining lemon into wedges and serve on the side. **Enjoy!**



Save on HelloFresh Deliveries

Join Chef Larios by making your own HelloFresh meals delivered to your home. Sign in to the Club website and access your Entertainment/My Club Deals to receive 16 free meals with promotional purchase, including free shipping on the first box!

Food Lover's Dictionary:

Paprika [pa-PREE-kuh]:

Used as a seasoning and garnish for a plethora of savory dishes, paprika is a powder made by grinding aromatic sweet red pepper pods. The flavor of paprika can range from mild to pungent and hot, the color from bright orange-red to deep blood red. All supermarkets carry mild paprikas, while ethnic markets must be searched out for more pungent varieties.



Copyright Barron's Educational Services, Inc. 2009, adapted from The New Food Lover's Companion, 2007, by Sharon Tyler Herbst and Ron Herbst.

Cooking Tidbit - Add your favorite hot sauce to your roll for an extra kick, and ketchup for the potatoes.

Food Quote - "I make some of my best recipes with a simple homemade stock. Keep shrimp shells stored in a plastic bag in the freezer. When you have almost a gallon-bag full, you can make a stock in 30 minutes that you can use in soups and sauces. You can then freeze the stock in ice-cube trays." – **Emeril Lagasse**



The Mertlich family – Troy, his parents, and his sisters Michelle, Amy and Jessica (bottom).

No One

A Utah family finds out about the last day of their brother's life. Interview 70 of *Alive!*

For decades, Jessica had never seen her brother she ever loved. Her older brother, Roy, had disappeared. She felt seen and heard. She was eight years old when he disappeared without a trace, and she would only see him once a year or so until the day he was found. Sheri, last spoke to him in 2011. But for nearly 30 years, Jessica had never seen him for him. In 2020, they received



Troy Mertlich,



Is Ever Forgotten

... peace after reading
... of their brother in
... *Alive!*'s 'People We See.'

... Jessica Mertlich yearned for news of the only
... had. Growing up in Utah, she remembers her
... Robert "Troy" Mertlich, as always making her
... heard.

... t when he left home, never to return. "He left
... " Jes remembers, although he would call col-
... ne family ultimately lost touch. Troy's mother,
... 2 after the death of Troy's father.

... and the Mertlich family never stopped looking
... a letter from the LA County Coroner that Troy

... had passed away of a drug
... overdose on the streets
... of Los Angeles. He was
... shelterless at the time.
... His remains, in an urn,
... were shipped back to the
... family.

... That could have been
... the end of the story. But
... it wasn't. Even after the
... news of his passing, Jes
... never stopped looking for
... what had happened to
... him – trying to find any
... stories, photos, anything
... that could give her clo-
... sure. She still yearned for
... her big brother Troy.



2015

One More Search

After a decade of doing Google searches for him, one day this past November, the search algorithms hit just the right moment. She found him mentioned in *Alive!*'s "People We See" number 70, published back in January 2015.

She remembers: "On Nov. 21, 2022, I caught a glimpse of my brother's urn on my way to bed and I began to feel overcome by a desperate need to see his face just one last time, even two years after we got the news that he had died. I felt a sudden urge to do a search for him online again, which I thankfully followed. I whipped out my phone and typed 'Troy Mertlich' into the search engine, expecting the same results I've always gotten – nothing. For reasons I don't understand, [Google] was on my side that night (or just maybe my brother in spirit)."

Her search found a letter to the editor that *Alive!* published a month after the original "People We See" was printed in 2015. "If it wasn't for [the letter writer] using Troy's name I would not have found the article, and I'm so grateful that it did," she said. "I immediately reached out to *Alive!*"

"We were stunned to receive Jes' email," said Employees Association CEO John Hawkins, the author of the more than 100 "People We See" interviews. John had interviewed Troy for the original article in 2015 and remembered him. "Hi Jes," John Hawkins wrote in response to Jes' inquiry. "First, I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your brother; that always saddens me.

"Secondly, we had some luck in finding the actual article. I have done about 100 or so of these interviews, and I distinctly remember interviewing Troy. He talked about your parents and his upbringing. It's very rare for someone living on the street to be complimentary about their parents, yet he talked quite a bit about how much they loved each other and how good they were to the family growing up. He also talked quite a bit about what a good upbringing he had, a happy upbringing, and had only good things to say about his siblings. When he talked about you and his parents he really lit up with warm, positive energy. I'll never forget it.

"I am glad I could play a part in your search for more information on your brother."

The Club sent a copy of the interview to Jes. After seeing Troy's photos after his being away for 28 years, she remembers, "This was an amazing birthday gift! As someone who thought she'd never visually 'see' her brother again, I feel incredibly lucky to have photos to remember him by.

"While Troy looked very different, being 28 years older than when I saw him last, I immediately knew it was him," Jes continues. "I was filled with a wild combination of excitement, love, compassion and tranquility. I wasn't expecting happy photos since the homeless are rarely depicted in that manner in media, but I'm so grateful that's how I got to see him again, just one last time."

The Club honors the Mertlich family for never giving up on finding out what happened to their brother, Troy, and for letting *Alive!* tell their story. We wish them peace and understanding. ●



Jes Mertlich meets one of the last people to have met her brother, Troy – Association CEO John Hawkins. John interviewed her brother, Troy, for *Alive!*'s People We See feature in 2015.



Troy Mertlich holding his sister, Jes, 1986.

Troy Mertlich, around age 5 or so.

Jessica Mertlich holds a photo of her late brother, Troy, who was featured in a 2015 "People We See" story by Association CEO John Hawkins.

Feature continues, page 16

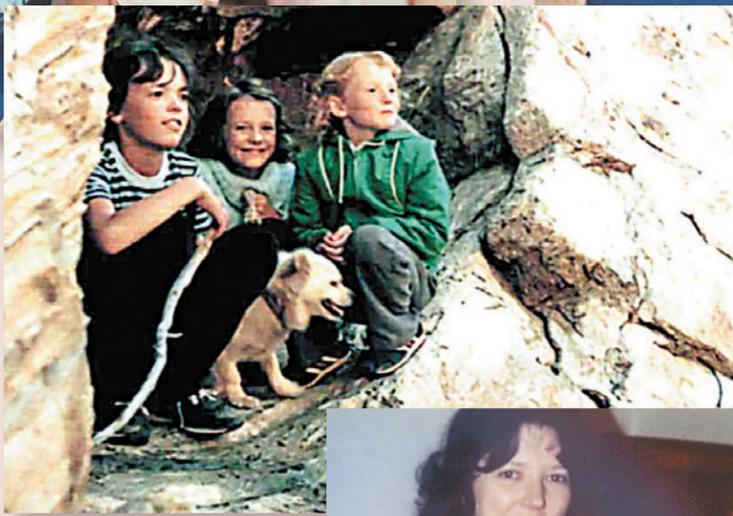
No One Is Ever Forgotten

Continued from page 15

The Mertlich family – Troy, his parents, and his sisters Michelle, Amy and Jessica (bottom).



Troy with his dad.



Troy with his sisters Michelle and Amy, 1980s.



Clockwise from upper left: Sheri, mom; Troy; and sisters Amy and Jessica."

‘I’m so grateful I got to see him again, just one last time.’

– Jes Mertlich, sister of Troy Mertlich

Troy Mertlich in the pages of *Alive!*, January 2015



Troy Mertlich, being interviewed by then-Club staffer Angel Gomez.



LEFT: The original "People We See" column from January 2015.



Troy Mertlich, being interviewed by Association CEO John Hawkins.

Growing Up With Troy

After finding the Alive! article on her brother, Troy Mertlich, his sister, Jes, reached out to her family for their memories of Troy, and she passed those memories along to us. (Their father has passed away.) Truly, no one is ever forgotten.

Michelle Perry, Sister



Michelle

Troy grew up in a family of six. He was the oldest of four children and the only boy. He had curly Kirk Cameron hair that blended in nicely growing up in the 1980s.

He loved all animals and had many – he was surrounded by a dog, hundreds of fish and exotic birds. One of the parrots would scream his name frequently throughout the day, especially when he wanted to eat. He loved cats but was highly allergic. That didn't stop him from rescuing two kittens and hiding them in his room. It was several weeks before his secret was discovered.

Troy was very fortunate to grow up with a large family garden and five-course homemade meals almost every night. Because of this, he loved to cook and would create delicious meals. The oldest

sister still makes one of his knock-off ramen dishes to this day.

His parents had more hobbies than most people. Pottery, jewelry making, baking, canning every food imaginable, and painting are just a few. His father loved the outdoors. He took the entire family out on many adventures like rock hounding, exploring the desert, fishing, and hiking in remote areas. His mother was an excellent baker and painter. This may be where Troy obtained his talent for art. He was excellent at drawing. Had his path been different, he would've made an extraordinary graphic designer, architect or something of the like.

My family – we're just nice people. We're givers. Troy had a gentle heart and tried to be kind to everyone. One summer, he even worked in a care center for adults and children with all sorts of disabilities – mental and physical.

Unfortunately, living in a neighborhood of bullies (adults and children), he suffered from loneliness and low self-esteem. One neighbor, a troublemaker, led him down the path of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. This life also included drugs.

It's unknown what prompted Troy to be homeless. His family, especially his sisters, would've taken him in, in a heartbeat.

I thought he was dead because he left everything – everything that was near and dear to his heart – in his room. He left things that I'd never in a million years think he ever would have left. Wouldn't you at least take one or two of your prized possessions? He took nothing with him. I actually thought he was killed. You never want anybody to be hurt.

After years of us not knowing if he were dead or alive, he finally called his mom. She was very relieved yet sad about his choices. His oldest sister never talked to him again after he left. His two younger sisters were fortunate enough to be at his parent's home when he would randomly call a few times a year. His father died in 2011. Due to his mom's poor health, she moved in 2012, and Troy was no longer heard from again. His mother, who last talked to him in 2012, tried to stay in contact with specific law enforcement to keep tabs on him. In November 2020, his family was notified that he had passed away due to a drug overdose. He was found on the streets by a security guard. Troy was 49. We were all saddened but somewhat relieved. The path he had chosen was a hard one. We know he is now receiving all the love he gave to everyone, including all his sweet animals.

I had not talked to Troy in my whole adult life; he left the summer after I got married, at 20. But one time I was visiting Los Angeles on vacation. We were driving past Dodger Stadium. At that moment I felt this strong energy that told me, "Troy is here." And sure enough, within the week, he called my mom and told her he was staying right where we had just passed. If only we had known.



Michelle Perry holds a necklace and bowl her brother Troy made for her when they were young.

Jes Mertlich, Sister



Jes

I was eight years old when I last saw my brother, so I may not remember as many personal stories as the rest of my family. But I do remember how he made me feel seen, heard and loved. He never made me feel left out.

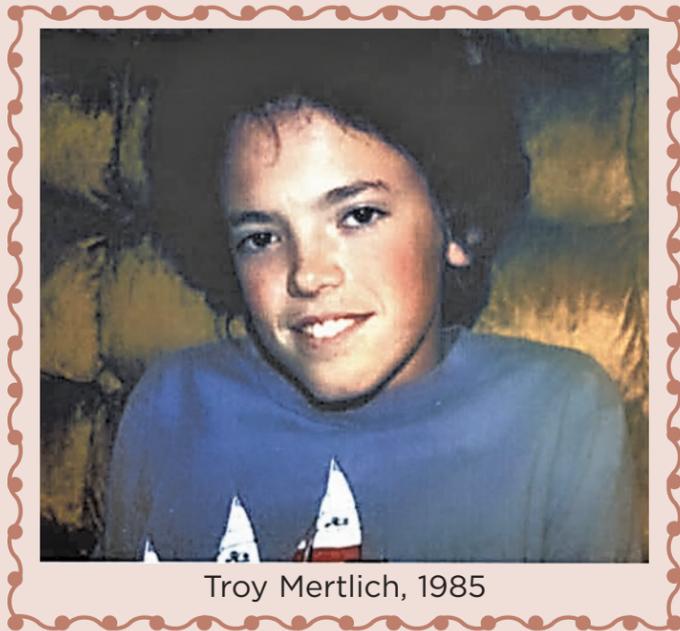
He inspired my love for music at a very young age (starting with the piano and eventually a little guitar). He played the guitar and was in bands. I wrote my very first song on the piano about my brother at age 9 or 10.

He also let me play "Sonic the Hedgehog" on his Sega, and let me pretend I knew what I was doing on his electric guitar. He also bought the best gifts and got me one of my favorites, Hawaiian Barbie.

I absolutely remember his love for animals and insects. He kept a pet black widow at one point.

He was bullied a lot, but I didn't know about that much because of our age difference. I've heard some truly horrific stories. He would get stabbed with a pencil when getting on his school bus, and other times the neighborhood kids would shoot BBs at him from their tree houses. It was beyond mean.

Troy was such a gentle soul. I thought he was the coolest. He was such a skilled artist as well and I kept his sketchbooks up until I moved out to go to college. He always smelled of Patchouli. I can also tell he was in love with working at the cat sanctuary he mentioned in your article. He spoke about that often when he called.



Troy Mertlich, 1985

Sheri Mertlich, Mom



Mom

Troy talked very well and very young. The doctors were so impressed with Troy that they ran tests on him. Afterwards they said he was highly intelligent and could become anything he wanted.

Another time when we were staying a weekend at a cabin, Troy caught his first fish in the stream, a big trout! He was so excited. I took several pictures of him with his trout. I'm not sure if he ate any of it, but he was so excited and happy!

Amy Mertlich, Sister



Amy

Michelle wrote a lot of my same thoughts in her blurb about Troy! Other than those, my memories are about his love of music, playing board games and taking stuff apart to see how it worked or to see if he could fix it. He took our very first computer apart months after getting it. He also fixed a bunch of tech equipment for one of the public libraries while doing community service hours. They rewarded him for that by

decreasing his hours he needed to serve because they were so impressed and appreciative to have working equipment again. I remember the smile he had on his face that day or anytime you brought up that library!

Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

Letter From Morocco, Pt. 3 Cruise Ships, Movie Stars and Mosques

Wishing to see more of Morocco than just Marrakech, we hired a chauffeur to drive us three hours north early in the morning to the port of Casablanca. Our alternative option would have been to catch the Al Atlas high-speed train from Marrakech to the port of Casablanca. However, this also takes three hours and still entails hiring a driver to explore the port upon arrival.

Casablanca is very popular with European cruise ships as it is one of the largest artificial ports in the world and the eighth largest in the Arab world. Massive skyscrapers and office blocks surround it, and lots of colorful horn-honking trucks intermingle with overloaded donkey carts and motor-

cycles, a positive hive of activity but lacking the charm of other cities like Tangier, Marrakech and Chefchaouen.

Humphrey Bogart did not know what he was creating when he filmed Casablanca in a Hollywood film studio and not in the port in Morocco. Due to the worldwide popularity of the film, visiting tourists are constantly asking where Rick's cafe from the 1942 film was. Taking advantage of these requests, a former American diplomat to Morocco, Kathy Kriger, recreated Rick's Café in 2004. She converted a traditional Moroccan grand mansion with an open central courtyard into a bar similar to the one portrayed in the film. An authentic 1930s Pleyel piano was installed so the in-house pianist can play "As Time Goes By." Over and over.

When we visited Rick's Cafe, it had become a high-end restaurant with a very friendly but firm doorman to enforce the dress code. We witnessed budget cruise ship passengers in very casual sportswear with backpacks being turned away. The restaurant has become very avant-garde, with prices to match; after a few cocktails, it was time to leave and step back into the real world.

Our next destination was the Hassan II Mosque by the sea, with its 600-foot-tall green-tiled beveled minaret tower visible from nearly anywhere in the city just a short drive away. These beautiful grounds are indeed a sight to behold; a verse from the Koran says, "The throne of God was erected on the waters," so King Hassan II employed French architect Michel Pinseau to design an artificial peninsula jutting out into the bay. After eight years of construction, \$600 million in expenditures and 80 million man-hours, it was completed and inaugurated on the prophet Muhammad's birthday in 1993. The mosque is the second largest in the Islamic world, after the one in Mecca, and is the only active mosque open to non-Muslims in Morocco. But you must dress respectfully, with no beachwear; only closed-toed shoes; long trousers; with arms and shoulders covered. Women don't have to cover their heads. To enforce this at the entrance, there is a security check. The ticket office, 120 dirhams (about \$12), allows access to the National Museum and Mosque grounds. Walking from the main entrance towards the mosque, we were overcome by the beauty and graceful enormity of the grounds and... this architectural marvel.

Upon entering the mosque, we had to remove our shoes and were given a small green bag to put them into so we could carry them. For those who do not wear socks, plastic bags are provided to cover the feet. They are uncomfortable to walk in but better than bare feet on a carpeted floor traveled by millions! There are tours in three languages: English, French and Spanish, and our guide explained all about the impressive architecture of the prayer room with its 78 pillars



Captain's Log

Traveling with Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor



Hassan II Mosque

supporting a cedar ceiling with an opening system so that, in summer, 20,000 worshippers can look up and see the heavens. There are still separate prayer areas for women.

In the past, before electricity, these large Muslim Towers did not have stairs inside but a ramp system so that older Imam could ride a small donkey up and down five times a day to call the faithful to prayer. One can only speculate who cleaned up the donkeys' daily surprises! There are no donkeys here; this minaret has a fast elevator that gets you to the top in one minute flat, with a laser beam directed toward Mecca. The building is earthquake resistant and has electric doors, and the floor has radiant heating; below is a vast car park and 41 marble fountains, used on special occasions by the faithful for ablutions before prayer.

Upon leaving the mosque, our chauffeur took us to a local eatery, then drove us to see the Old Medina souk; it's like traveling back in time, perfect for cruise ship passengers looking for unusual Moroccan food and spices, weird antiques, wooden statues, hand-made black soap, and other suspect vintage memorabilia. But I suggest keeping your wallet in your front pocket and avoiding wearing any expensive-looking jewelry.

The nice thing about having a chauffeur, after a long day of sightseeing, good food and ice-cold adult beverages, is that we could all nap on the road back to Marrakech.

Tip: Before visiting Morocco, I suggest learning a few Moroccan Arabic or French words. Most shop owners and taxi drivers speak only these two languages. A small start is "Shukran" (or in French, merci) – thank you.

Bon voyage mes amis.

Send in a travel picture holding Alive!



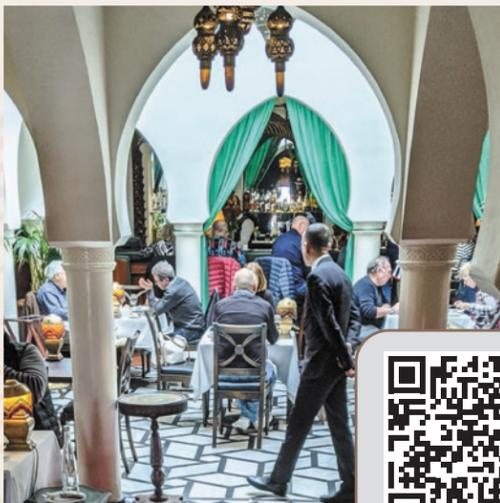
- Snap a high resolution photo of you holding Alive!
- Go to: alive.employeesclub.com/alivearoundtheworld You'll find a convenient online form to send your text and pics for publication.



Ricks Cafe, Casablanca



Ricks Cafe, Casablanca



Lobby at Ricks Cafe, Casablanca





MOVIE THEATER SHOP DISCOUNT TICKETS

BUY NOW
EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM

Firefighter Corntassel, Rest in Peace

FIREFIGHTER BRIAN CORNTASSEL PASSES AWAY AT HOME.

LAFD: The Club sends its sympathy and condolences to the family, friends and fellow Firefighters of Firefighter III Brian G. Corntassel, an active duty employee who died at home April 4 suddenly and unexpectedly, according to the LAFD.

Corntassel, a Club Member since 2013, served the City for 22 years. His last assignment was at Fire Station 5 in Westchester.

A memorial service was planned for Friday, April 28 at the Cottonwood Church in Los Alamitos.

In lieu of flowers, the department kindly asks those inclined to consider a donation in Firefighter Corntassel's honor to the nonprofit Widows Orphans and Disabled Firefighter's Fund.

May he rest in peace. ●



Firefighter Brian G. Corntassel

MY CLUB DEALS

by *entertainment*

DISCOVER EVERYDAY SAVINGS NEAR YOU!

FOR MEMBERS ONLY MORE BENEFITS INCLUDED IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP

CLUB MEMBER SAVINGS

Buy One. Get One!

CLUB MEMBER SAVINGS

Enjoy 15% off any one large regular-priced pizza.

CLUB MEMBER SAVINGS

Enjoy \$5 off your purchase of \$25 or more!

CLUB MEMBER SAVINGS

Enjoy 1 Free Regular Sub when a 2nd Regular Sub of equal or greater value is purchased.

CLUB MEMBER SAVINGS

Enjoy 40% OFF any regular-priced item.

CLUB MEMBER SAVINGS

\$15.00 OFF Synthetic Blend Or Full Synthetic Oil Change.

Merchant participation may vary and are subject to change. Valid at participating locations only.

EmployeesClub.com

Paul Egizi: Firefighter of the Year

FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION HONORS CAPT. II PAUL EGIZI.

LAFD: LAFD Capt. II Paul Egizi was named Firefighter of the Year (2022) by the LA City Firefighters Association (LAFFA) for his professional accomplishments last year.

A luncheon honoring Capt. Egizi took place April 20 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel.

Capt. Egizi has 36 years of City service.

Paul joined the LAFD in February 1987 and has held the ranks of Paramedic, Firefighter, Apparatus Operator, Captain I and Captain II. In addition to serving in Fire Stations throughout all areas of the City, he has worked in special duty assignments at the training academy as the Drill Master and at Air Operations as the Assistant Section Commander.

Wanting to contribute even more to the City and his community, Paul served as an



Capt. II Paul Egizi

Explorer Adviser for several years. He is a member of the LAFD's Field Incident Management Team as Air Operations Branch Director. He has been involved in various projects and committees, including the Elevator Rescue Kit, Air Operations, Operational Risk Management, Brush Committee, Recruitment, and has participated on several Serious Incident Review Teams.

One of Paul's greatest areas of influence comes from his passion for teaching, where his mantra is "learn something and teach something every day." He has been involved in Department seminars, writing training bulletins and teaching classes for both the Department and the State of California certification system. His greatest joy comes from teaching and



From left: Capt. II Paul Egizi is awarded by LAFFA President James Dolan.

mentoring at the individual and Fire Station level.

Off duty, Paul is a dedicated family man. He and his wife Debbie have been married for 34 years. He is the proud father of four adult daughters and "Papa" to his granddaughter Kira. He is also a beloved neighbor and friend as he lends a helping hand when and wherever he can. Paul is a member of the American Cancer Society and has participated in several Relays for Life. In 2018, he was a bone marrow

donor. Over the years, Paul has been involved with Firefighters for Christ, coaching sports and has attended Cornerstone Church.

Capt. Egizi embodies the Department's core values of service, professionalism, integrity, respect, innovation and trust. The LAFD and the City of Los Angeles Firefighters Association are proud to recognize Capt. II Paul Egizi as the 2022 Firefighter of the Year.

The Club congratulates Capt. Egizi on this big honor. ●

Story and photo courtesy LAFD and LAFFA

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.



RLACEI

For Retired Club Members

CONTACT INFORMATION

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



Ruth B. Perry

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

2022 Executive Board of Directors

- Ruth B. Perry, *President*

- Beverly J. Clark, *First Vice President*

- Mark Blunk, *Second Vice President*

- Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, *Treasurer*

- Nancy Hammoudian, *Secretary*

RLACEI DIRECTORS

Dial (800) 678-4145 plus extension

Beverly Anderson, <i>Director</i>	Ext. 702
Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, <i>Treasurer</i>	Ext. 718
Mark Blunk, <i>Audit Chair</i>	Ext. 704
Beverly J. Clark, <i>Publicity Director</i>	Ext. 716
Nancy Hammoudian, <i>Secretary</i>	Ext. 705
Tom Moutes, <i>Director</i>	Ext. 710
Verkin (Vicki) Keoseian, <i>Director</i>	Ext. 719
Ruth B. Perry, <i>Membership Director</i>	Ext. 717
Ann Seales, <i>Asst. Membership Director</i>	Ext. 706
Elizabeth Torres, <i>Entertainment Director</i>	Ext. 703

RLACEI RETIREE HELPLINE:

(800) 678-4145, Ext. 0

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

RLACEI WEBSITE

Visit the RLACEI website www.RLACEI.org to find the latest 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 Ann Seales, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 ext. 706 or Ann.Seales@RLACEI.org for a change of address or to add or change your email address. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, LAPCU, and LAFCU as applicable.



Beverly J. Clark

Send in your Interesting News Contributions!

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

RETIREE EVENTS

- June 8** **RLACEI 50th Anniversary Party**
Stevens Steakhouse
5332 Stevens Place, Commerce
11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- TBA** **Annual Picnic**
Date and location to be announced
- Dec. 14** **Holiday Party**
Friendship Auditorium
3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles
Time to be announced

RLACEI EVENTS RESERVATION LINE:
(800) 678-4145, ext. 701



Beverly J. Clark

MEET YOUR BOARD

by Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director

RLACEI Board Member Ann Seales

Ann Patricia Seales joined the City of Los Angeles in October 1994. She started her journey with the City at the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) as a Police Service Representative (911 Operator). From that position she rose to Instructor. Ann then joined the City Clerk's Office as a Principal Clerk and reminisces, "I had an awesome opportunity to participate in the City's electoral process." After two years at the City Clerk's Office, she joined the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS).



Ann Seales

"As a City Employee for just under a couple months short of 28 years, I had the privilege of working with several departments before retiring in August 2022," she says "I had short stints at the LADWP and the Harbor Department, however, most of my City career was with LACERS, where I gained my expertise in retirement operations and gained a passion for sharing with City employees the details of the City's retirement benefits.

"I ended my City career at LACERS, managing the

Member Support Section of the Retirement Services Division," she continues "My passion for all things retirement is what makes being a part of RLACEI exciting. To be able to share with members and potential members the importance of being proactive in our benefits is a challenge I look forward to, and I hope to serve with the same enthusiasm that I brought as an active employee."

Ann says she comes from a relatively small family comprising of her mom and three siblings. However, she

has several nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews, whom she enjoys mentoring. In addition to helping others, she enjoys traveling. "Thus far, I have traversed four continents and look forward to doing a whole lot more travel in my retirement!"

The RLACEI Board welcomes Ann as our newest member and looks forward to her contributions and service to the City retirement community. ●

LACERS BOARD UPDATE

LACERS Members Respond to Anthem Advantage PPO Survey

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



Michael R. Wilkinson

LACERS has released the results of a survey of the more than 4,000 members who are currently enrolled in the Anthem Medicare Advantage PPO. The purpose of the survey was to measure the satisfaction of our members with the new Medicare Advantage plan that replaced the Anthem Medicare Supplement Plan in January 2021. Medicare is the primary payer in a Medicare Supplement Plan and the plan is the secondary payer for benefits. In a Medicare Advantage plan, everything is provided by the plan.

The survey was conducted over 10 weeks, covered 15 questions and included an open-ended section to provide comments. The results were based on 275 members who responded to the survey. The survey was sent by email or mail and received a response rate 35 percent higher than industry standards, per Anthem.

Results from the responses received showed 66 percent of the members were satisfied or very satisfied with the PPO Advantage plan and 68 percent were satisfied or very satisfied with the medical benefits offered. This is slightly better than the 65 percent average satisfaction rate of other Anthem clients. On the negative side, 12 percent were very unsatisfied, 10 percent unsatisfied and 10 percent neutral.

One of the survey questions was about Anthem's customer service. 53 percent replied satisfied or very satisfied, 14 percent neutral and 17 percent unsatisfied or very unsatisfied and 16 percent not applicable.

Another question on the survey asked about the enhanced benefits offered under the Advantage Plan that were not offered on the supplement plan. 47 percent of the respondents answered that it was not applicable which Anthem believes was due to members either not using or

not aware of the services. 19 percent answered satisfied or very satisfied with the enhanced benefits. 25 percent were neutral and 9 percent unsatisfied or very unsatisfied.

The survey also asked an open-ended question about what could be done to improve the plan. The top five responses were: 1) satisfied with the plan; 2) go back to Medicare Supplement Plan; 3) add more benefits to the plan; 4) issues with preauthorization; and 5) providers not accepting the plan. Only six percent of those responding to the survey asked to return to the old plan.

During a recent LACERS Benefits Administration Committee that I chair, I questioned the Anthem representatives closely on two of those issues, preauthorizations and problems with doctors not accepting the plan. I asked about at least one situation brought to my attention by a member where the doctor would accept the Anthem Medicare Supplement plan, but not the Anthem Medicare Advantage plan. The Anthem representative promised to work with our members to solve problems with both issues.

I am aware that LACERS health staff has contacted Anthem and resolved most of the difficulties with the new plan.

Finally, a few members have contacted me and are not happy with the Medicare Advantage Plan. They would like the former plan back. I have been contacted by other members who love the new plan and the free services, zero copay and zero deductibles for most services.

LACERS is in the process of evaluating the responses to the RFP for health plans starting in 2024 and is asking for a Medicare Supplement proposal as well as a Medicare Advantage proposal. Eight responses have been received, but it is not clear how many proposals are for a Medicare Supplement. I will follow this process closely as it is reviewed by staff and the Benefits Administration Committee. ●



RLACEI **50th** **ANNIVERSARY**
Celebration
Thursday, June 8, 2023
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Stevens Steak House
 5332 Stevens Place, Commerce, CA 90040
\$10 Per Person
 All reservations and payments
 must be received by May 26, 2023
Please Note: Event ticket purchases are non-refundable.
If unable to attend the event, please consider your purchase a
donation to the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)
 No young children at this event, please.
 Questions? Please call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 701

RETIREES UPDATE

The Consequential Position of the LACERS Board President

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



Tom Moutes

Who cares who is elected LACERS Board President? You should care, but unfortunately these elections frequently fly under most people's radar.

The LACERS Board President is an important position for several reasons. The president usually helps shape the agenda for Board meetings and oversees the conduct of the meetings. This influence can have real consequences for LACERS members. The voting for Board President is scheduled to take place every July and when there is a vacancy in the office due to a Board member resignation.

Because the Mayor gets to appoint four of the seven Board members, the Board President (not coincidentally) tends to be a mayoral appointee. This tends to happen despite the facts that: (1) one of the appointees has to be a LACERS Retiree, who should be a balancing point between the appointees and elected members; and (2) that the elected members of the Board frequently have more experience, as the appointees sometimes get moved to other City boards or get pushed aside with each new mayoral administration. Currently, the top three Board members in terms of longevity are: (1) Mike Wilkinson (elected); Sung Won Sohn (appointee); and Annie Chao (elected).

When who the Board President is matters most is when a controversial item appears on the Board agenda. Past examples of controversial items include the Early Retirement Incentive Plan (ERIP) in 2009 and the occasional conversation regarding lowering LACERS assumed rate of investment return. Each of these items has short-term impacts on the City budget, so the Mayor tends to have great interest in them. It is fascinating to see how the Board President deals with these controversial items, from dealing with them just like any other matter, to being so conflicted that they don't know what to do, to caving in to what they believe the Mayor would want. Each of these reactions has been on full display over the years, and two of those three reactions don't serve the LACERS membership well.

Frequently, the most prominent mayoral appointee just happens to be elected President. I assume this is part of the negotiation when getting the appointee to agree to serve – not that anyone should be coordinating a Board vote outside of a meeting..

Whoever the new Board President is, let's hope he or she takes their responsibility to the LACERS membership seriously and does what is in the best interests of those members, as they are required to do by the State Constitution and City Charter. ●

RLACEI 50th Anniversary Ticket Order Form

Separate ticket order form at the dotted line, and mail with your payment to:

RLACEI 50th Anniversary
 P.O. Box 86264
 Los Angeles, CA 90086-0264

Tickets are \$10 each:

Enclose check payable to RLACEI:

NUMBER OF TICKETS: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

SELECT ONE MEAL OPTION PER TICKET:

Steak/Chicken combo: _____

Vegetarian: _____



RLACEI MEMBERS

Not an RLACEI member?

Join and like us on FACEBOOK

Call (800) 678-4145 x717 or visit our website at RLACEI.ORG

Become an RLACEI Member!



RLACEI is dedicated to advocating for retiree interests. We are over 6,300 strong! Members of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. enjoy all RLACEI events such member picnic and holiday party with FREE membership to the Employees Club with access to all group benefits (insurance, discounts, etc.).

Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 717, or visit our website at RLACEI.ORG and join today!

Looking for a Board Member With Computer Skills



Computer savvy RLACEI Board Director needed! Experience and skills in Webpage maintenance, Facebook management and extensive Microsoft Office proficiency particularly wanted. Other computer skills greatly appreciated. If you enjoy working with and assisting City Retirees, join us.

For more information on this position contact: Beverly Clark at: Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org

ELECTRIC BIKE DISCOUNTS

STEP INTO THE NEW YOU!

ELECTRIC MOUNTAIN BIKES & ELECTRIC URBAN BIKES

CLUB MEMBER EXCLUSIVE DEAL

TAKE 14% OFF

ONLINE PURCHASE OF AN ELECTRIC BIKE
(LIMIT 2 BIKES PER MEMBER)

URBAN E-BIKES

BULLS **PEGASUS**

REQUEST YOUR UNIQUE CLUB DISCOUNT CODE TODAY!

Order online with your unique Club discount code and pickup your fully assembled and tested ebike at your local Pegasus or Bulls authorized bike dealer nearest you.

FOR MORE DETAILS
EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM

VIPDEALS@EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM

Michi Is On the Move

MICHI SLAUGHTER, SR. SYSTEMS ANALYST, IS ON HER WAY TO HOUSTON.



Michi Slaughter

PERSONNEL: Michi Slaughter, Sr. Systems Analyst I, Personnel, 20 years of City service, is headed to Houston.

In her 20-year City career, Michi worked for the LAPD, ITA and Airports in addition to Personnel.

She is a Club Member and won a Joannie Mukai Club Scholarship in 2021. She went on to earn a Master's degree in public administration from USC.

"I am so appreciative of the opportunity to serve with the City of Los Angeles for 20 years," she told the Club. "I have learned so much, experienced amazing opportunities, and built lifelong relationships with amazing people. I will greatly miss everyone I have met along the way, and I am looking forward to my new chapter with the City of Houston."

We wish you the best, Michi! 🌟



Michi Slaughter

Michi was awarded a Club Scholarship, which helped her graduate from USC.

THANK YOU!

Thank you, Michi, for your hard work in serving LA. You made a real difference, and the Club appreciates you!



Slated for Success

EVENTS AND FILMING TEAM WINS STATEWIDE CALIFORNIA ON LOCATION AWARD.

GENERAL SERVICES: General Services' Events and Filming Team – Eric Robles, Chief Management Analyst, Special Services, Club Member; Pierre Riotoc, Assistant Director, Special Services; Brian Baltazar, Management Analyst; and Alejandra Alvarez, Management Assistant – won the prestigious COLA Award for 2022. COLA stands for California on Location Awards, a prestigious honor in the entertainment business.

The award came in the award's "City" division. The award ceremony took place last December.

The award recognizes excellence in providing exceptional services and being champions for the film industry. Last year marked the third year the team was nominated and the first time it won.

The Events and Filming team is part of General Services' Special Services Division.

Well done to the team!



The Events and Filming team includes (clockwise, from top left) Eric Robles, Brian Baltazar, Alejandra Alvarez and Pierre Riotoc.



Pierre Riotoc (left) and Eric Robles accepted the honor for the team at a ceremony last December.

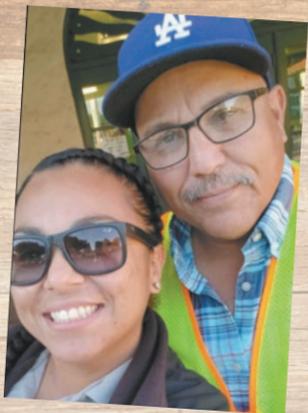


Example of the kind of filming set that the City's Events and Filming team helps coordinate.

Fair is Fair

And the Club has your discounts to the LA County Fair!

Go to:
employeesclub.com



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

– **Stephanie Bernal, Rec and Parks**



Send in your Father's Day tributes!

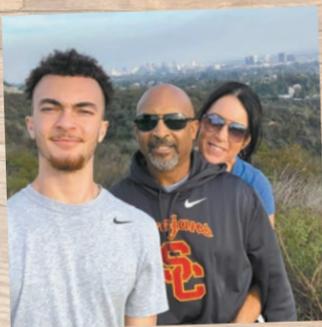


"Watching you grow from my amazing little brother to the best daddy in the world fills my heart with joy and love. Happy Father's Day, Tito! Love, Tia Maggi."

– **Det. Sandra Platero, LAPD**

High-Fives for Dad!

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



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

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

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

Act quickly, as our June issue is fast approaching.

DEADLINES:

MAY 22:

published in print and online

JUNE 14:

published online only



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

– **For Chris Ewing, Housing**



To submit your Father's Day tribute, go to: alive.employeesclub.com/fathersday

John's Picture Perfect Contest

The Club's online photo contest, organized by Association CEO John Hawkins



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



This month's photo contest theme:

Open (any picture)

The Club's online photo contest, organized by Association CEO John Hawkins, has a monthly theme. For the next contest, we've chosen an open theme. We'd love to see your favorite shots.

DEADLINE: May 15

Submit your best photos online here: alive.employeesclub.com/pictureperfect/ Club Members only. Good luck!

WIN
\$25
Amazon Gift Card

THEME PARK DISCOUNT SAVE ON TICKETS!



EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM

THEME PARKS, MOVIE TICKETS, SHOWS, ATTRACTIONS, SPORTING EVENTS...





Life's Important Moments



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

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

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



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

Retirements*

Below is a listing of those who Retired from the City. To all we say, welcome to the best years!

We honor the people who have spent their working lives building, managing and imagining a better LA, and are now Retired. We thank and appreciate all you have done!

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Aceves, Lydia	PSR	LAPD	32	Hamilton, John W.	Build. Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	20	Newsom, John D.	Painter	Public Works	15
Barney, Allie D.	Maint. Laborer	Public Works	22	Hiyoshi, Irene S.	ITS	LADWP	N/D	Nguyen, Vincent C.	Sr. St. Lighting Eng.	Public Works	33
Batson, Teresa	City Planner	Planning	11	Holloway, Charles C.	Sustainability	LADWP	N/D	Ortiz, Manuel	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D
Beebe, Sandi	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D	Ingram, Durl P.	M/C Helper	Public Works	12	Palisoc, Pio F.	Accounting Clerk	LAPD	21
Bizzell, Elva C.	Resource Planning	LADWP	N/D	Jankowski, Barbara E.	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	27	Palmer, C.A.	Equip. Mechanic	Gen. Services	35
Bolden, Darren R.	Equipment Op.	Public Works	16	Johnson, August	Wastewater Treat. Op.	Public Works	16	Peralta, Rosette F.	Mgmt. Analyst	Finance	28
Chau, Annie L.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Public Works	23	Johnson, Barry F.	Mgmt. Analyst	Comm. Invest.	18	Piedra, Carlos R.	Gardener Caretaker	Airports	17
Chow, Richard K.	ITS	LADWP	N/D	Kendall, Andrew C.	Power Executive	LADWP	N/D	Plowden, Geoffrey R.	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	21
Christensen, David E.	Water Engineering	LADWP	N/D	Kitos, John C.	Machinist	Public Works	10	Quigley, James W.	Sr. St. Lighting Eng.	Public Works	29
Clark, Trina Lashawn	Wrks Comp Analyst	Personnel	33	Krieger, Jennifer R.	Ch. Admin. Asst.	City Attorney	23	Raggio, William S.	Asst. General Mgr.	Fire/Police Pens.	33
Coan, Russell D.	Power Engineering	LADWP	N/D	Kwan, Janet W.	St. Lighting Eng./PM	Public Works	32	Ramirez, Daniel D.	Storekeeper	Gen. Services	23
Colon, Paz	Legal Asst.	City Attorney	30	La Grange, Anita L.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	Ramirez, Maria L.	Security Officer	LAPD	11
Cook Carrasco, Janet	Officer	Airport Police	17	Lample, Tracy S.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	19	Robinson, Holly E.	PSR	LAPD	31
Cook, Charles B.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Le, Phuoc V.	Environmental Eng.	Public Works	31	Rodgers, Toni K.	PSR	LAPD	35
Cuevas, Eduardo D.	Security Officer	Airports	18	Le, Thu Van	Equipment Mech.	General Services	27	Sawah, Susan	Recreation Asst.	Rec and Parks	6
Dantic, Marigina B.	Payroll Supervisor	LAFD	34	Lee, Caroline	Mgmt. Analyst	LAPD	31	Spears, Bernard	Equipment Op.	Public Works	25
Diaz, Francisco J.	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D	Lin, James Chi Wen	Sr. Equip. Mech.	LAPD	13	Sutherland, Michael J.	Wastewater Coll. Wrkr	Public Works	10
Docazal, Huberto S.	Cust. Supervisor	General Services	24	Lisenko, Andre S.	Construction Insp.	Public Works	20	Tafoya, Joseph J.	Sergeant	LAPD	34
Esguerra, Benedicto	Sr. Tax Auditor	Finance	19	Manalo, John A.	Civil Eng. Assoc.	Public Works	33	Tamura, Denise M.	Exec. Admin. Asst.	Zoo	38
Ethridge, Betty S.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Public Works	34	Marine, Kerney R.	Asst. Dir., St. Lighting	Public Works	33	Towner, Pamela L.	Secretary	LAPD	31
Fitzgerald, Elizabeth	Dep. City Attorney	City Attorney	14	Marshall, Patricia S.	Admin. Clerk	Library	14	Tuason, Emma C.	Accountant	Fire/Police Pens.	21
Fok, Edward C.	Trans. Eng. Assoc.	LADOT	10	Martinez, Dora	Messenger Clerk	Library	8	Vincent, Noreen S.	Sr. Asst. City Attor.	City Attorney	48
Fonseca, Rosa M.	Water Executive	LADWP	N/D	Medina, Manuel	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D	Washington, Anthony	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D
Fuchs, David A.	Corp. Health/Safety	LADWP	N/D	Mendez, Jacqueline	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Comm. Invest.	37	Wells, Kurt G.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D
Fujita, Harold Taro	Personnel Dir.	Rec and Parks	37	Miko, Jimmy David	Cement Finisher	Rec and Parks	29	Winfery, Lori Ann	Secretary	Public Works	35
Funmaker, Richard D.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	Millette, Paul K.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	LAPD	43	Woodard Smith, Jowunder	Officer	Airport Police	29
Gallegos, Regina E.	Exec. Admin. Asst.	Public Works	38	Montenegro, Sylvia A.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D	Zapata, Ellenore D.	Asst.	Library	19
Garcia, Jose P.	Asst. Dir., Sanit.	Public Works	35	Morris, Geoffrey R.	Ref. Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	22	Zelaya, Eleanor N.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D
Gomez, Enrique P.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Mulkerrin, John T.	PTD Transmission	LADWP	N/D				
Govan, Doris J.	Corp. Health/Safety	LADWP	N/D	Neal, Lisa Lavon	Traffic Officer	LADOT	33				
Gutierrez, Hugo M.	Wastewater Coll. Wrkr.	Public Works	34	Nettles, Belinda L.	Sergeant	Airport Police	34				

N/D = not disclosed

*** NOTE:** If you wish to have a listing deleted from our online posting of Retirement notices, please email us at admin@employeesclub.com, stating the name and department of the Retired person. The request must come from the actual Retired person. We derive our lists from official public records provided by the City and LADWP.

In Memoriam**

We honor those who have passed away and recognize their lifelong service to the City of Los Angeles. Their lives mattered to our City and our region. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of the following current and Retired City employees who were reported to have passed away.

ACTIVE	YEARS OF DEPARTMENT	SERVICE	ACTIVE	YEARS OF DEPARTMENT	SERVICE	ACTIVE	YEARS OF DEPARTMENT	SERVICE
Bickford, James L.	LADWP	5	Baptista, Dorothy E.	N/D	N/D	Garcia, Anthony	Public Works	33
Chan, Siv M.	Gen. Services	18	Barthelemy, James H.	N/D	N/D	Garfalo, Gloria F.	N/D	N/D
Choe, George J.	LADWP	2	Becker, James	LADWP	20	Gentry, La Quita	N/D	N/D
Chung, Jeanie H.	Rec and Parks	13	Benavides, Gloria	N/D	N/D	Gibbons, Jane L.	N/D	N/D
Cowan, Ronald J.M.	Bldg. & Safety	14	Bereza, Michelle A.	N/D	N/D	Giovando, Simona L.	LADWP	34
Edwards, Darryl L.	Gen. Services	3	Brown, Annola	N/D	N/D	Glascow, Janet	Public Works	37
Giacoma, Kristopher B.	Public Works	9	Brown, Rodney E.	Airports	25	Gracey, Robert W.	LADWP	16
Guevara, Steven M.	LADWP	4	Burgess, Julianne F.	Library	34	Hernandez, Martha	LADWP	35
Medellin, Edward A.	Public Works	17	Butow, Russell J.	LADWP	45	Hernandez, Robert	N/D	N/D
Mendoza, Nelia M.	Bldg. & Safety	5	Chavez, Oscar	Convention Center	36	Higgenbotham, Henry L.	Airports	27
Osteen, Evelyn D.	Airports	6	Chin, Jackson	N/D	N/D	Hontiveros, Maria T.	LADWP	20
Trujillo, Nichole C.	CAO	18	Connolly, Daniel J.	Bldg. & Safety	27	Hu, Amy Hui Mei	Public Works	10
Tweedy, Eric C.	Gen. Services	14	Cruz, Cesar U.	Gen. Services	26	Hughes, Joseph M.	Public Works	35
			Coronado, Raymundo	LADWP	21	Hunter, Joseph L.	LADWP	31
			Daniels, Leslie C.	N/D	N/D	Irilian, Moe	Public Works	31
			De Wit, Richard J.	LADWP	30	Ishibashi, Kenneth K.	Rec and Parks	17
			Downs, William C.	LADWP	36	Jackson, Charles A.	N/D	N/D
			Diego, Vincent S.	Public Works	23	Jacques, Robert D.	N/D	N/D
			Esparza, Ralph R.	Housing	30	Jeff, William M.	Harbor/LADWP	20/18
			Foulks, Raymond L.	N/D	N/D	Jensen, Nancy A.	N/D	N/D
			Gaines, Louis R.	N/D	N/D	Johnson, L.E.	N/D	N/D

**** NOTE:** Departments and/or years of service in italics are for Club Members and sourced from the Club's files. They are not official City records.

N/D = not disclosed

Congratulations!

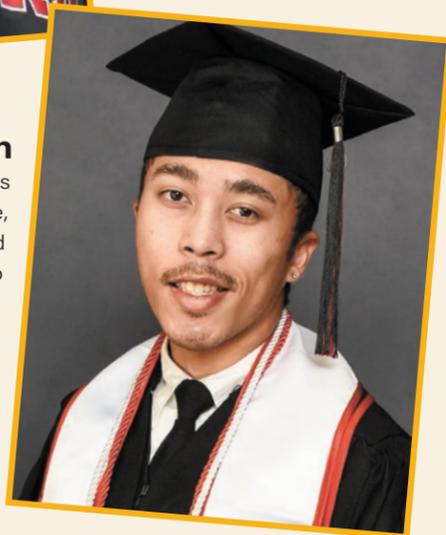
CLASS OF 2023

Graduations



SaNae Muhammad

graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C., with a Bachelor's degree in biology and double minors in chemistry and political science. She plans to study at the Howard University School of Medicine this summer. She's the **granddaughter of Debora Fore, Retired, LAPD.**



Everet Emerson Fink

graduated with honors from Cal State, Northridge, majoring in criminology and justice studies. He plans to pursue a career as a special agent for the FBI. He's the **son of Ross Alan Fink, Retired, LADWP.**



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

In Memoriam (continued)**

Kaplan, Michael	Public Works	12
Karasik, Aaron M.	N/D	N/D
Knox, Matthew	Rec and Parks	3
Kolacinski, Mitchell M.	LADWP	34
Kolb, John C.	Public Works	30
Krikorian, Raffi K.	LADWP	40
Lazar, Eloise W.	LADWP	22
Lee, Clarence H.	LADWP	36
Love, Henry G.	Library	32
Lurie, Marilyn M.	N/D	N/D
Malinowitz, Fabian	LADWP	49
Manzella, Virginia M.	Library	11
Marmol, Romeo E.	Finance	23
Meza, Timothy M.	Rec and Parks	36
Morales, Angel F.	Rec and Parks	35
Morales, Ricardo A.	N/D	N/D
Moran, Robert D.	Transportation	34
Munoz, Roy	LADWP	34
Munz, Paul E.	Public Works	39
Nagy, Frank	LADWP	33
Neuton, Laurence A.	Library	33
Nichols, Willie J.	N/D	N/D
Ogles, Willie M.	LADWP	38
Olson, Christopher L.	Transportation	36
Platte, Joyce A.	N/D	N/D
Renfrow, Maria D.	LADWP	20
Renna, Philip	LADWP	27
Renty, Coleman	N/D	N/D
Rogers, Fanch	N/D	N/D
Russell, Ida F.	LADWP	32
Sales, Antonio S.	Public Works	26
Sales, Donald H.	LADWP	41
Sebts, Christine L.	N/D	N/D
Smith, Bobby L.	LADWP	35
Sorrentino, Robert F.	N/D	N/D
Sumlin, J.B.	N/D	N/D
Sutton, Sterling	Public Works	38
Tang, Maureen K.	LAFD	23
Tramm, Bruce K.	LADWP	31
Uyeno, Matsuko	LADWP	18
Valdejezza, Nicanor J.	Public Works	31
Williams, Jewel	LADWP	35
Wilson, Roosevelt	N/D	N/D
Wright, Louis M.	Public Works	28

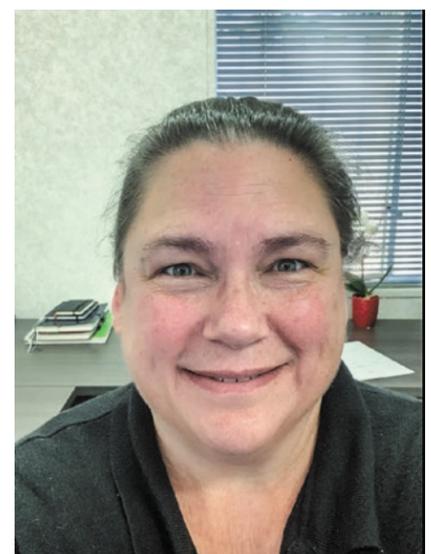


N/D = not disclosed

Swim-pressive

TRACI GOLDBERG IS NEW HEAD OF AQUATICS.

REC AND PARKS: Congratulations go to Traci Goldberg, the newly appointed Superintendent of Citywide Aquatics and Emergency Management. Well done, Traci!



Traci Goldberg

Thank you for your service. Your hard work is appreciated.



John's Picture Perfect Contest

John Hawkins, Association CEO

WIN A \$25 AMAZON E-GIFT CARD



“This photo was taken at my first Dodgers game! It was quite an experience, since it was a game against the St. Louis Cardinals. The Dodgers didn’t win; however, I got to see Albert Pujols hit his 700th home run!”

– Sharon Khaw, LADWP

John’s comment: Talk about history: The first time you watched future Hall-of-Famer Albert Pujols play was the night he hit his 699th and 700th home runs. It was also the first time he had the honor of playing in front of you! Seriously, though, I like how you captured the gracious symmetrical lines of Dodger Stadium by compressing them into their linear elements. I think it’s the most beautiful ballpark in the world, and your photographic eye showed why. Well done!



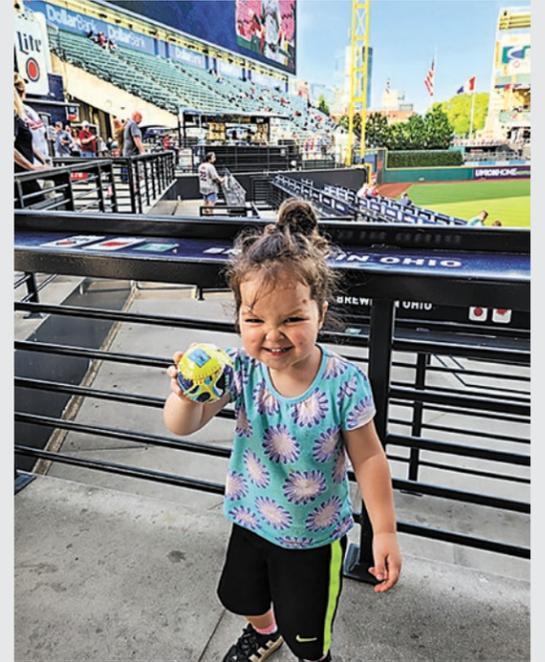
“Here are my son and husband walking into Dodger Stadium ready to see the Dodgers play on the Fourth of July.”

– Stephanie Burkhart, LAPD/Communications

John’s comment: This very POV shot is all about the feeling of getting close to the ballpark. I can hear the crowd, people’s voices getting excited, LAPD helicopters maybe overhead, the stadium announcer making pre-game speeches, and on and on. This photo accomplishes a lot!

This month’s theme: **BASEBALL**

See more Picture Perfect winners and contest rules:



“This is my granddaughter, Elyse Bunge, at a [Cleveland] Guardians game. I love her expression holding a baseball!”

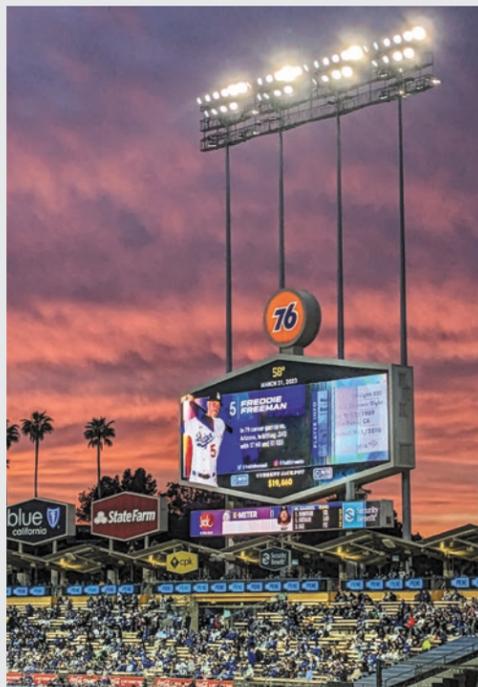
– Wanda Fong, Retired, Library

John’s comment: I love this shot, Wanda! Elyse’s expression is exactly what she should be feeling. Here’s hoping it never goes away! Thanks for submitting!

“Second day during the Dodgers’ opening week. I was capturing the beautiful sunset from my seat.”

– Leticia Zepeda, Retired, Public Works/Sanitation and Environment

John’s comment: Just a gorgeous night at the ballpark, Leticia. You captured the feeling perfectly with the sunset and the scoreboard. Well done!



Open Houses Begin This Month

SANITATION’S POPULAR OPEN HOUSES AT SIX YARDS RETURN AFTER PANDEMIC PAUSE.

PUBLIC WORKS: Public Works’ Sanitation and Environment has released the schedule of its popular open houses for 2023.

These are Sanitation’s first open houses since they were paused for three years during the pandemic.

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

In 2019, the last open house before the break, more than 6,000 residents attended the open houses with more than 230 City Employees who volunteered their time to give back to the neighborhoods they serve.

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



Will Brown, RCTO, 8 years of City service, and his son, Carter, 6 years old, with a young neighbor in the cab.



At the West LA Open House.

Public Works/Sanitation Open Houses: Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

East Valley Yard	Harbor District Yard	North Central Yard	West Valley Yard	South LA Yard (Expo Center)	West LA Yard
May 6	May 20	May 27	June 3	June 10	June 24
11050 Pendleton St Sun Valley	1400 N. Gaffey St. San Pedro	452 N. San Fernando Rd. Los Angeles	8840 Vanalden Ave. Northridge	Expo Center 3990 Menlo Ave Los Angeles	2027 Stoner Ave. Los Angeles



At the LAFD's Girls Fire Camp.

Sparking a Passion

LAFD HOSTS TENTH GIRLS CAMP TO INTRODUCE FIRE CAREERS TO GIRLS.

LAFD: Over the April 15-16 weekend, the LAFD hosted its annual Girls Camp to introduce fire skills to high-school-aged young women and encourage their interest in becoming Firefighters.

It was the department's tenth Girls Camp. The program resumed last year after taking a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic.

The camp was held at Drill Tower 81 in Panorama City.

The goal of the camp is to instill confidence, leadership and courage in young women while providing awareness of a potential career in the fire service. The curriculum included interactive training exercises with power tools, ladders, hose lines and extinguishers; basic training in first-aid and CPR; and physical fitness, leadership and team-building events.

The program is an "inspirational journey for young women, according to the LAFD. Female Fire Chiefs, Captains and Firefighter/Paramedics from across California teach the campers how to push themselves to the limit and achieve anything they want, whether in a fire career or elsewhere. Well done, LAFD! ●



LAFD's first Fire Chief, Kristin Crowley, shares advice about fire careers with girls camp attendees.

THANK YOU!



The Club thanks Battalion Chief Kristine Larson, photographer Gary Apodaca and Club Ambassador Jackie Koci Tamayo, County of Santa Clara, for their assistance in producing this story. We honor your service.



AT THE LAFD'S GIRLS FIRE CAMP.



LAFD's first Fire Chief, Kristin Crowley, shares advice about fire careers with girls camp attendees.



FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS

LACERS is Open at its New Headquarters

LACERS has recently moved to its very own, state-of-the-art building in Chinatown.

LACERS announced that the department is once again able to assist current and Retired City employees with their retirement needs in person between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. No appointments are needed. Visit lacers.org/contact-us to learn more about the building and procedures; the building is at 977 N. Broadway.

Additionally, *online options* will continue to be available to City employees and Retirees. – Submit forms or required documents at lacers.org/secure-document-upload

- Visit LACERS.org to obtain benefits information
- Log onto your MyLACERS account at mylacers.lacers.org to view your account details, and
- Visit the LACERS YouTube channel at youtube.com/lacersyoutube where members can find a wealth of benefits videos.

Please note: A current government-issued photo identification or City employee badge is required to enter the building except when attending public meetings of the LACERS Board of Administration. Also, parking is not available at the building. Paid parking lots, public transit and street parking are available nearby.

Stay up to date on LACERS announcements by checking the website periodically at LACERS.org, contacting LACERS by email at lacers.services@lacers.org, and by phone at (800) 779-8328.

FOR RETIRED MEMBERS

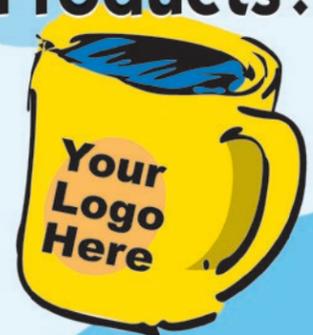
LACERS Medical Plan Telehealth Services

Skipping the doctor's waiting room and accessing the care you need is increasingly important. Connecting to high-quality care from the comfort of your home is included in your LACERS Medical Plan. Telehealth is an easy way to have one-on-one videoconferencing with your doctor or other healthcare specialists online using laptops, smartphones, tablets or other electronic devices. **For more information on the offering of Telehealth Services, contact your medical plan provider.**

Looking for Promotional Products?

Print your logo on anything:

- Pens
- Coffee mugs
- T-shirts
- Magnets
- Key Tags
- And more!



ROSEBUD Marketing Group

(800) 426-0174
rosebud@getpromos.com

www.RosebudMarketing.com

{Who are the people you see every day?}

No. 108
in a series.



People We See

Shelterless in Los Angeles.



Meet Kenyatta McNeil



Kenyatta McNeil (left) with Association CEO John Hawkins.

INTERVIEW

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:

Near Third Street downtown. "Kenyatta is a very smart, creative and proud woman."

– John Hawkins

BIRTHDAY:

Jan. 18, 1973 (50)

BIRTHPLACE:

"Danville, Illinois"



Follow "People We See" on Instagram:

peopleweseela

To California: "I moved with my mother to Oakland, California when I was 15."

Education: "I went to Oakland High, California, and graduated in 1991. I went to Sonoma State University for two years, then Merritt College for a year."

Favorite childhood memory: "When I used to go to the fair in Georgetown, Illinois, I like the elephant ears (snack) – they would put powdered sugar and whipped cream on, with strawberries."

First jobs: "After college, I wrote for newspapers in San Francisco – the Youth Outlook, and I wrote commentaries for KQED 88.5 FM. I did that for 15 years."

Her story: "After my jobs, I moved to LA with my mom. It's ironic because I used to live across the street [from the interview location] in the St. George Apartments for 12 years. But I lost it when I went to jail for 11 months for assaulting my boyfriend's ex on the public bus she was driving. When I got out of jail, everything was gone."

On street: "About six months now."

First night on the street: "It was very, very horrendous. It's been impactful and really hard. It's been super cold out here."

Favorite book: "I'm a published writer myself. I do not really have a book that I like reading, but I'm a writer. I write all the time."

Advice for a high-schooler: "Set a foundation for yourself and try not to overdo things. Try take things slowly and plan for the future and for the long run, because you never know. Things happen really fast."

Drugs: "If you try drugs, you could get hooked. It's not something you can control. One day I was hooked on heroin. I'm on methadone right now. Heroin isn't the worst; crystal is."

If you were Mayor: "I would have places where we can rest, you know? Not so much a shelter but like a community place where we can go in there and watch TV, read, use a phone, restrooms and showers. 24 hours."

In five years: "Hopefully, I'm off the streets. I'm scared to get a tent; it's scary to have a tent when you are a single woman. It's safer to be exposed than be in a tent."

The Club gave Kenyatta toiletries, food, \$20 and bottled water.

The interview was conducted by Association CEO John Hawkins.

{ In this feature, Association CEO John Hawkins 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 our stories to tell. }