



# Alive!

Serving over 55,000 City, County and State Employees

## Everywhere Santa Is

The innovative Club Truck reinvents Club retail and is headed all over LA this holiday season.

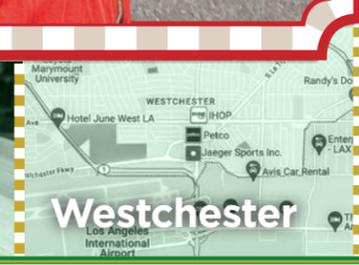
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Guadalupe Lira, Club Retail Manager, with the incredible new Club Truck at Rec and Parks/Balboa.



Photos by Summy Lam



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Employees Club of California  
311 South Spring Street, Suite 1300  
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[www.employeesclub.com](http://www.employeesclub.com)



# PET INSURANCE?

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EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM/PET

## Ready for the Spotlight

A star is born! By that I mean the incredible Club Truck! This beautiful new Club innovation in steel and solar has been more than a year in the making. We are delighted to finally be able to tell you about it. It's all about serving Members, and really anyone who loves authentic California merchandise, in cutting-edge ways.

Our plans to evolve Club retail have been developing over several years, but the pandemic and its famous difficulties for securing a suitable vehicle slowed the pace. We could have sourced a different vehicle, but our vision for serving Members at the next level demanded we wait and obtain exactly what we needed for the level of service we insist upon. We are glad we waited and did it correctly. I know you will be, too.

I am reminded of the reaction from an umpire at the first Club-sponsored softball tournament in September when he first saw the Club Truck make its celebrity entrance: "Whoa! Is that the Club?" It sure is. I expect you will have the same reaction when you first see it.

### Design Par Excellence

Our feature in this issue does a beautiful job of telling all the details of the Club Truck – its capabilities and its vision. My kudos to David Jamgotchian of JJLA Associates for the impressive layout. (That's David and Marie Jamgotchian holding the light reflectors in the photo below.)



The November photo shoot highlighting the Club's Eddie Escalona, Summy Lam, Lupe Lira and, holding the reflectors, Marie and David Jamgotchian of JJLA Associates, the designers of Alive!

### ROBERT'S BLOG

by Robert Larios, CEO, The Club



#### Honoring You

Why did we develop the Club Truck? For this reason: The Club is dedicated to honoring the exceptional contributions of public service employees in California. That is our vision in all that we do.

#### Worth Considering

Don't let fear slay your potential. In 2024, it's time to slay those fears instead, and let your growth soar!

**Looking to 2024:** Club Members, you can look forward to continued improvements and expansions to our ClubMobile program, affordable insurance products, and exemplary customer service. We are always on the job, improving how we return value to Club Members in California.

That leaves me with just enough space to wish each of you peace, joy and kindness for the holiday season 2023. You matter to us. Merry Christmas!

*¡Gracias por leer!*

— Robert Larios



## Raise employee morale! Schedule a #ClubMobile visit!

Look for the new Club Truck!



ATTENTION SUPERVISORS:

Raise employee morale! Bring the Club to your worksite!

At a recent Mobile Team site visit.

The #ClubMobile Team will bring benefits experts and Club legendary apparel for purchase at low prices (hats custom-made on site). It's one of the best ways for staff to feel appreciated. Your employees will be grateful!

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



**#ClubMobile is cashless!**

For your convenience, now accepting:



### #ClubMobile Schedule:

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

**Wednesdays:**  
**Dec. 6, Jan. 3 and Feb. 7**

**Harbor Boys and Girls Club**  
100 W. Fifth St., San Pedro  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Mobile Team sets up in the Downtown area the first Tuesday of every month:

**Tuesday, Dec 5, Jan. 2 and Feb. 6**  
**Downtown**  
120 W. Second St.,  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Mobile Team sets up in the North Central Sanitation area the first Monday of every month:

**Mon., Dec. 4, Jan 8 and Feb. 5**  
**North Central Sanitation**  
452 N. San Fernando Rd.  
6 – 11 a.m.

The Mobile Team sets up in the West Valley StreetsLA area the first Thursday of every month:

**Thursday, Dec. 7, Jan. 4 and Feb. 8**  
**West Valley StreetsLA – New!**  
9324 Topanga Canyon Blvd.  
12 – 2 p.m.

ADDITIONAL VISITS:

**Wed., Dec. 13**  
**Rec and Parks**  
830 W. 70th St.  
8 – 10 a.m.

**Thurs., Dec. 14**  
**LADWP**  
1630 N Main St.  
2 - 5 p.m.

**Fri., Dec. 15**  
**Street Services Chatsworth**  
9324 Topanga Canyon Blvd.  
1 – 3 p.m.

**Sat., Dec. 16**  
**Fontana Union Mtg.**  
16981 Foothill Blvd., Suite A-1  
8 a.m. – noon

**Wed., Dec. 20**  
**Harbor Liberty Plaza**  
100 S. Fifth St.  
6 a.m. – noon

**Thurs., Dec. 21**  
**Harbor C&M Yard**  
500 Pier A St.  
7 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**To schedule a #Club Mobile visit, Contact Lupe Lira, Retail Operations Manager: (213) 819-0350, or [mobile@employeesclub.com](mailto:mobile@employeesclub.com)**



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## The Club Truck: Everywhere Santa Is.

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**Get more *Alive!* content at [alive.employeesclub.com](http://alive.employeesclub.com)**

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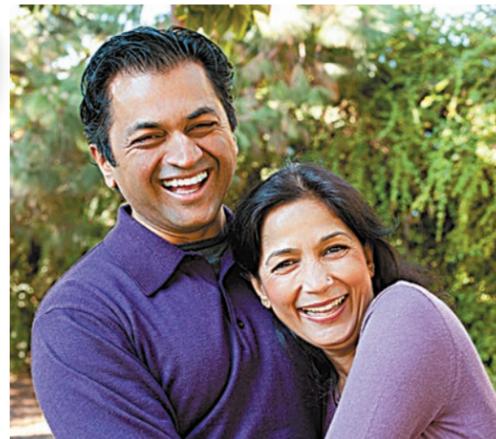
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## NEW THIS MONTH ONLINE!

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

### Rest Insured

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



### Library Top 10

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



### In this month's issue:

Chef Larios heads to the Mediterranean with a recipe for salmon with creamy dill sauce.

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## Coloring Contest WINNERS!



NEXT CONTEST:  
JAN 2024



# Time to Party in Person ... And We Want Your Photos!



**Is your dept. celebrating the holidays in person?  
Let us publish your photos!**

The Club Holiday tradition continues – have photos from your department’s holiday party printed in *Alive!*, in our special holiday section, online and in print. It’s an *Alive!* tradition!

**Here’s how to have your holiday photos published:**

1. If you’re having your party in person, take your own photos and send to the Club using the online form.
2. Or, invite the Club to attend your holiday party. We’ll assign your Club Counselor or other Club employee, and will join your party just to take some photos. Send us your details. We’ll do our best to get to as many parties as we can, but we can’t guarantee it.



To upload your digital holiday party photos, or ask that we attend, go to:  
[www.alive.employeesclub.com/holidayparty](http://www.alive.employeesclub.com/holidayparty)



**The Club  
Is Here  
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](mailto:help@employeesclub.com)  
(800) 464-0452

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JJLA Associates,  
*Design and Production*

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

Club Members who have questions on these points may write to: [alive@employeesclub.com](mailto:alive@employeesclub.com)

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## Club Team

### Member Experience Team



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Director of Sales



**Cesilee Castillo**  
Customer Service Representative



**Mike Conner**  
Member Services Counselor



**Cynthia Ha**  
Member Services Counselor



**Scott Hanock**  
Member Services Counselor



**Hannah Hawkins**  
Social Media Assistant



**Dylan Herrero**  
Customer Service Representative



**Joseph Koralik**  
Member Services Counselor



**Cheryl Martin**  
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Customer Service Representative



**Genesis Martinez-Flores**  
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**Daila Vielma**  
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**Dylan Noel**  
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**Lydia Rivera**  
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**Ian Sollenberger**  
Member Services Counselor

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**Leigh Thompson**  
Controller



**Clara Flores**  
Senior Accountant II



**Tuyet Pham**  
Senior Accountant



**Daniel McAlinden**  
Senior Accountant



**Frank Ochoa**  
IT Accountant

### Retail Operations



**Guadalupe Lira**  
Retail Operations Manager



**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

### Information Technology



**Petros Khachatryan**  
Director of IT



**Citlali Bon**  
Data Quality Manager



**Edith Bon-Sanchez**  
Data Processing Coordinator



**Alan Bound**  
IT Business Analyst



**Ronald Cortez**  
Assistant Quality Assurance Analyst



**Natalia Guevara**  
Data Processing Coordinator



**Rey Hernandez**  
IT Senior Developer

Contact our help desk for all your Club needs:  
[help@employeesclub.com](mailto:help@employeesclub.com)

### Tickets & Benefits Procurement



**Mariana Guevara**  
Tickets and Benefits Procurement



**Megan Eckert**  
Tickets and Benefits Procurement Associate

### Claims



**Dulce Lopez**  
Claims Administrator



**Mikayla Sprague**  
Claims Administrator



**Monica Zamudio**  
Claims Administrator

### Business Development



**Arlene Herrero**  
Vice President of Business Development

### Employees Club of CA Executive Officers



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



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

### LACEA Executive Officers



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



**Brian Trent**  
Chief Financial Officer

# The Club wishes you...

Family to love you  
 Friends to lift you  
 Challenges to inspire you  
 The stars and heavens to amaze you  
 And a big smile knowing that,  
 Despite the pandemic, life is pretty darn good.

This holiday season, may you be given  
 All that you wish for  
 Except one thing to grow on.

Merry Christmas + Happy Hanukkah  
**FROM THE CLUB**



**Celebrating the work and lives of California public employees.**



The 16 new Motor Sweeper Operators are congratulated by Keith Mozee, StreetsLA Executive Director and General Manager; Ana Tabuena-Ruddy, Assistant Director and Chief Sustainability Officer; Abraham Navarro, Course Instructor and Retired Assistant Director; Steve Jacobellis, Supervisor II; Sherarade Nichols, Division Manager; Gary Harris, Interim Assistant Director; Martina Ruiz, Management Analyst; and others.

Story and photos courtesy StreetsLA

## New Drivers Sweep In

STREETSLA WELCOMES NEW SWEEPER OPERATORS.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** At a City Hall ceremony Sept. 20, Public Works/StreetsLA graduated 16 new Motor Sweeper Operators from its training course. They were celebrated at a Board of Public Works meeting at City Hall. The Club thanks Paul Garcia, StreetsLA, for his assistance in producing this article.



From left: Heavy Duty Truck Operators Phillip Perrin, Manuel Martinez and Robert Scholz; Steve Jacobellis, Supervisor II; Sherarade Nichols, Division Manager; and Gary Harris, Interim Assistant Director.

### THE GRADUATES ARE:

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Tommy M. Altamirano | Salvador Luna       |
| Maria D. Gaynor     | Manuel F. Martinez  |
| Trino G. Gomez      | Jamal M. Mayo       |
| Joseph Gonzalez III | Richard Mendez      |
| Juan C. Garcia      | Phillip G. Perrin   |
| Isaac A. Ibarra     | Ralph Rodriguez Jr. |
| Lakisha S. Jackson  | Antonio Ruiz        |
| Duron L. Levy       | Robert A. Scholz    |



Martina Ruiz, Management Analyst, StreetsLA. She manages the training program for the Bureau.

**Welcome, new Motor Sweeper Operators!**

# Be My Club Valentine

Send your loved one a special Valentine...  
 in the February Alive!

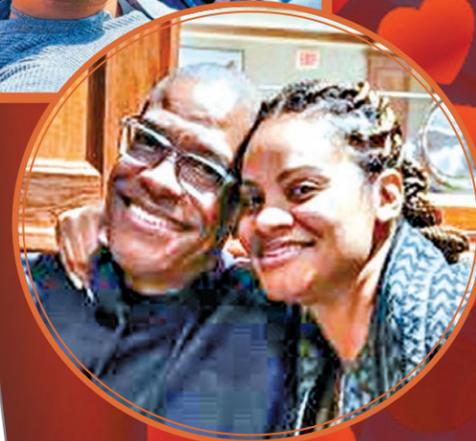
*Here's how it works:*

Send us a favorite photo (high-resolution digital) of you and your loved one(s) (could be a romantic partner, a parent or child, etc.) and two or three sentences declaring your special bond. And we'll print as many as we can in the print and Web Alive!

**DEADLINES:**

January 19 for Print and Web Alive!  
 February 9 for Web Alive! only.

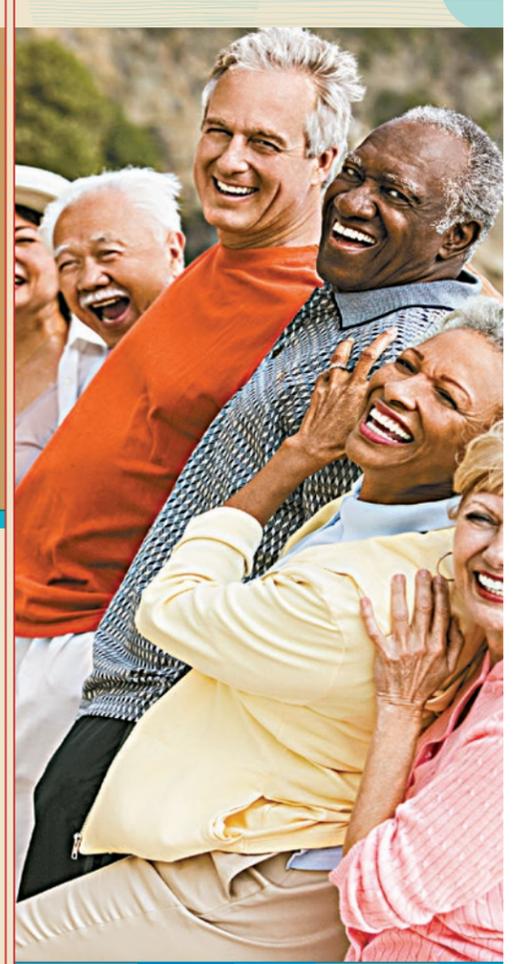
To send your digital photo and your message, go to:  
[alive.employeesclub.com/valentines](http://alive.employeesclub.com/valentines)



# READY FOR RETIREMENT



Resources for Club Retirees and Those About to Retire



## YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO INSURANCE

by Noelle Kauffman, Club Director of Sales CA LICENSE NO: 0H45598

*“Retirement is not the end of the road. It is the beginning of the open highway.” –Unknown*

### Retirees, Make Sure You Maintain Membership and Access to Club Benefits

With the new year right around the corner, it is the perfect time to review your Club benefits to make sure you and your family are protected and prepared for the future.

The Club is your resource for saving money through our discount programs, financial security with our life insurance, and staying connected to your community.

Whether you are retiring soon, newly Retired, or have been Retired for some time, here are a few important tips for retirement.

#### Get Your Finances in Order

Organize your money so you can work out what you'll have to live on. Gradually reduce your spending in the time leading up to retirement to make it easier to adjust. The Club partners with My Club Deals that provides Member discounts on dining, attractions, travel, shopping, services and more. More than 75,000 two-for-one and 50-percent-off deals!

#### Get your Insurance Policies in Order

Review your Club insurance benefits and decide how much life insurance you will need in retirement.

A life insurance policy can provide an income for your spouse as they wait for your retirement benefits to transfer; cover funeral and burial expenses; and provide for any loved ones who rely on your income.

#### With the Club's life insurance plans:

- Coverage is available for Members, spouses, and dependent children
- Benefits range from \$10,000 to \$50,000.

**Speak to a Club Retirement Specialist. Do not wait!**

### Club Life Insurance Designed for Retirees

#### Lets discuss Retiree Life Insurance!

A life insurance benefit can help pay for things such as final expenses, outstanding debt and loss of income.

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, convenient payroll deduction, and an in-house claims department that works directly with your loved ones to make sure the claims process is as seamless as possible.



#### Questions?

Don't hesitate to contact our Retiree specialists at [info@employeesclub.com](mailto:info@employeesclub.com) • or (800) 464-0452

### 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

#### Dec. 16 LARFPA Holiday Celebration

Hilton Universal Hotel  
555 Universal Hollywood Dr.  
Noon – 4 p.m.  
\$40 admission  
Reservation information:  
[events@larfpa.org](mailto:events@larfpa.org)

### Contact Information

**Employees Club of California**  
Club contact:  
[help@employeesclub.com](mailto:help@employeesclub.com)

**Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS)** (City Dept.)  
(800) 779-8328  
[lacers.services@lacers.org](mailto:lacers.services@lacers.org)

**LADWP Retirees Association**  
Dolores Foley, *President*  
(949) 388-1206  
[vincedolores@gmail.com](mailto:vincedolores@gmail.com)

**Fire and Police Pensions** (City Dept.)  
(844) 885-2377  
[pensions@lafpp.com](mailto:pensions@lafpp.com)

**LA Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA)**  
(888) 288-5073  
[membership@larfpa.org](mailto:membership@larfpa.org)

**Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)**  
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**Employees Club of California**  
311 S. Spring St. STE 1300, Los Angeles, CA 90013  
(800) 464-0452 - [www.EmployeesClub.com](http://www.EmployeesClub.com)

**Payroll Deduction Authorization Form**  
**Los Angeles City & DWP**

#### INSTRUCTION:

Please complete the following Payroll Deduction Authorization Form and return it to the Employees Club of California. Your payroll deduction will become effective as soon as the City Controller processes your request. Please note it can take up to two pay periods for the City Controller's office to process your deduction. The Club will do everything possible to ensure your payroll deduction gets processed sooner.

**1 Member Information** Please print in ink or type.

Member Name (First, Middle, Last):

Home Address:  Cell Phone: (  )

City:  State:  Zip:  Email Address\*:

City:  State:  Zip:  Email Address\*:

**2 Deduction Status Update** (select one)

Please select the reason for your change/update to your deduction.

I've changed departments within the City  Other

I've retired/ or will be retiring Retirement Date:  /  /

I am a Surviving Spouse Date of Birth:  /  /

**3 Payroll/ Pension Deduction Authorization**

**PAYROLL/ PENSION DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION**

In addition to payroll/pension deductions for group benefits, if any, you will receive all Club benefits for a payroll/pension deduction of only \$6.00 per month (active employees) or \$4.00 per month (retired employees). You authorize these monthly deductions by signing the Payroll Deduction Authorization form.

Member's Printed Name:

Member's SSN:  -  -

City Dept#  City Employee # (5 or 6 digits)  DWP Employee #

Controller – City of Los Angeles, or Fire and Police Pension, or City Employees Retirement System, or Paymaster – Department of Water and Power

I hereby authorize the deduction from my salary or pension of amounts sufficient to cover premiums/ membership fees on any of my group benefits provided by the Employees Club of California. In the event any premiums should change due to age, increase in salary or benefits, or a general rate increase for the entire Association, I authorize you to make such change upon notification from the Employees Club of California and such deduction to remain in force until canceled by me in writing.

**Must Select One**

- City Active
- Hiring Hall
- City Retiree
- DWP Active
- DWP Retiree
- Fire/Police Pension (Officers Only)

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Code  Deduction

SLAM-1901.02

Member's Signature:  Date:  /  /



From left: Sunday Adeoye, Financial Manager II, 27 years of City service; Rosalyn Wong, Dept. Chief Accountant, 20 years; Nerida Esguerra-Olivares, Director of Finance, 19 years; Vicky Rojas, Dept. Chief Accountant, 29 years; Vivian Howell, Acting Director, Risk and Insurance Management, 39 years; and Florinda Carlos, Information Systems Manager, 25 years.



From left: Marie O'Kelly-Green, Airport Manager, 33 years of City service; Jacob Haik, Director of Sustainability, 20 years; Denise Sample, Executive Assistant, 30 years; and Melissa Molina, Rideshare Program Administrator, 20 years.



From left: Dae Levine, Acting Director of Communications and Marketing, 4 years of City service; Robert Schultz, Chief of Airport Planning, 16 years; Beca Doten, Chief Airport Affairs Officer; and Laura McLennan, Airport Affairs Manager, 25 years. Dae is dressed for Halloween.

## Lessons in Leadership

AIRPORTS HOSTS EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SEMINAR.

**AIRPORTS:** On Oct. 31, Airports held an executive leadership seminar to provide ideas and colleague connection to further develop upper management's leadership skills.

The seminar was held at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel near LAX and featured keynote speaker Paul Falcone, a lecturer on leadership development and author of 16 books on the subject.

The seminar aimed at motivating and encouraging executives; developing critical hiring, reskilling and upskilling; and creating workplaces where leaders keep their employees connected and engaged.

It was an opportunity for top executives and higher-level management to connect, collaborate and learn.

Congratulations to Airports' Personnel Dept. for creating a successful leadership training event!

The Club thanks Ashley Quadri and Verneiza Benwikere for their invitation and assistance. ●



From left: Keynote speaker Paul Falcone; Verneiza Benwikere, Sr. Personnel Analyst, 30-plus years of City service; Minerva Gutierrez, Personnel Director, 35 years; and Rodrix Jennings III, Airport Manager, 18 years.



The Airports team that produced the event, from left: Lataya Starr, Administration, 5 years of City service; Amir Braziel IBN Kenyatta, Student Professional Worker, 3 months; Verneiza Benwikere, Sr. Personnel Analyst, 30-plus years; Teresa Perez de Salgado, Delivery Driver III, 23 years (below); Miriam Tepox, Sr. Administrative Clerk, 21 years; and Ashley Quadri, Management Analyst, 3 years. Above: Eduardo Garcia, Sr. Management Analyst, 23-plus.

More pictures on Web Alive!



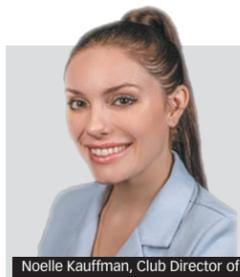
From left: Evalyn Quintanilla, Chief of Airport Planning II, 25 years of City service; Crystal Lee, Deputy Executive Director, 18 years (bottom); G. Lopez, Chief Construction Inspector, 31 years (above); Janet Hackney, Director of Airports Administration, 28 years; Quentin Gonzalez, Chief Management Analyst, 20 years; and Antonio Rios, Chief Construction Inspector, 27 years.



From left: Latasha Wells Amerson, Assistant Chief of Airport Police, 31 years of City service, Club Member; and Tamisha Waters, Risk Manager I, 8 years.

### THANK YOU!

The Club thanks Ashley Quadri and Verneiza Benwikere for their invitation and assistance.



## Noelle's Picture Perfect Contest

Noelle Kauffman, Club Director of Sales

Hello Club image makers! I love awesome photos and am so excited to see your best. And a shoutout to John Hawkins, who managed this monthly contest for more than a decade. Let's continue his creativity and have fun!

And don't forget about Club insurance. Do you have all that you need? See page 6 for more information. — Noelle



"Rainbow clouds. Diffraction – a phenomenon that occurs when small droplets of water scatter the sun's light. I have seen only two of these ever."

– John Nance, Retired, LADWP

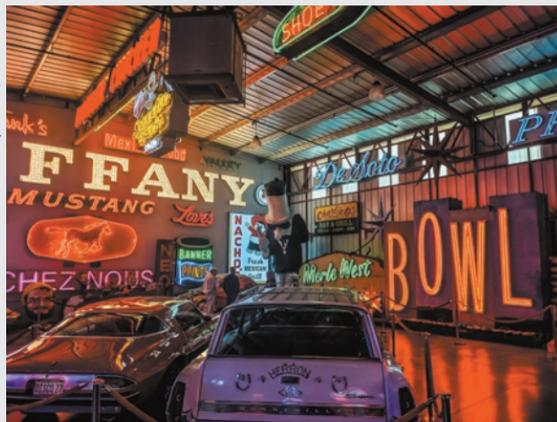
Noelle's comment: You have seen two, John ... and now I have seen one. Good eye, and thanks for submitting!

This month's theme was: **Magical Light**

"Don't underestimate the power of neon! Around the corner at Valley Relics Museum in Van Nuys."

– Yves Didier, Airport Police

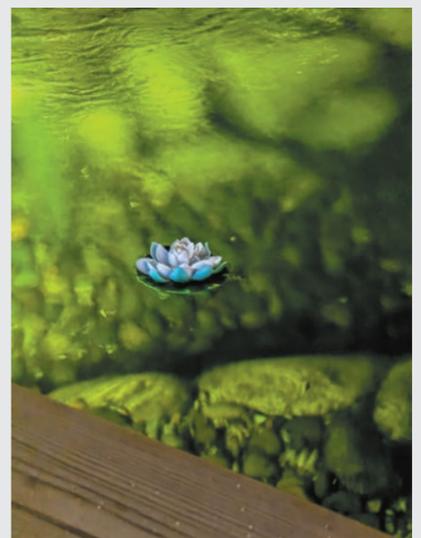
Noelle's comment: I love this stunning image, Yves. I know you submit regularly, and with images like this, I can see why. Cool!



"This is what I saw on my way in to work this morning."

– Renee Ramirez, LAFD

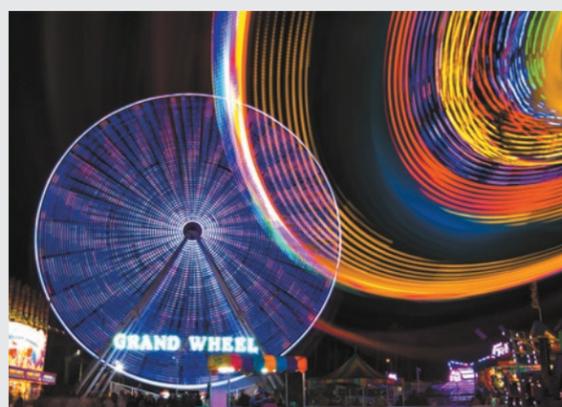
Noelle's comment: Now that we're in winter, Renee, I get to see City Hall like this (or in other colors) when I'm at Club Headquarters on many nights. I love it every time ... but your distorted light on the left sets it off in a new and unique way. Thanks!



"I took this picture at my in-laws' pond at my nephew's birthday party."

– Leticia Zepeda, Retired, Public Works/Sanitation

Noelle's comment: Wow, Leticia, the green glow from below is a perfect background to highlight the surprise clarity of the flower on top. Truly magical light!



"Grand Wheel at the Ventura County Fair."

– Alex Andrews, Building and Safety

Noelle's comment: I love county fairs, Alex, and your image puts me right there again. Your isolation of the light of the two wheels is truly magical and gives me all the feels. Thanks for submitting!

The next photo contest theme:

**Open**

DEADLINE:  
Dec. 15



Submit your best photos online here:  
[alive.employeesclub.com/pictureperfect/](http://alive.employeesclub.com/pictureperfect/)  
Club Members only. Good luck!

**ENTER TO WIN**  
**\$25 AMAZON E-GIFT CARD**

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



# Holiday Happenings



## CLUB STORE Holiday Shipping Deadlines



For the 2023 holiday season, the online Club Store accepts orders 24/7 for all your holiday needs!

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



## Shipping for Christmas?

If you want your online Club Store order to arrive by Christmas using shipping, the Club recommends these deadlines (don't wait!):

- USPS First Class Mail:** order by Thurs., Dec. 14
- USPS Priority Mail:** order by Tues., Dec. 19
- USPS Priority Express:** order by Wed., Dec. 20

### Order Pickups Available

Order pickups are available by appointment in Downtown LA, at the Club's warehouse in Carson, or at Mobile Site Visits. Call or text (213) 819-0350 for inquiries and appointments.

*Happy Holidays from the Club Retail Team!*



## THE CLUB'S Holiday Hours

Here's a schedule of the Club's operating hours over the holidays.

*Note: Customer support teams are standing by 24/7, and the online Club Store accepts orders 24/7; order fulfillment occurs during regular hours.*

**Tues., Dec. 12**  
Offices closed from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. for staff holiday event.

**Fri., Dec. 22 – Mon. Dec. 26**  
Offices closed for the Christmas holiday.

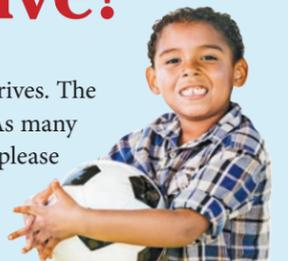
**Tues., Dec. 27**  
Offices reopen.

**Mon., Jan. 1**  
Offices closed for the New Year holiday.

**Tues., Jan. 2**  
Offices reopen.

## DONATE TO A Toy/Clothing Drive!

Many City departments host holiday toy and clothing drives. The Club encourages you to be generous by participating. (As many agencies were finalizing their plans at *Alive!* press time, please check their social media channels for the most current information.)



Bishop Alemany High School contributed toys to the LAPD Devonshire toy drive.

### LAPD Devonshire

The Devonshire Division plans its toy drive for Sat., Dec. 16 at 9 a.m. LAPD Devonshire PALS Youth Center, 8721 Wilbur Ave., Northridge.

### LAFD Spark of Love

The LAFD – and many other local fire departments – are collecting for their annual Spark of Love Toy Drive. Drop off unwrapped toys or sports equipment to any LAFD Fire Station, and they'll take it from there.

This annual event is in its 31st year and includes the "Stuff a Bus" event Dec. 15 at Dodger Stadium parking lot 13 from 4 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

To find your nearest LAFD station: <https://www.lafd.org/fire-stations/station-results>

To donate online: <https://supportlafd.kindful.com/?campaign=1032876>

### LAPD Northeast

LAPD's Northeast Station has given away up to 1,000 toys per year to area children living in poverty or other challenging situations. Plans for 2022 were not complete at press time. But bring a new, unwrapped toy for 3-to-12-year-old children to the station, 3353 N San Fernando Rd., by Sat., Dec. 9.

### LAPD North Hollywood

The North Hollywood Station plans to host its "Winter Wonderland" toy giveaway at Whitsett Park, 6907 Whitsett Ave. Unwrapped toy donations are requested at the Station, 11640 Burbank Blvd., by Sat., Dec. 16.

### LAPD Van Nuys

The Station plans its 10th annual toy drive and car show for Sat., Dec. 9, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Address: 6240 Sylvar Ave., Van Nuys.

### West Valley Sanitation

Public Works' West Valley Sanitation Yard is once again hosting its annual Holiday Toy Drive. Drop off your unwrapped toys at the yard, 8840 Vanalden Ave., Northridge, by Wednesday, Dec. 13, as West Valley donates the toys to the Guadalupe Center the next day.

### Rec and Parks Muscle Beach Toy Drive

Rec and Parks sponsors the 15th annual Muscle Beach toy drive from 10 a.m. Dec. 4 at the Venice Beach Recreation Center, 1800 Ocean Front Walk in Venice. A special presentation by Santa and his Elvettes is promised.

Immediately following the drive, LAPD cruisers & SUVs pick up all the donated toys and transport to their station. Donated toys help the kids in Culver City, Venice, Santa Monica, Oakwood, Westchester, & Marina Del Rey communities.

### Sanitation Blanket and Sock Drive

Public Works/Sanitation and Environment is hosting its annual blanket and sock drive. Residents, businesses and City employees are encouraged to donate new and gently used – washed and clean – blankets, sleeping bags, quilts and socks at one of six designated collection sites. Through Dec. 29. Drop off at any of Sanitation's drop-off sites in the West Valley, North Central, West LA, Harbor and the Public Works building downtown.



Brian Sibert (front, now Retired) and the toy drive gang at Sanitation's West Valley Yard are ready to accept donations.

### Rec and Parks Park Rangers Toys for Tots

Park Rangers are working with the US Marine Corps Toys for Tots to collect unwrapped gifts. Drop offs available at the Griffith Park Ranger Station and Hansen Dam Ranger Stations every day 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.; and the Audubon Center at Ernest Debs Park, Thurs.-Sun., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

# CITY HOLIDAY EVENTS: Enjoy the Season!

Some City-sponsored events returned a few years ago from the pandemic and are roaring in 2023. Every year, the City produces and sponsors a variety of events to celebrate the holidays. Here's *Alive!*'s annual guide for 2023; check back in next month for updated information.

We appreciate the City departments for sponsoring civic holiday traditions for everyone's enjoyment.



Photo by Simie Seaman

## Victorian Christmas

**When:** noon – 4 p.m. Sat., Dec. 2  
**Where:** Banning Museum, 401 E Main St., Wilmington.  
**Cost:** Free admission.  
**City sponsors:** Rec and Parks, Harbor  
**Information:** (310) 548-2005 or [www.thebanningmuseum.org](http://www.thebanningmuseum.org)

This free event is one day for visitors to enjoy period entertainment, tours of the residence museum decorated in holiday splendor, refreshments, a children's craft area, carolers, and a horse-drawn trolley ride between the museum and the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum nearby.

## Holidays by the Sea/ Harbor Afloat Parade

**When:** 4-8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2  
**Where:** LA Waterfront; Banning's Landing Community Center, 100 E. Water St., Wilmington.  
**Cost:** Free.  
**City sponsor:** Harbor, Council District 15  
**Information:** [www.portofla.org](http://www.portofla.org)

First, enjoy a town square tree lighting, then live entertainment, a tall ship light display, and crafts and games. Then, at 6 p.m., join harbor community members for this free and festive boat parade on the LA Waterfront. Enjoy the sparkling spectacular parade of boats and celebrate the nation's busiest international trade gateway.



## Holiday Ice Rink Pershing Square

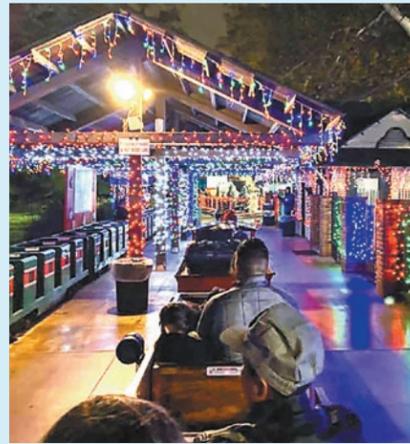
**When:** various times, through Jan. 16.  
**Where:** Pershing Square downtown, 532 S. Olive St. Take Metro Red/Purple Line to Pershing Square, or park in nearby facilities (fee).  
**Cost:** Starting at \$20. Skate rental included.  
**City sponsor:** Rec and Parks.  
**Information:** (213) 624.4289; [holidayicerinkdowntownla.com](http://holidayicerinkdowntownla.com)

One of the City's largest outdoor ice rink returns for the 2022 holiday season on Nov. 23. Suitable for experienced and novice skaters. Holiday hours limited. Lockers available for rent. Sessions last one hour.

## Pershing Square Winter Wonderland

**When:** 5-9 p.m. Dec. 16  
**Where:** Pershing Square downtown, 532 S. Olive St. Take Metro Red/Purple Line to Pershing Square, or park in nearby facilities (fee).  
**Cost:** free to attend  
**City sponsor:** Rec and Parks.  
**Information:** [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)

This free community event features a snow play area and sledding; a gift giveaway; entertainment; and a Santa Village.



## Holiday Light Festival Train Ride

**When:** 5-8 p.m. weeknights; 5-9 p.m. Fri-Sun. through – Jan. 5  
**Where:** 4400 Crystal Springs Dr., Griffith Park  
**Cost:** \$7 (18 months and under ride free)  
**City sponsor:** Rec and Parks  
**Information:** (323) 662-9678, [www.griffithparktrainrides.com](http://www.griffithparktrainrides.com)

Guests can take an evening 10-minute train ride around the festively decorated mile-long track. Magical scenes and tens of thousands of lights are set to captivate families and set the mood for a wonderful holiday season.

The attraction includes three open-air photo areas, plus a gift kiosk.

## LA Zoo Lights: Animals Aglow

**When:** 6-10 p.m. nightly through Jan. 7 (closed most Mondays and Tuesdays, plus Christmas Eve and Christmas).  
**Where:** LA Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Griffith Park, 5355 Zoo Dr. Free parking.  
**Cost:** \$29-\$35 (daytime Zoo admission extra).  
**Value nights:** Some nights are lower cost; some are premium cost. Check the Website.  
**City sponsor:** LA Zoo.  
**Information:** (323) 644-6042 or [www.LAZoolights.org](http://www.LAZoolights.org)

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

This year, LA Zoo Lights offers special VIP event nights – Holiday Happy Hours Dec. 7 and 14; and Family New Year's Eve, which include special features for additional fees. Two special nights are also planned: a Sensory-Inclusive Night (Dec. 5), with reduced sensory exposure; and Pride Night (LGBTQ+), Jan. 4.



## Las Posadas on Olvera Street

**When:** 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Dec. 16-24.  
**Where:** Olvera Street, 125 Paseo de la Plaza downtown.  
**Cost:** Free admission.  
**City sponsor:** El Pueblo Historical Monument.  
**Information:** [www.elpueblo.lacity.org](http://www.elpueblo.lacity.org)

*Las Posadas*, a Mexican tradition that's one of the City's oldest Christmas events, commemorates what Christians believe was the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their search for shelter in preparation for Jesus' birth.

On Olvera Street, the event will feature a candlelight procession starting at the historic Avila Adobe at approximately 7 p.m. The leaders of the march, usually children, will be dressed as shepherds, angels, and Mary and Joseph. They will be followed by dozens of other worshippers. The public is invited to join in or merely observe.



# READ ALL ABOUT IT: It's the Holidays!

LIBRARIANS ARE READY TO HELP YOU ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS WITH BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS.

**LIBRARY:** Below is a selection of books reflecting some of the Library's suggestions for the winter holidays.

If your favorite holiday isn't represented, feel free to email [children@lapl.org](mailto:children@lapl.org), and the Librarians can help. Happy Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa to all, and to all a good night!

**Recommendations by:** Literature and Fiction Dept., Los Angeles Public Library; Children's Literature Dept., Los Angeles Public Library. Compiled by Susan Lendroth, Los Angeles Public Library

## For Adult Readers

### Midwatch in Verse: New Year's Deck Log Poetry of the United States Navy, 1941-1946

David E. Johnson

This is about a little-known Navy tradition – the writing of the first ship's deck log of each New Year in verse. "On the first watch of the year, the Midwatch from midnight to 4 a.m., the Officer of the Deck on Navy ships was given the leeway to write the deck log in poetry."

### Christmas Past: The Fascinating Stories Behind our Favorite Holiday's Traditions

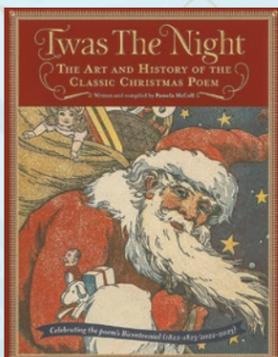
Brian Earl

This book covers what many people want to know about the origins of holiday traditions and how we celebrate them. Chapters are divided into: Food and Drink; Characters and Entertainment (Santa Claus, The Nutcracker ballet, movies); Sights and Sounds (songs, gift wraps, holly, mistletoe, poinsettias); and Society and Culture (advertising and shopping).

### Twas the Night: The Art and History of the Classic Christmas Poem

Written and compiled by Pamela McCoil

Celebrating the poem's Bicentennial, this gorgeous folio book chronicles the history of the poem, in text and illustrations. In 1822, it was



first recited on Christmas Eve at the home of Clement Clarke Moore, and the first printing was on Dec. 23, 1823. Numerous illustrations complement the narrative text.

## For Young Readers

### Kwanzaa Gets An A

Steven C. Thedford

Discover the interesting story of why the holiday of Kwanzaa is spelled with two A's, when the Swahili word only has one!

### Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Sleigh!

Mo Willems

In the newest installment of Mo Willems' Pigeon books, the small bird really wants to drive Santa's sleigh. Get ready for fits of giggling!

### Hanukkah Upside Down

Elissa Brent Weissman

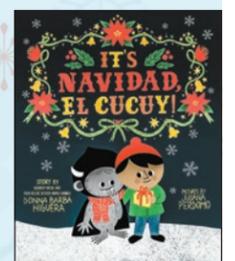
Two cousins celebrate Hanukkah from across the world, one in New Zealand, where it is summer, and the other in New York, where it is winter. This sparks a competition – Summer vs. Winter: Who has the best Hanukkah in the world? their antagonism thaws. May and Shani's clever banter, coupled with their myriad

relationship ups and downs, make for a cozy and sharply funny confection. Main characters cue as white. (Adapted from a review.)

### It's Navidad, El Cucuy!

Donna Barba Higuera

El Cucuy is bothered and a little scared of all the holiday preparations, but once Ramón explains La Navidad and Las Posadas, El Cucuy embraces both with gusto.



### How Does Santa Go Down the Chimney?

Mac Barnett

Ideas and possibilities for that age-old question.

## THANK YOU!

The Club sends its thanks to the Librarians as noted below, and to Susan Lendroth, Public Relations Specialist, for her assistance in gathering these suggestions over the last few months.



FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS

## LACERS Office Hours Announced for Holidays

LACERS welcomes all current and Retired City employees to its new headquarters at 977 N. Broadway. Regular hours are now back to normal: 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. No appointments are needed.

**Holiday Closure:** LACERS' front desk will be closed, and the 800 number will be offline, from Dec. 25 through Jan. 1. LACERS will continue to reply to incoming emails and voice-mails during this time except on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 in observance of the holidays.

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.

Additionally, online options will continue to be available to you. Use the LACERS' Secure Document Upload found at [lacers.org/secure-document-upload](https://lacers.org/secure-document-upload) to submit forms or required documents, visit our website at [LACERS.org](https://lacers.org) to obtain benefits information; log onto your MyLACERS account at <https://mylacers.lacers.org> to view your account details; and visit the found LACERS' YouTube channel at [youtube.com/lacersyoutube](https://youtube.com/lacersyoutube) where you can find a wealth of benefits videos. Stay up to date on LACERS announcements by checking our website periodically at [LACERS.org](https://lacers.org), contacting us by email at [lacers.services@lacers.org](mailto:lacers.services@lacers.org), and by phone at (800) 779-8328. ●

Photoscan for more information



## Add LACERS Number to Your List to Avoid Scams

LACERS recommends that you save LACERS' phone number to your contact list to protect against scams. Your phone service provider may register an incoming call from LACERS as SPAM or "Scam Likely". To ensure you do not miss calls from LACERS, save the department's caller ID number, (213) 725-5641, to your contact list.

FOR RETIRED MEMBERS

## Information on Your 2024 Retirement

LACERS is providing the following information about next year's health benefits.

### LACERS Open Enrollment Period Has Ended for 2024

Nov. 16 marked the end of this year's Open Enrollment period. Changes made during this period will become effective on Jan. 1, 2024. Unless you have a qualifying event, the next opportunity to change your LACERS health plan will be next year during the Open Enrollment period for 2025.

### Medicare Part B Premium Will Increase for 2024

For 2024, the basic monthly Medicare Part B premium amount will be \$174.70 per month, an increase from \$164.90 in 2023. This amount does not include Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amounts (IRMAAs) or late enrollment penalties.

As a reminder, all Retired members and their dependents who are eligible for Medicare and enrolled in a LACERS plan are required to enroll in Medicare Part B. Retired members enrolled in Medicare Parts A & B with at least 10 years of service who are enrolled in a LACERS senior medical plan or participate in the Medical Premium Reimbursement Program (MPRP) are eligible for a reimbursement of their basic Medicare Part B premium.

If you are a Retiree whose Medicare Part B premium is deducted from your Social Security Benefit check, and the amount is less than \$174.70 per month, you must submit proof of the amount to LACERS so that your reimbursement amount can be adjusted. An audit regarding Part B reimbursements will be conducted in 2024.

### Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA)

Some members may have to pay an additional premium (IRMAA) amount for their Medicare Parts B and D. Whether or not you pay an IRMAA is determined by the Social Security Administration based on your tax return income and filing status from two years prior. For example, if in 2022 you filed "single" and made more than \$103,000 modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) or filed "married filing jointly" and made more than \$206,000 MAGI, you would be billed for an IRMAA. Before you are billed for an IRMAA, Social Security will typically send a notice, and you will have the opportunity to appeal. This adjustment amount must be paid in full as part of your eligibility for a medical subsidy and is not reimbursed by LACERS.

### Make Your Voice Heard on IRMAA & Medicare Part B

The LACERS Board of Administration submitted a request to City Council recommending options for extending the Medicare Part B Basic Premium Reimbursement to LACERS Retirees who were hired by the City of Los Angeles prior to April 1, 1986, and currently do not receive the LACERS Medicare Part B Reimbursement, as well as adjusting the Medicare Part B Reimbursement to LACERS retirees whose Medicare Part B premium exceed the basic premium as a result of the IRMAA.

The City Council has assigned this request as Council File # 23-1131, and it is now open for public comment. To make your voice heard, please submit your comments using the Office of the City Clerk's Public Comment Form online at [cityclerk.lacity.org/publiccomment](https://cityclerk.lacity.org/publiccomment). ●

## She Wears It Well!

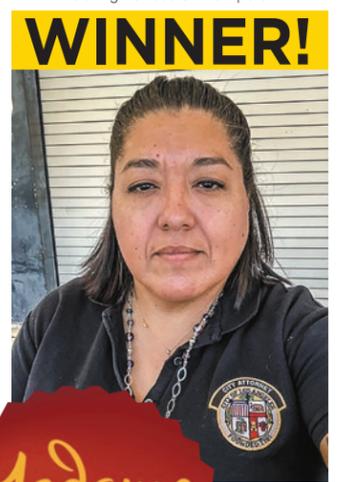
JULIE BRIONES WINS CLUB PROMOTION CONTEST.

**THE CLUB:** We have a winner!

In late October, the Club offered four free tickets to Madame Tussauds Wax Museum in Hollywood (including its newest likeness, Harry Styles) to a person rocking Club merchandise or using any Club discount.

**Our winner:** Julie Briones, City Attorney's Office, wearing a City Attorney custom polo. Congratulations, Julie! ●

Julie Briones, City Attorney's Office, rocking her customized polo.



### MORE CONTESTS TO COME

Members, look for more contests as part of the Club's email promotions. Have you signed up to receive the email notifications?

It's easy – sign up right on the Club's website: [employeesclub.com](https://employeesclub.com)



## Dennis Calls It a Day

DET. III DENNIS MOELLER RETIRES AFTER MORE THAN 35 YEARS OF CITY SERVICE.



Photos courtesy Commander Lillian Carranza, LAPD

Det. III Dennis Moeller, Retired (right), accepts a plaque from LAPD Commander Michael Oreb.

**LAPD:** A retirement gathering was held Oct. 31 for Det. III Dennis Moeller, who retires from the LAPD after more than 35 years of City service.

Det. Moeller was named Detective of the Year in the Central Division in 1995.

Congratulations on your long career, Dennis. The Club honors you for your many years of dedicated service to Los Angeles. ●



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# CLUB SPORTS

Club photos by Summy Lam, Chief Operating Officer

## Central Time!

CLUB-SPONSORED HOOPS TOURNAMENT IS BIG SUCCESS.

The team from LADOT's Central office took the crown at the first Club-sponsored co-ed basketball tournament, held Nov. 19 at the Expo Center.

The tournament included eight teams, all from LADOT – Central, Guzzlers, Hollywood 1, Hollywood 2, Valley, West, South and Traffic Jam (Traffic Engineers from the Transportation HQ downtown).

Central took the crown. Guzzlers finished fast in second place.

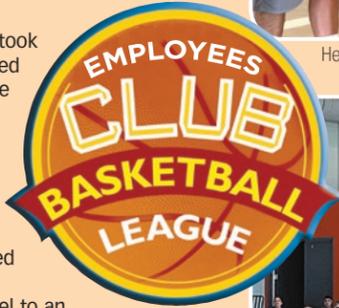
Hundreds of fans brought the energy level to an astonishing roar as they cheered on their family members and colleagues on the court.

The Club's Sports Commissioner, Noelle Kauffman, managed the tournament for months in advance, and was on hand with Club CEO Robert Larios and Club Counselor Cheryl Martin at the Club table in the middle of it all.

**Note to Club athletes:** We're ramping up our Club Sports program, starting small and bringing it back one limited event at a time. As we grow our capacity, we'll keep you informed of more opportunities to compete.

*Special thanks to Cesar Ponce and Anthony Cordova, LADOT Traffic Officers, for all their assistance; and Rec and Parks for their awesome cooperation.*

**Approximately 100 fans attended over the afternoon to cheer on their family athletes and colleagues.**



## The winners!

Here's to the winners: Central (right) took top honors; Guzzlers came in second. What an afternoon of great hoops action!



A Guzzlers forward drains a deuce.



The most important part was the handshake of good sportsmanship.

The Club was well represented in the middle of it all, from left: Noelle Kauffman, Club Sports Commissioner; CEO Robert Larios; and Club Counselor Cheryl Martin.

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With MetLife Pet Insurance<sup>1</sup> you can feel confident that their health and your wallet are protected if you're faced with an unexpected trip to the vet.

Eliminate the hassle of managing monthly bills. With the Employees Club of California, you can enjoy the convenience of having premiums deducted directly from your pay check.



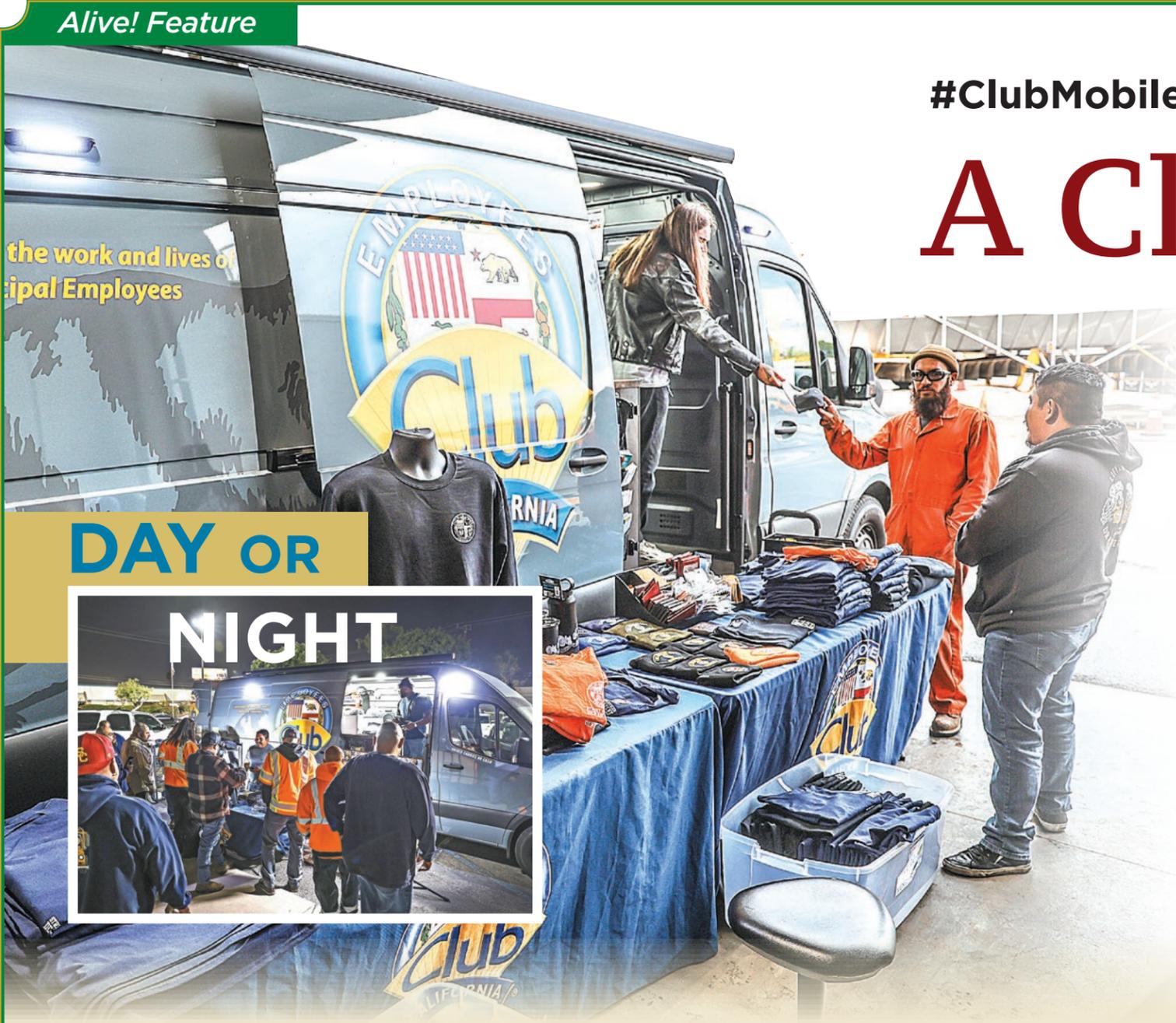
Employees Club of California  
311 S. Spring St. Ste 1300  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
Insurance Services: 800.464.0452  
Ticket Services: 888.777.1744  
Email: [info@employeesclub.com](mailto:info@employeesclub.com)

*The Club has been supporting and celebrating the work and lives of government employees since 1928.*

<sup>1</sup> Coverage underwritten and issued by Independence American Insurance Company ("IAIC"), a Delaware insurance company, and Metropolitan General Insurance Company ("MetGen"), a Rhode Island insurance company, in those states where MetGen's policies are available. Coverage subject to restrictions, exclusions and limitations. See policy or contact MetLife Pet Insurance Solutions LLC for complete details. MetLife Pet Insurance Solutions LLC is the authorized policy administrator for this coverage.

The Employees Club of California (The Club) is a membership program of LACEA Insurance Services, Inc. (CA DOI Lic. #0B98000). LACEA Insurance Services, Inc. is a licensed insurance agency, and subsidiary of the Los Angeles City Employees Association, Inc. offering insurance benefits to qualified Club members. Like most group benefit programs, benefit programs offered by the Club and its affiliates contain certain exclusions, exceptions, reductions, limitations, waiting periods, and terms for keeping them in force. Please contact the Club for costs and complete details.

Alive! Feature



#ClubMobile

# A Club R

The incredib  
accessibility



The new C

**Accessible**

The Club Truck can reach hundreds more locations. Not just big yards – office buildings, sidewalks, parking lots, town squares, and more than even we can imagine.

DAY OR

NIGHT



## A Whole Store ... in a Truck

Club Members who have already experienced the incredible Club Truck come away impressed. Here are some details.

**Retractable Awning**

The Club Truck's retractable awning allows us to visit any work site, providing protection from the sun and even rain!

**The Club Truck:  
2023 Mercedes  
Sprinter Cargo  
Van 3500**



Aftermarket customization for Club Member service optimization

Diesel High Output



**Hat Station**  
Unlimited orders on-site visits

**Merchandise Inventory**

The Club Truck carries a deep inventory of the most popular Club apparel and gifts right onboard and is restocked daily. Out of your size or style? Don't worry, we'll ship it to you via priority mail!



using rooftop panels. That means, during site visits, the Club Truck emits no CO2 for sustainability, but equipment power for all of our machines.

Note: Inside areas not accessible

The integration of the truck has significantly boosted the Club's flexibility, enabling the team to visit multiple work sites at a faster pace while providing direct access to employee benefits. This has empowered us to reach out to customers more efficiently and offer them unparalleled service with their preferred items.



# Retail Revolution

The new Club Truck delivers a new era of performance, speed and fast response. It reinvents Club retail.

**Y**ou might have already seen it serving Club Members in the City of Los Angeles. If you haven't, you will very soon.

It's the Club Truck, the latest in the Club's total dedication to serving Club Members.

It's more than the famous #ClubMobile Red Tent. It's more than the old Club Store was. It's both of them built into one super-capable Sprinter van that can go wherever you are, more often, with more items and information, while being far more responsive to your needs.

It's incredible, really. Here's why:

## Club Truck is...

### Flexible

The Club Truck schedules anchor visits every month – locations you can count on in advance – but so many more. That certainly means one near you.

The Club Truck is available for booking as little as 24 hours in advance.

### Fast

The Club Truck can serve more than one location each day.

The Club Truck takes only 10 minutes to set up.

### Green

The back end of the Club Truck – the hat and embroidery machines, and much more – are powered by solar panels on the Club Truck's roof.

### Complete

Many Club Members miss the Club Store; we get it. Consider this: The amazing Club Truck carries most everything the Club Store carried, and with some items even more. You can still meet and talk to real Club representatives (we love meeting you, too). And you don't have to go downtown (unless you already work there) to visit the store. The Club Truck is coming to a place near you!



**Supervisors:  
Schedule the  
Club Truck!  
SEE PAGE 14**

## Alive! Interview

# Game Changer

On Oct. 13, Alive! interviewed Guadalupe Lira, Club Manager of Retail Operations with nine years of Club experience, about the exciting news of the next step in Club retail – the incredible Club Truck. The interview took place via Zoom, to accommodate her busy schedule meeting Club Members in the field.

**Hi Lupe! Where is ClubMobile taking you today to meet Members?**

**Guadalupe Lira:** We're heading to the First Responders Relay race in Las Vegas. We'll be meeting teams from all over the state, including runners from our LAPD teams. It's going to be a great opportunity for them to see what's new.

**Before we get to the exciting news of the incredible Club Truck, let's take an overall look. What's the status of Club retail right now? From our perspective, it's really popular, and growing.**

**Guadalupe:** Right! In 2023, we closed our Club Store on Second Street downtown, as most Members know, and we went completely mobile. Now we visit all the yards and worksites directly throughout the City, and even some state locations like Caltrans yards, state hospitals, and state prisons where our state Members are. Supervisors can invite us to safety meetings, employee appreciation luncheons, and new employee orientations! We bring all the benefits to the employees!

Our aim is to bring the Club to them at their worksites rather than inconveniencing them to go to downtown LA.

All of that is in addition to our online store, which is open 24/7. It's open for Club Members and also for nonmembers who are fans of City of LA merchandise. Our merchandise is open and available for people to purchase 24/7. Ordering has never been easier!

**And busier than ever?**

**Guadalupe:** Busier than ever, yes! We're keeping up with the high demand, but that's what keeps us running. We know how impactful our service is on employee morale, so again, supervisors can invite us and count on a great service for their employees! Contact us to schedule a visit to their workplaces.

### Store on Wheels

**So let's talk about the big news, the introduction of the new Club Truck. What is it?**

**Guadalupe:** It's a Mercedes Sprinter that was converted into a store on wheels. You might see people out on the road in mobile homes, but in our case we customized it to our own specifications to create a store. It's one of the very few mobile stores that you'll see at this time.

It has a sliding door that we open and flip down a counter to meet Members and take orders. We'll usually have one staff person inside the back, fulfilling orders directly. We also make our custom hats right within the back of the truck. It's very much like when you go to an ice cream truck and ask for what you want. The person inside fulfills the order and hands it to you through the side.

**And you also set up a business table outside the truck for insurance information and other Club resources.**

**Guadalupe:** Yes, that's right. It's the mobile version of both our Club store and Club services. Our licensed insurance counselors are available at ClubMobile visits to update member information and evaluate benefits tailored to each employee's needs - all without leaving the office!

**What does the Club Truck represent in terms of Club service?**

**Guadalupe:** We are truly living up to our mission, which is to celebrate the work and lives of public service employees. That mission is written on the outside of the truck.

The Club Truck removes the limits. It represents uncharted territory. We're going there, wherever that is. That's what it means. The Club comes to you!

Guadalupe Lira, Club Manager of Retail Operations

— continued page 14

### Express Ordering

A walk-up ordering station so Members can order directly from Club staff.

### Customization

Customized hats can be produced per location, right on the spot.



### Solar Power

While the Club Truck's motion is diesel-powered, everything behind that powertrain is solar powered. This means that, while at worksites, the truck is built with enough solar panels to power the truck's operations.

...to the public.

#ClubMobile

# A Club Retail Revolution

Alive! Feature

## Alive! Interview

— continued from page 14

For example, with our famous Red Tent, we'd gotten to a lot of places, but we couldn't access all City worksites. We can now go to sidewalks and parking lots, not just green fields or big, open yards. Let's say a City worksite is on a higher floor in an office building. Now we can come out to them outside in the parking lot ready to serve them. We're going to Members at municipal hospitals; they know to expect us at the parking lot, and we'll be there. A good example of the increased flexibility is Piper Tech. There are dozens of departments in that building, but accessing them all has been an issue. Now, with the Club Truck, we can spread the word out throughout the building, and so many Club Members at Piper Tech can count on us being in the parking lot.

One of the events that we normally visit is at the Harbor's Liberty Plaza, by the Boys and Girls Club. And now, instead of setting up some tables inside the lobby or parking lot, we're setting up the complete "store in a truck" outside next to a food truck that comes out for the employees on their employee appreciation days. That kind of accessibility has boosted morale when we're there, because now people are intrigued to see what the truck is. And then once they find out what it is and what's in there, they want to know more about it. Not only do we carry the merchandise, but we also carry tickets. We get to inform them of all their available benefits and perks of being a Club Member. It has become an anchor location for us in the Harbor. Port of LA employees, as well as other department employees and Retirees know they can see us there every first Wednesday of the month!

The Club Truck is all about improved accessibility and flexibility. It's dramatically more than ever, and reaching more Members than ever with the retail and insurance products they want. It's a real game changer.

### How does it advance ClubMobile? How does it advance the way the Club serves its Members?

**Guadalupe:** Logistically, setups are faster. What used to take us about an hour to set up now takes anywhere from 15 to 30 minutes. We're able to carry more merchandise with us, so Members have more of a variety when they're selecting items. If we have multiple appointments in a day, we can start early in the morning with one team, and then end the day with another team. So in terms of time and availability, it's opened up our horizons. It's all thoughtfully designed to appreciate Members' unwavering dedication and service.

### Does this signal a new era of ClubMobile?

**Guadalupe:** Definitely. We're also attending more picnics, barbecues and really fun, social events, too. We're building a culture of Member service, a much bigger vision than just showing up for retail. And we're proving that ClubMobile is more than just a shopping experience – it's about providing real value for our Members. That's why we've invested in quick setup times, more merchandise, and our best possible customer service. It's a new era of ClubMobile that puts Members first.

We hope to continue setting the standard for convenience in retail and making sure our Members get the most out of their ClubMobile experience!

## The Club Store Experience

**Club Members miss the retail Club Store downtown, which the Club closed last year because it was costing Members too much. The truck replaces that experience and makes it better. And people don't have to come downtown, either, to interact with the Club.**

**Guadalupe:** Right. We maintain an anchor location for the Club Truck downtown once a month for all our downtown Members, but Members don't have to come downtown

anymore like they did with the stationary Club Store. We're bringing that Club Store experience directly to them, more than ever. We also have anchor locations in the Valley - Topanga Canyon Street services – and at the Liberty Plaza in San Pedro.

Just yesterday someone said to us, "Wow, you carry so many things now." I said, "Yes, it's the full store in an amazing truck! You get the full store experience." This Member was intrigued that we had everything stored in the Club Truck, including cabinets holding our Club drinkware, our accessories, our T-shirts. We even carry our jackets and sweaters in here. The whole Club Store is here.

### A lot more than you could carry before.

**Guadalupe:** Definitely. We know members have different tastes, and we like to offer the opportunity to represent the City with pride and high honors!

The Club Truck is an amazing experience and we're bringing it to Members across the City. We love that our Members can now enjoy the convenience of our truck, browsing through everything we have to offer, and picking up those items they need without having to come all the way downtown. It's a great feeling knowing that we can provide so much for our Members in such an easy way. Plus, it helps us stay connected with them no matter where they are!



## Supervisors: Schedule the Club Truck!

The Club honors you for your dedicated service to the City of Los Angeles.

Invite the incredible Club Truck to visit your worksite:

- See it for yourself. Whoa!
- Build strong morale and spirit among your employees!
- #ClubMobile can reach hundreds of new locations!
- Much improved flexibility means it can visit more locations per day
- Get direct access to loads of new Club gear, gifts and insurance programs



**Contact Guadalupe Lira, Club Retail Manager at [glira@employeesclub.com](mailto:glira@employeesclub.com) to schedule a visit.**

**Guadalupe Lira**  
Retail Operations Manager

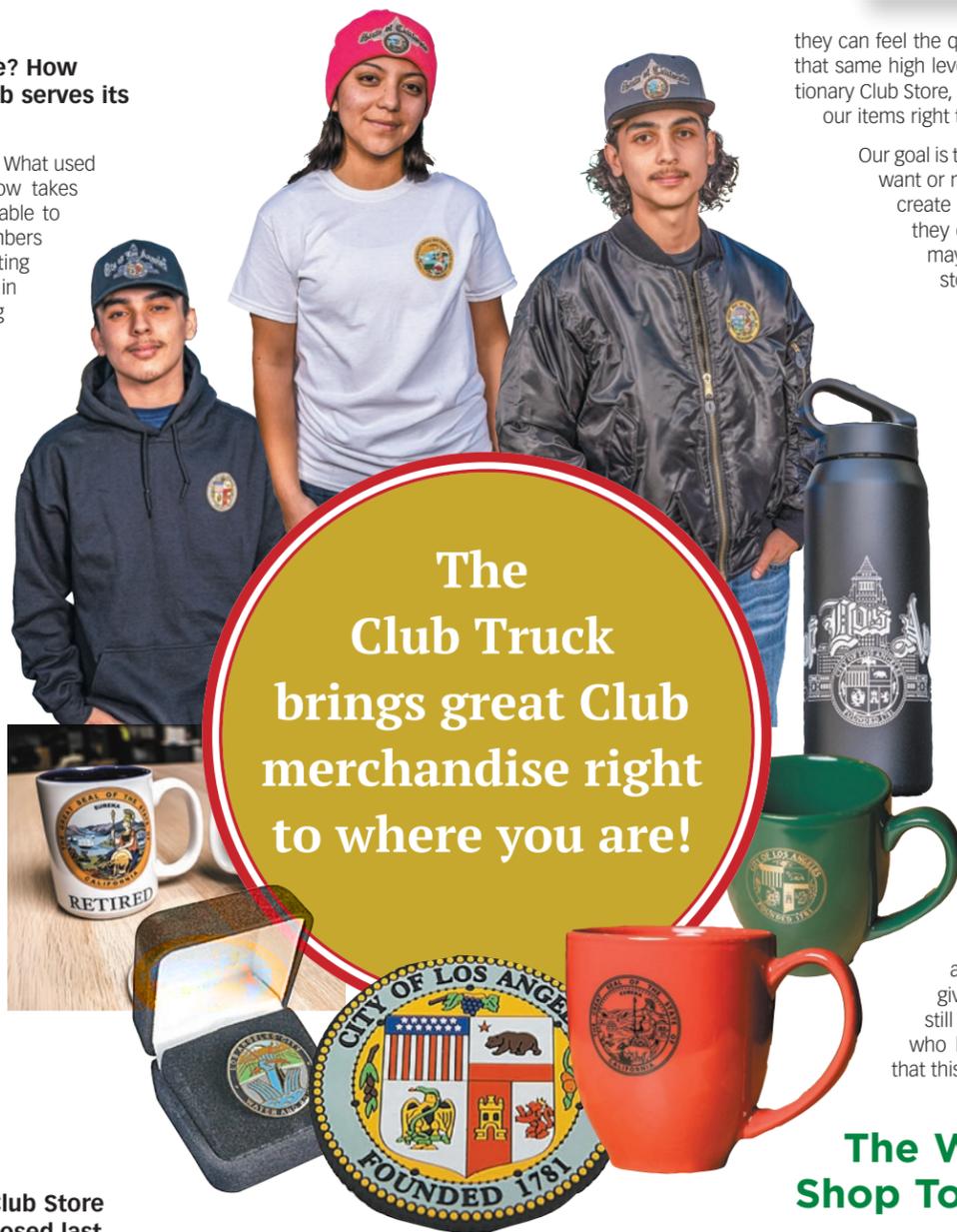
they can feel the quality of the materials. We want to provide that same high level of service that you would have at a stationary Club Store, but in a more efficient way – by bringing all our items right to your door!

Our goal is to ensure that no matter what our Members want or need from us, we will deliver it. We strive to create an atmosphere for each Member where they can trust and rely on us for whatever they may need. With our Club Truck, you get the full store experience.

And we also have new products, an added benefit. We've had a lot of people suggest that we sell a water flask or travel coffee mugs. We've been able to add those items, now that we don't have that overhead of the old store. Not only can they touch and feel the merchandise, they can continue to get to know our team and reconnect. DeAngelo and I love catching up with Members and hearing all about their journeys while on the job. We get lots of knowledge from those stories!

**The Club Truck is faster, more responsive, more accessible and more complete.**

**Guadalupe:** All of those things. We have a lot more control over what's in the truck, and can quickly adjust for changes. We also use technology like mobile devices for orders and point-of-sale, which makes the process smoother and faster. And our customers love it! It gives them the convenience they want while still connecting with our friendly staff members who know their needs. That's why we believe that this new model is here to stay!



## The Way People Shop Today

**How is the new Club Truck a response to the way people and Club Members shop today?**

**Guadalupe:** They look for the things they want to be available near them, or to be shipped to them. Of course we still ship directly to Members from our warehouse, but having Club Truck set locations is very important. Those are our anchor visits, in addition to our worksite visits.

Members know that they can count on us being there. They know they can meet us there, pick up their items they pre-ordered online or they can order right then and there. If they order online, they can pick it up the next day, at one of our anchor visits.

We don't just bring along products; we also bring along a unique brand voice and messaging that resonates with Members. Our aim is to make sure everyone knows about the services, products and experiences we have available.

**Members can still touch and feel the materials, and they can still meet Club staff members with a handshake, a hello and a laugh. All like they used to do at the stationary Club Store. It's a personal connection.**

**Guadalupe:** Absolutely. It has that personal touch and connection with our Members, and

**Alive! Interview**  
— continues page 25



## Read Books and Win

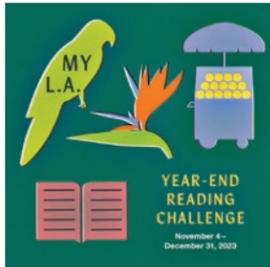
LIBRARY PRESENTS END-OF-YEAR READING CHALLENGE.

**LIBRARY:** The LA Public Library is hosting an end-of-year Reading Challenge for readers of all ages. Track your accomplishments, and you could win a prize from the Library Store!

Looking for a delightful family-friendly activity to wrap up the year with a bang? Join the Library's end-of-year Reading Challenge and make the most of the final stretch of the year! Immerse yourselves in a world of books and excitement as you complete five engaging activities for the chance to win a prize from The Library Store. Tracking your progress is a breeze. Register and monitor your accomplishments conveniently online or through the user-friendly Beanstack Tracker App. Celebrate a year of reading accomplishments and embrace the joy of literature!

Entering the challenge requires a Beanstack account.

**Information:** <https://www.lapl.org/year-end>



The Fire Station 11 crew, pictured with Councilwoman Eunisses Hernandez (front left) and Fire Chief Kristin Crowley (front right).

Photo courtesy CD1

## Busy Bodies

COUNCIL HONORS FS 11 FOR BEING BUSIEST IN US.

**LAFD:** On Nov. 14, Councilwoman Eunisses Hernandez honored the team at Fire Station 11, which was named as the busiest ladder company in the nation for 2022 by FireHouse Magazine. The magazine noted that FS 11 operated 5,000 runs last year. Whew!

Fire Station 11 serves the Westlake-MacArthur Park area in Council District 1.

Congratulations to the hard-working men and women of Fire Station 11!

The Club honors you, too, for your dedication in serving the people of Los Angeles.

# Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

## Captain's Log

Traveling with Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor



## Letter From Paso Robles - Wine, Cowboys and Small Horses

With the annual holiday season fast approaching, why not take a short romantic weekend and escape to the majestic rolling hills and numerous wineries of Paso Robles? Located midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco and bordered by coastal Highway 1 and the 101, Paso Robles is a community of cowboys' vintners, with more than 300 wineries and five Michelin-guide restaurants to choose from, but still managing to keep its small-town charm.



Christmas party at a winery in Paso Robles

With its mild Mediterranean climate and surrounded by rolling hills, most of which are covered in row upon row of grape vines or olive groves and topped by picturesque wineries complete with tasting rooms, Paso Robles is a perfect getaway location. Whether you stay in the luxury Paso Robles Inn, also known as the Hot Springs Hotel (established in 1889), or the less expensive Melody Ranch motel next door, both are just a short walk from the city park, which is surrounded by restaurants and a multitude of wine tasting rooms with more than 400 bottles to taste. It's nearly unnecessary to visit the surrounding vineyards, so park your car and forget about it.

For those a little more adventurous and wish to explore the surrounding countryside, book an Uber or hire a driver for the day, then everybody gets to wine taste. A good driver will show you the back roads of Paso Robles that lead to endless wineries, many with stunning views. Unlike Napa or Sonoma, there are no fancy parking lots with dedicated limousine parking spots and prices to match, just partly paved roads and nice, friendly people like those at the Eberle Winery, whose entrance has a replica of the bronze boar fountain found in the straw market in Florence, Italy. Rubbing the boar's nose and tossing a coin into the fountain is good luck. All money collected goes to local children's charities.



Christmas Cowboy Breakfast in Paso Robles

### Things to Do and Things to Avoid

Most wineries charge a tasting fee, allowing you to sip guilt-free without leaving a tip! Some even waive the fee if you buy a certain number of bottles of wine. But a small tip is always appreciated.

- Try not to wear overpowering perfume, or vape or smoke in a tasting room; it just spoils the delicate taste of the wine, not only for you but for other people around you. – Some people visit a winery only to taste the wine and not for the alcoholic buzz, so please do not comment

loudly on people who use the spit bucket or those who do not use the spit bucket! A general rule of thumb for wine-tasting techniques is to use the five S's of wine: see, swirl, smell, sip and savor.

- All wines are not equal, and a varietal wine is made from a single grape variety and bears the name of that grape. For a wine to be considered varietal, it must contain at least 85 percent of the wine grape listed on its label or 75 percent for USA wine.

- Since white wine doesn't have the same level of tannins as red wine, which leaves a thicker taste in your mouth, start with light, crisp white wines that leave your palate primed for sampling darker red wines. I think red wine is the smoothest to drink – either a merlot, gamay, pinot noir or grenache, as they are typically low in tannin; white wine, I find, is too acidic to drink in any quantity.

- Regarding cost per bottle, plonk is a term used primarily in Commonwealth English for generally cheap, low-quality wine. However, as some claim (this writer included), anything costing more than \$20 a bottle has a greater chance of a better balance and taste. When opening a bottle of wine, you sniff the top to see if it is corked; this will smell like a wet dog, damp newspaper, or a musty cellar. Oxidized wine

## Australia



Jean Sarfaty, Retired, LAPD/ Communications, and her husband, Ron, traveled to Sydney, Australia.

"[We] visited the Sealife Sydney Aquarium. We saw amazing animals and traveled thru numerous shark tubes, which gave us incredible opportunities to see various forms of sea life. We saw dugong, rays and beautiful lion fish. We also visited the Australia Zoo and held a koala! We also stayed at the Crocodile Hunter Lodge and saw many wild kangaroos running free. We had an amazing and spectacular time!"



Outside Paso Robles Brewing

smells like walnuts, caramel, stewed fruit or even curry spice. Drinking it will not hurt you, but it tastes like drinking vinegar.

For non-wine drinkers looking for an icy cold adult beverage, visit the oldest building in Paso, the Pine Street Saloon. Once a stagecoach stop visited by cowboys, ranchers and outlaws like Jesse and Frank James, it is now famous for live bands and karaoke. The Backyard beer garden on Thirteenth has a great selection of local craft beers and hard-to-find ales from around the country. For something more flamboyant, visit Tettos, the only rooftop bar downtown, at the top of The Piccolo Hotel, serving specialty cocktails in its modern, upscale lounge.

There are three local restaurants in Paso recognized as Michelin's *New Additions to the California Guide*; of the three, The Hatch, located just off the town square, with its wood-fired rotisserie and bar with small batch whiskey collection, is my favorite, with its excellent service and great food but do book ahead.

The wineries of Chronic, Castoro and Scuipterra, or the small downtown family-owned wine tasting room of Diablo Paso, popular with horses and humans alike, are the perfect places to buy a bottle to take home, as gifts or to share with friends over the holiday season.

Seasonal greetings to one and all, and may Santa be good to you and yours!

**Cheers!**

**The Captain**



**Send in a travel picture holding Alive!**

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



Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.

# RLACEI

For Retired  
Club Members

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)**



Ruth B. Perry

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

**2023 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, *Nominations Chair* Ext. 702
- Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, *Treasurer* Ext. 718
- Mark Blunk, *Audit Chair* Ext. 704
- Beverly J. Clark, *Publicity Director* Ext. 716
- Nancy Hammoudian, *Secretary* Ext. 705
- Tom Moutes, *Director* Ext. 710
- Verkin (Vicki) Keoseian, *Director* Ext. 719
- Ruth B. Perry, *President* Ext. 717
- Ann Seales, *Membership Director* Ext. 706
- Elizabeth Torres, *Entertainment Director* Ext. 703
- Leonard Torres, *Director* Ext. 707

**RLACEI RETIREE HELPLINE:**

**(800) 678-4145, Ext. 0**

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

**RLACEI WEBSITE**

Visit the RLACEI website [www.RLACEI.org](http://www.RLACEI.org) to find the latest 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**

**Dec. 14 Holiday Party**  
Friendship Auditorium  
3201 Riverside Dr., Los Angeles  
11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
**Reservations are closed.**

**RLACEI EVENTS RESERVATION LINE**

Call: (800) 678-4145, ext. 701  
or Email: [contact@rlacei.org](mailto:contact@rlacei.org)

Due to staffing, telephone confirmation cannot be provided.

## RLACEI 2023 ANNUAL MEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023  
11:30 A.M. - 2 P.M.

### FRIENDSHIP AUDITORIUM 3201 RIVERSIDE DRIVE LOS ANGELES, CA 90027

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

RSVP to (800) 678-4145 Ext 701  
Please RSVP no later than December 3, 2023.



**RLACEI member plus one (1) guest limit at no cost.**  
No additional guests allowed at this time due to attendance limitations.  
To join RLACEI, call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 706.

**RLACEI 2023 Holiday Party Reservation Form**

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Num. \_\_\_\_\_ (Limit 2)

email to RLACEI, P.O. Box 86264, Los Angeles, CA 90086

Members will be eligible to win prizes.\*\*

Reservations Closed

**RETIREES UPDATE**

by Tom Moutes, *RLACEI Director* • Tom.Moutes@RLACEI.org

**LACERS Works to Provide Great Healthcare Benefits**



Tom Moutes

The provision of Retiree healthcare benefits can look quite simple to us retirees. We receive our Open Enrollment materials, determine what our subsidies cover, and make our selections.

However, the reality is that LACERS staff, health consultants and Benefits Committee are busy all year helping make great medical, dental and vision options available and to help keep costs down for Retirees and for LACERS.

Shortly after the Open Enrollment period, LACERS gets busy making decisions that won't be implemented for another year. The first of those decisions is whether it is prudent to go out to bid on any of the medical, dental or dental (together called healthcare) contracts. If the decision to go out to bid is made, the process has to start early in the calendar year.

Even if LACERS decides to renew the existing healthcare contracts, there is a rate negotiation process that takes months. This process includes reviewing prior usage by LACERS members (no personally identifiable information is included) to determine what rates the insurers can justify. This process also helps identify commonly occurring medical

conditions in the LACERS Retiree population.

After LACERS has reached agreements on the healthcare contracts, the next issue is determining the subsidies and reimbursements for which Retirees and dependents will be eligible. While many of the subsidies are determined based on Administrative Code provisions, some are decided on by the LACERS Board.

The LACERS *Well* program also factors into the provision of great healthcare benefits. The information regarding commonly occurring medical conditions in the LACERS Retiree population is used not only to bring the insurance carriers' attention to them, but also so that the LACERS Well staff can consider how to implement programs in the following year to help Retirees control those conditions. This element of LACERS Well helps Retirees enjoy healthy retirements, while also helping to keep our retiree healthcare costs down.

Lastly, the Open Enrollment materials are prepared and distributed. Then, Retirees like you and me get to sit back and make our decisions for the next year. Yeah, we get the easy part! ●





Arnette Travis

By Arnette Travis  
Author/Activist/Advocate, RLACEI Contributing Author

## Get Happy Now!

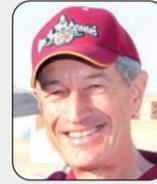
Retirement is a time to relax and enjoy the fruits of your labor. However, it can also be a time of anxiety and stress. For some people, retirement can lead to depression. According to a 2020 study published by the National Library of Medicine, nearly one-third of Retirees in the United States develop symptoms of depression.

If you are retiring soon, or if you are already retired, it is important to be aware of the risk of depression and to take steps to avoid it.

Depression is a common mental illness that can affect anyone. It is characterized by a persistent feeling of sadness, hopelessness and worthlessness. Depression can also cause changes in sleep, appetite, energy and concentration. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, it is important to seek professional help.

There are several things you can do to avoid depression in retirement. Here are a few tips:

- Stay active. Exercise is a great way to boost your mood and reduce stress.
- Stay connected with friends and family.
- Find new activities that you enjoy.
- Set goals for yourself, both short-term and long-term.
- Take care of yourself. Make sure you are getting enough sleep, eating healthy foods and managing stress.
- Make a plan for your retirement. This will help you feel more in control and less stressed about the future. ●



Michael R. Wilkinson

## LACERS BOARD UPDATE

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

## Long-Term Investing Is LACERS' Best Strategy

One of the most important tasks the LACERS board performs is to review its asset allocation to the various investments that provide most of the funding for the pension plan. The plan is supported by active member contributions, contributions by the City of Los Angeles and investment returns.

LACERS periodically reviews the asset allocation and makes needed changes based on an asset liability study to determine the projection of liabilities, including benefit payments, and an estimate of what the plan expects to earn and contribution levels. Studies have shown that the performance of the plan is based mostly on the performance of the asset classes and thus the asset allocation rather than the skill of individual money managers.

As you may know, the financial hucksters are always pitching that wonderful investment that produces high returns in all market conditions without risk. One of the recent examples of that type of investment was Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme. Those investment promises can never be met because no investment excels all the time.

However, the LACERS Board considers the risk and return characteristics of a mix of investments that are expected to provide returns to support the plan and weather the cycles of the financial markets. One of the techniques used is correlation. If one investment class follows the ups and downs of another class it is highly correlated. If an investor picks uncorrelated investments they tend to move in opposite cycles and reduce risks. However, in some markets even normally uncorrelated investments can move together.

LACERS is a long-term investor and avoids trading in and out of asset classes to "time the market." Experts agree that the best way to produce long-term returns is to diversify. Over the years LACERS has invested in a mix of stocks, bonds, real estate and private equity, among other investments. The current goal is to meet an assumed rate of overall investment returns of 7.0 percent over the long term. ●

## RLACEI at LACERS Open Enrollment



### Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.

At the LACERS Open Enrollment meeting Nov. 9 at the Airtel Plaza Hotel in Van Nuys were Board Directors Vicki Keoseian, Nancy Hammoudian and Lucy Artinian.

In November, LACERS held three in-person open enrollment meetings in Alhambra, Ontario and Van Nuys. The meetings were open to all LACERS members and featured presentations from LACERS staff and LACERS-contracted health insurance representatives. Members who attended were able to ask questions and learn more about their LACERS benefit plans and options.

RLACEI board members attended all three meetings to keep Retirees informed of its goals and the benefits of joining. RLACEI not only focuses on maintaining and protecting benefits for Retired City employees but also offers social events throughout the year for Retirees to stay connected. ●

## Happy Holidays from the RLACEI Board

The holiday season is upon us, and we would like to take this opportunity to extend our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. May your holidays be filled with joy, laughter and cherished memories.

As we look forward to the New Year, we hope that it brings you good health, happiness and prosperity. We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to protecting retirement benefits and advocating for you in the coming year. *Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!*



The RLACEI Board wishes you Happy Holidays!



### RLACEI MEMBERS

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## 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 as, member picnic and holiday party with FREE membership to the Employees Club and access to all group benefits (insurance, discounts, etc.).

**Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 706, 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 Anderson at: Beverly.Anderson@RLACEI.org or (800) 678-4145 ext. 702



Team 9 LAPD Mission Station

Story and photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Vice President of Business Development

## Fleet of Feet

CLUB IS BIB, TEAM SPONSOR FOR THIRD FIRST RESPONDERS RELAY.



**LAPD:** On Oct. 14, the Club was there to watch two of its sponsored teams cross the finish line at the third annual First Responders Relay, held at Lake Las Vegas.

The race was hosted by the United States Police and Fire Championships.

The Club supported all law enforcement teams by being the bib sponsor, its second time securing that important place.

Team 9 LAPD Mission Station participated with Club sponsorship. The team took first place in its category of Support Services Mixed Division, with a finish time of 7:02:57.

A second Club-sponsored team, Team 17 Sacramento County Probation, participated in the Open Division and came in fourth place with a finish time of 7:40:13.

Well done to all law enforcement team runners! See you next year! ●



Team 17 Sacramento County Probation



At the Career Fair.

Photos courtesy StreetsLA

## Career Fair

DISTRICT 1 HOSTS FAIR TO WELCOME OUTSIDERS.

**COUNCIL:** On Nov. 2, Council District 1 held a City Career Fair, to welcome outsiders to consider working for the City. "Many employees have begun their City careers by participating in a City of Los Angeles Career Fair," Tweeted StreetsLA, which participated in the fair.

"We were proud to be a part of the Career Fair."

Well done to all who organized and participated in the career fair. ●



The Public Works/StreetsLA table at the Career Fair.

# Halloween!



The new Club Truck and #ClubMobile team (from left: DeAngelo Thompson, Guadalupe Lira and Dylan Herrero) created a Halloween table with a Pikachu theme.

## Trunk or Treat!

**AIRPORTS:** The Club's Arlene Herrero, Vice President of Business Development, and #ClubMobile was invited to take part in Airport Police's annual Trunk or Treat event, which was held Oct. 28 and which created a safe environment for the Airport Police family to enjoy Halloween.

This year's event marked the first time Airport Police's Trunk or Treat was open to the public, and was held in front of its HQ. ●



The Club's Guadalupe Lira (center) and Arlene Herrero (right) with new Club Member Vanessa Aramayo, Airport Commissioner.



The Club's Arlene Herrero with Youth Services Officer Jordan Espiritu.



The Club's Arlene Herrero with Officer II Gerard Kilayko.

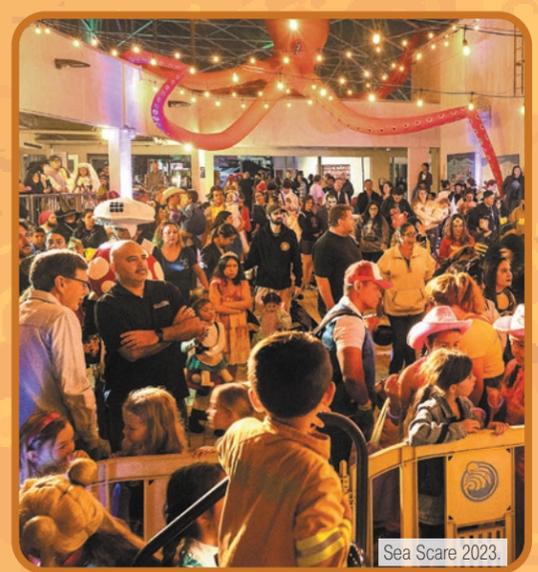


The Cabrillo Crew got into the spirit!

Photos courtesy Rec and Parks

## Sea Scare!

**REC AND PARKS:** Rec and Park's Cabrillo Marine Aquarium held its annual Sea Scare Oct. 21 at the Aquarium. Looks like a full (spooky) house!



Sea Scare 2023.

# Halloween! Halloween! Halloween!

## Dressed to the Nine-One-One

Photos compiled by Lillian Serrato, PSR II



**LAPD:** On Oct. 31, the men and women of the LAPD Communications/Valley and Metro Call Centers once again showed off their creativity and had their annual Halloween fun by dressing up for the holiday.

Pictured here are many of the participants.

Thanks, LAPD Communications for sharing your fun with the Club!

The Club thanks Lillian Serrato, PSR II, and Jean Sarfaty, Retired, for their assistance in producing this article.



**(MCDC) The Pink Ladies** (from Grease) and Gentleman from Metro Center, from left: Zenaida Magana, Naima Tobias, Janene Washington, Chance Chavez, Guadalupe De La Cruz, Penny Guzman and Kelli Nunez.



**(MCDC) Metro Center**, Sr. PSRs, from left: Tiffany Hall, Maria Moreno and Naila Hay.



**(MCDC) Metro Center**, from left: Kelli Nunez, Teresa Kachirisky, Penny Guzman, Bettina Allen, Guadalupe De La Cruz, Angela Almaraz, Chance Chavez, Janene Washington, Naila Hay, Zenaida Magana, Joyelle Penn, Naima Tobias and Tiffany Hall, Sr. PSR.



**(VDCD) Valley Center**, from left: Elisa Escobar Gomez, Sr. PSR; Arin Salcedo, Sr. PSR; Jeffrey Brown, Sr. PSR; Paulina Lopez, Sr. PSR; and Lt. Victor Salguero.



**(MCDC) Metro Center**, from left: Brandi Holley, Kyra Young, Fernando Molina, Mahdi Parnell, Liliana De Santiago, Cinnamon Fonseca, Cynthia Orellana, Daniella De La Fuente and Anita Yang, Sr. PSR.



**(VDCD) Valley Center**, back row, from left: Jessica Cepeda, Astrid Johnson, Deondra Massey, Cheyanna Erceck, Alessandria Olson, Sylvia Cruz-Campos, Pamela Liske, Jeffrey Brown, Kimberly Brunson and Sabrina Brown. Front: Debora May and Megan Peer.



**Arlene Herrero**  
Vice President of Business Development

## Arlene on the Scene

*Alive!* follows the Club's Arlene Herrero, Vice President of Business Development, as she meets Club Members.

### Oct. 12 Los Angeles Peace Officers Association (LAAPOA)

On Oct. 12, Arlene spoke at the 12 Women's Leadership Conference, which the Club co-sponsored.

"It was good times reconnecting with some Members and supporters of the Club, including Airport Police Chief Cecil Rhambo, Marshall McClain, Amira Eppolito and Darlene Hong from the Police Credit Union."



With Arlene (right) is Airport Police Lt. Amira Eppolito.



ABOVE: Visiting the #ClubMobile table with Retail Manager Lupe Lira (center) are a TSA honor guard Officer (left) and Airport Police Honor Guard Officer Sophia Gallegos, Club Member.



BELOW: LA County Undersheriff April Tardy.

# 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.



**Cindy Perez**  
City Attorney

Retired after 32 years of service.



**Michael Chavez**  
LADWP

Retired after 45 years of City service



**Daphny Robison**  
LADOT

Retired after 35 years of City service



**Trino Cardenas**  
Public Works

Retired after 26 years of City service



**Jeffrey Ordway**  
LAFD

Retired after 23 years of City service



**Glenn Files Sr.**  
Housing

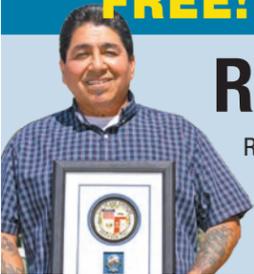
Retired after 35 years of City service



**Audrey Walker**  
ITA

Retired after 30 years of City service

## 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.)

\* a \$499 value!

Get started here:



Oscar Alvarez, Retired, LADWP (third from left), with the #ClubMobile Team, from left: DeAngelo Thompson, Lupe Lira and Eddie Escalona.

## Driving Force

RETIRED MEMBER DRIVES 100 MILES TO GET THE SHIRTS AND HAT HE REALLY WANTED.

**#CLUBMOBILE:** As the #ClubMobile Team visited the LACAAEA (LA County Asian American Employees Association) fish fry and potluck event Sept. 21 in Hacienda Heights, they were paid a visit by Oscar Alvarez, Retired, LADWP, and Club Member. Oscar had read in *Alive!* that #ClubMobile would be visiting the event, and had driven from his home in the Moreno Valley to Hacienda Heights just to purchase the hats and shirts he really wanted. That's about 100 miles round trip!

Oscar was very appreciative about #ClubMobile and his ability to buy the merchandise he needed! Members like Oscar are proud of their City service, and the Club is delighted to honor them with the chance to display that pride.

Great meeting you, Oscar! ●



Yvonne Farrow, Arts Manager II, Cultural Affairs, accepts extra copies of *Alive!* for the Vision Theatre restoration crew from Club CEO Robert Larios.

## Alive! in the House

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS/PUBLIC WORKS:** Club CEO Robert Larios stopped by the under-renovation Vision Theatre in Leimert Park Oct. 17 to thank Yvonne Farrow, Arts Manager II, Cultural Affairs, Club Member, and her colleagues for their incredible work on restoring the landmark theater. *Alive!* chronicled the restoration in our October feature story. Extra copies were requested to share the tale, and Robert was delighted to provide them.

We look forward to revisiting the Vision Theatre when it reopens in 2025. ●



Our October cover.

# Tell Santa!

Everybody wants Club gifts.

Go to the Club Website for details:

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

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Photos:  
Patty M.  
Larios

# Cooking with the Club

with Chef Robert Larios



## Salmon With Creamy Dill Sauce

And Kale Salad With Tomato, Cabbage, Olives and Dates

Hey, Cooking with the Club Gang! Craving something light and refreshing? Indulge in this mouthwatering Mediterranean-inspired meal. Succulent salmon fillets are seasoned with aromatic oregano and garlic, then expertly pan-roasted to perfection. The zesty Greek-style sour cream, infused with tangy lemon and savory dill, takes this dish to the next level. A tantalizing kale salad, bursting with the flavors of cabbage, tomato, dates and briny Kalamata olives, is dressed with a portion of the sour cream mixture. The remaining cream is drizzled over the salmon, while toasted almonds add a delightful crunch to the entire dish.

Happy Holidays!

Follow this recipe online:



¡Buen provecho! *Chef Larios*

### INGREDIENTS:

- 5½ oz kale
- 1 whole Roma tomato
- 3½ oz cabbage
- 1/8 oz Kalamata olives
- ¾ oz dates
- 1 whole lemon
- ¼ oz Dijon mustard
- 4 oz sour cream with lemon and dill
- 2½ tsp oregano-garlic seasoning
- 1 oz sliced almonds
- 2 (5 oz) sustainably raised Atlantic salmon fillets
- Salt and pepper, to taste

### DIRECTIONS: Total time is 20 minutes

Serves 2



**1 Preparation** - Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Remove and discard any thick center stems from kale. Roughly chop leaves into bite-size pieces. Small dice the Roma tomato into pieces, about ¼ inch each. Roughly chop cabbage if necessary. Roughly chop Kalamata olives. Cut dates width wise into slices, about ¼ inch thick.



**2 Prepare the Dressing** - Quarter the lemon. Place half of the Dijon mustard; about 2 teaspoons sour cream with lemon and dill; and 1 tablespoon olive oil in a large bowl (all the Dijon, 4 teaspoons sour cream with lemon and dill, and 2 tablespoons olive oil if you want to make 4 servings).

Squeeze juice from two lemon wedges (four wedges for 4) over the bowl, removing any seeds. Season with salt, pepper and about 1 teaspoon oregano-garlic seasoning (2 teaspoons for 4). Whisk to combine.



**3 Prepare the Salad** - Place kale in bowl with dressing. Lightly season with salt. Massage until leaves soften. Add tomato, cabbage, olives and dates to bowl. Toss to combine. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Place sliced almonds in a dry, medium oven-safe sauté pan (large oven-safe sauté pan for 4 servings) over medium heat. Toast 2-3 minutes, or until fragrant, shaking pan frequently. Transfer almonds to a cutting board and allow to cool. Roughly chop them.



**4 Season and Cook the Salmon** - Pat sustainably raised Atlantic salmon fillets dry with paper towels. Season with salt, pepper, and remaining oregano-garlic seasoning. Heat 1½ tablespoons cooking oil in pan used for almonds over medium-high heat. Add salmon, skin sides up, to hot pan. Sear 2-3 minutes on one side, or until salmon easily releases from pan. Flip salmon. Transfer pan to oven. Roast 5-7 minutes, or until fully cooked.



**5 Plate Your Dish** - Divide kale salad between plates. Top with salmon. Drizzle with remaining sour cream with lemon and dill to taste. Garnish with toasted almonds. Serve with remaining lemon wedges. Enjoy!

### Cooking Tidbit

Skip the olives if you're not a fan - just like I did.

### Food Quote:

"Unleash the essence of your dish: as the cook, infuse it with your soul!"

– **Chef Robert Larios**

### Food Lover's Dictionary:

**Dill:** Thought by first-century Romans to be a good luck symbol, dill has been around for thousands of years. Dill weed can be used to flavor many dishes including salads, vegetables, meats and sauces. It is most often used in the United States for the brine in which dill pickles are cured.



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

Recipe: <https://www.greenchef.com/recipes/salmon-with-creamy-dill-sauce-652827e6fcb39658d844715a?week=2023-W46>



# 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](http://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
Agustin, Zenaida B.	Sr. Accountant	Planning	17	Hinton, Wendell	St. Services Worker	Public Works	37	Reyes, Leonardo	Sr. Personnel Analyst	Personnel	30
Alvarez, Jose P.	Custodian	Airports	20	Huizar, Jose Luis	Councilmember	Council	15	Rheubottom, Harry F.	Wastewater Treat.Op.	Public Works	14
Aubuchon, Shea P.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Hunt, Michael C.	Sr. Transp. Engineer	Transportation	32	Richardson, Sylvia E.	Police Service Rep	LAPD	28
Azevedo, Sonia R.	Maintenance Laborer	Airports	19	Kaufmann, Terry P.	Sr. Asst. City Attorney	City Attorney	23	Rivera, Rudy J.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D
Bonilla, Jerson E.	Special Prog. Assistant	Rec and Parks	1	Kim, Roy W.	Sr. Transp. Engineer	Transportation	35	Rubalcava, Luis R.	Security Officer	LAPD	25
Bornmann-Stryffeler, Bobbie	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	King, Debra G.	Supply Chain	LADWP	N/D	Saldivar, Ron W.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D
Brod, Garry M.	Photographer	LAPD	24	Kwan, Lawrence	Environ. Eng. Assoc.	Public Works	16	Salguero, Ralph	Recreation Assistant	Rec and Parks	8
Carbajal, Martha	Pr. Clerk	City Attorney	39	Lam, Tom	Police Service Rep	LAPD	23	Senger, Ronald P.	St. Lighting Eng. Assoc.	Public Works	33
Carter, Lanetta D.	Recreation Assistant	Rec and Parks	21	Lara, Gary L.	Environ. Compl. Insp.	Public Works	6	Shaw, Velda M.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	LADP	14
Chavez, Isaac	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Lavine, Robert C.	Power New Business	LADWP	N/D	Stanley, Robert E.	Fleet Services	LADWP	N/D
Cole, Machel	Customer Serv. Spec.	Finance	21	Lieu, Suen Wai	Structural Engr. Assoc.	Bldg. & Safety	17	Stevenson, Joseph K.	Transp. Eng. Aide	Transportation	30
Coleman, June G.	Police Service Rep	LAPD	40	Linklater, Kirk A.	Sr. Build. Mech. Insp.	Bldg. & Safety	16	Tate, Todd C.	Refuse Coll. Super.	Public Works	34
Compean, Miguel L.	Power New Business	LADWP	N/D	Loseman, David M.	Building Operating Eng.	Rec and Parks	17	Thomas, Dan C.	Equipment Mechanic	LAFD	14
Dash, Jeffrey S.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Loville, Sharon A.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	Airports	30	Thomas, Michael A.	Fleet Services	LADWP	N/D
Diep, Ngoc A.	Recreation Assistant	Rec and Parks	5	Mai, Joseph Ngoc	Signal Sys.Electrician	Transportation	18	Troncozo, Paul A.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D
Fernandez, Sara M.	Custodian	Airports	16	McClellan, Deiatra L.	JFB/Facilities	LADWP	N/D	Vanegas, Rolando E.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D
Gomez, Esperanza H.	JFB/Facilities	LADWP	N/D	Millett, Craig S.	Machinist	Gen. Services	10	Vaughn, James E.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	29
Gould, Dena A.	Librarian	Library	14	Mokricky, Valerie J.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	LAPD	28	Velasco, Michael J.	Security Officer	LAPD	13
Hall, Richard C.	Cement Finisher	Public Works	15	Norton, Reginald	JFB/Facilities	LADWP	N/D	Villalobos, Jose	Police Officer	Airports	20
Hannah, Sonja R.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	Library	40	Pantoja, Kathryn R.	Airport Environ. Mgr.	Airports	32	Wallace, Clarence H.	Traffic Officer	Transportation	34
Henry, Charlene D.R.	Sr. Administrative Clerk	LAPD	22	Parker, Victor T.	Risk Manager	CAO	31	Wright, Howard A.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D
Hernandez, Delia L.	Sr. Benefits Analyst	LACERS	30	Phamle, Tien Minh	Comm. Eng. Associate	ITA	18				

N/D = No Data

\* **NOTE:** If you wish to have a listing deleted from our online posting of Retirement notices, please email us at [admin@aliveemployeesclub.com](mailto:admin@aliveemployeesclub.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.*

DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
<b>ACTIVE</b>					
Garcia, Leopoldo A.	ITA	8	Durham, Kathleen	Transportation	2
Martinez, Jerry	Airports	19	Flanagan, Robert P.	LADWP	13
Moreno, Nicholas A.	General Services	1	Garcia, Luis R.	Airports	13
Najarro, Anibal A.	LADWP	20	Gottlieb, Norman A.	N/D	N/D
Ponce, Jose A.	Transportation	20	Govea, Joseph	N/D	N/D
Ramirez, Luis	LADWP	8	Harrison, Melvin	LADWP	8
Villanueva, Luis E.	Harbor	9	Hughes, Angela M.	N/D	N/D
Wiley, Karen L.	Airports	1	Itokazu, Paul M.	LADWP	31
<b>RETIRED</b>					
Absalom, Phyllis L.	Library	44	Jenkins, Thomas F.	LADWP	35
Alconcel, Augencio G.	LADWP	23	Johnson, Emanuel	N/D	N/D
Berges, Lynn J.	LADWP	29	Johnson, Ralph	Airports	15
Bienlein, David L.	LADWP	32	Keith, Donald R.	ITA	18
Brown, Lloyd W.	Airports	29	Laquey, Richard C.	Public Works	16
Cea Moz, Atilio	Airports	12	Logan, Jack G.	LADWP	22
Cloyd, Robert L.	Public Works	41	Matosec, Jerome M.	LADWP	25
Conferti, Ronald L.	N/D	N/D	Martinez, Gilbert J.	Rec and Parks	27
Di Cesare, Harry M.	LADWP	36	Meteau, Robert J.	LADWP	26
Dickey, GERALD D.	LADWP	32	Meyer, Mervyn E.	N/D	N/D
			Millette, Paul K.	LAPD	43
			Minazzoli, Arthur T.	N/D	N/D
			Moreno, Robert G.	N/D	N/D
			Murakami, Kameki	LADWP	35
			Nichols, Brenda S.	General Services	23
			Pennestri, Michael A.	LADWP	13
			Petersen, Sharon L.	LADWP	37
			Powers, Daniel C.	LADWP	36
			Rainey, Reames W.	N/D	N/D
			Riggen, William S.	Public Works	23
			Rosen, Shirley	N/D	N/D
			Rossitter, Hugh S.	City Attorney	23
			Scruggs, John C.	LADWP	29
			Smith, Donald J.	N/D	N/D
			Stepp, James D.	LADWP	28
			Stuen, Larry J.	N/D	N/D
			Summers, Walter J.	N/D	N/D
			Van, Duong Saec	General Services	7
			Veneracion, Perla S.	General Services	34
			Wade, Erskine C.	LADWP	37
			Walker, James P.	LADWP	29
			Williams, Warrendell	LADWP	30
			Yonai, David M.	LADWP	32
			Young-Carter, William	N/D	N/D

N/D = No Data

## SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT FOR LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES ASSN WELFARE BENEFIT PLAN

This is a summary of the annual report of the Los Angeles City Employees Assn Welfare Benefit Plan, a life insurance, long-term disability and death benefits plan (Employer Identification Number 95-1667955, Plan Number 501), for the plan year 01/01/2022 through 12/31/2022. The annual report has been filed with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, as required under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Los Angeles City Employees Assn. has committed itself to pay certain benefit claims incurred under the terms of the plan.

### Insurance Information

The plan has insurance contracts with Unum Life Insurance Company Of America, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company And Metropolitan Life Insurance Company to pay certain Long-term care, Long-term disability, ADD, Life insurance, Health claims incurred under the terms of the plan. The total premiums paid for the plan year ending 12/31/2022 were \$13,220,506.

Because they are so called "experience-rated" contracts, the premium costs are affected by, among other things, the number and size of claims. Of the total insurance premiums paid for the plan year ending 12/31/2022, the premiums paid under such "experience-rated" contracts were \$6,238,276 and the total of all benefit claims paid under these experience-rated contracts during the plan year was \$0.

### Basic Financial Statement

The value of plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan, was \$61,023 as of the end of plan year, compared to \$934,987 as of the beginning of the plan year. During the plan year the plan experienced a change in its net assets of -\$873,964. This change includes unrealized appreciation and depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the value of the assets at the beginning of the year or the cost of assets acquired during the year. During the plan year, the plan had total income of \$17,498,751 including employer contributions of \$0, employee contributions of \$13,192,558, gains/(losses) of \$0 from the sale of assets, and earnings from investments of -\$117,794. Plan expenses were \$18,372,715. These expenses included \$5,866,938 in administrative expenses, \$12,505,777 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries, and \$0 in other expenses.

### Your Rights to Additional Information

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that report:

1. An accountant's report.
2. Financial information and information on payments to service providers.
3. Assets held for investment.
4. Insurance information, including sales com-

missions paid by insurance carriers.

To obtain a copy of the full annual report, or any part thereof, write or call the office of Brian G Trent, who is a representative of the plan administrator, at 311 South Spring Street #1300, Los Angeles, CA 90013-1203 and phone number, 213-620-0388.

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the plan and accompanying notes, or a statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report from the plan administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report.

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan: 311 South Spring Street #1300, Los Angeles, CA 90013-1203, and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Requests to the Department should be addressed to: Public Disclosure Room, Room N-1513, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210.

### Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

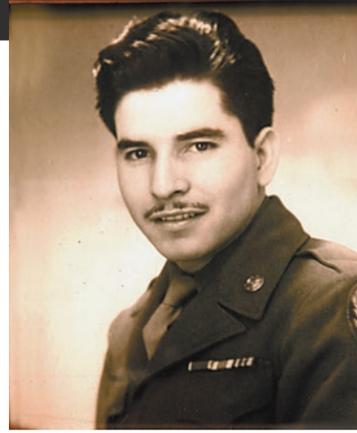
According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) (PRA), no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The Department notes that a Federal agency cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it is approved by OMB under the PRA, and displays a currently valid OMB control number, and the public is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3507. Also, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if the collection of information does not display a currently valid OMB control number. See 44 U.S.C. 3512.

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average less than one minute per notice (approximately 3 hours and 11 minutes per plan). Interested parties are encouraged to send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Attention: Departmental Clearance Officer, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room N-1301, Washington, DC 20210 or email DOL\_PRA\_PUBLIC@dol.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1210-0040.

OMB Control Number 1210-0040 (expires 03/31/2026)

## IN MEMORIAM

Photos by Alive! and courtesy, Sheri Matthews



Young Joe Govea.



Joe Govea in 2016

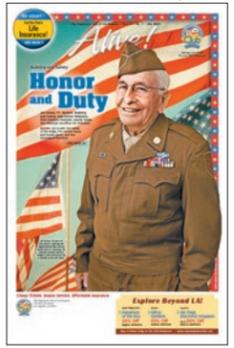
## JOE GOVEA

1925 - 2023

UNITED STATES ARMY, WORLD WAR II

BUILDING AND SAFETY

Joe Govea on the cover of *Alive!* from July 2016.



The Club is saddened to note the death of Joe Govea, Retired, Building and Safety, who died Oct. 18. He was 98.

Joe was the first in *Alive!*'s series of World War II heroes and City Retirees we placed on our cover, and interviewed inside. He was featured in July 2016.

Association President John Hawkins attended Joe's funeral representing the Club.

Joe served in the US Army during the Battle of the Bulge as a Rifleman, First Infantry Division, and was seriously wounded during battle. He received the Purple Heart for his heroism.

"Part of an education should be the history of our wars and the sacrifices made by the Veterans," he said during our interview.

One final time - Joe, thank you for your service. May you Rest in Peace.



Memory pieces displayed at Joe's funeral.



Joe and John Hawkins

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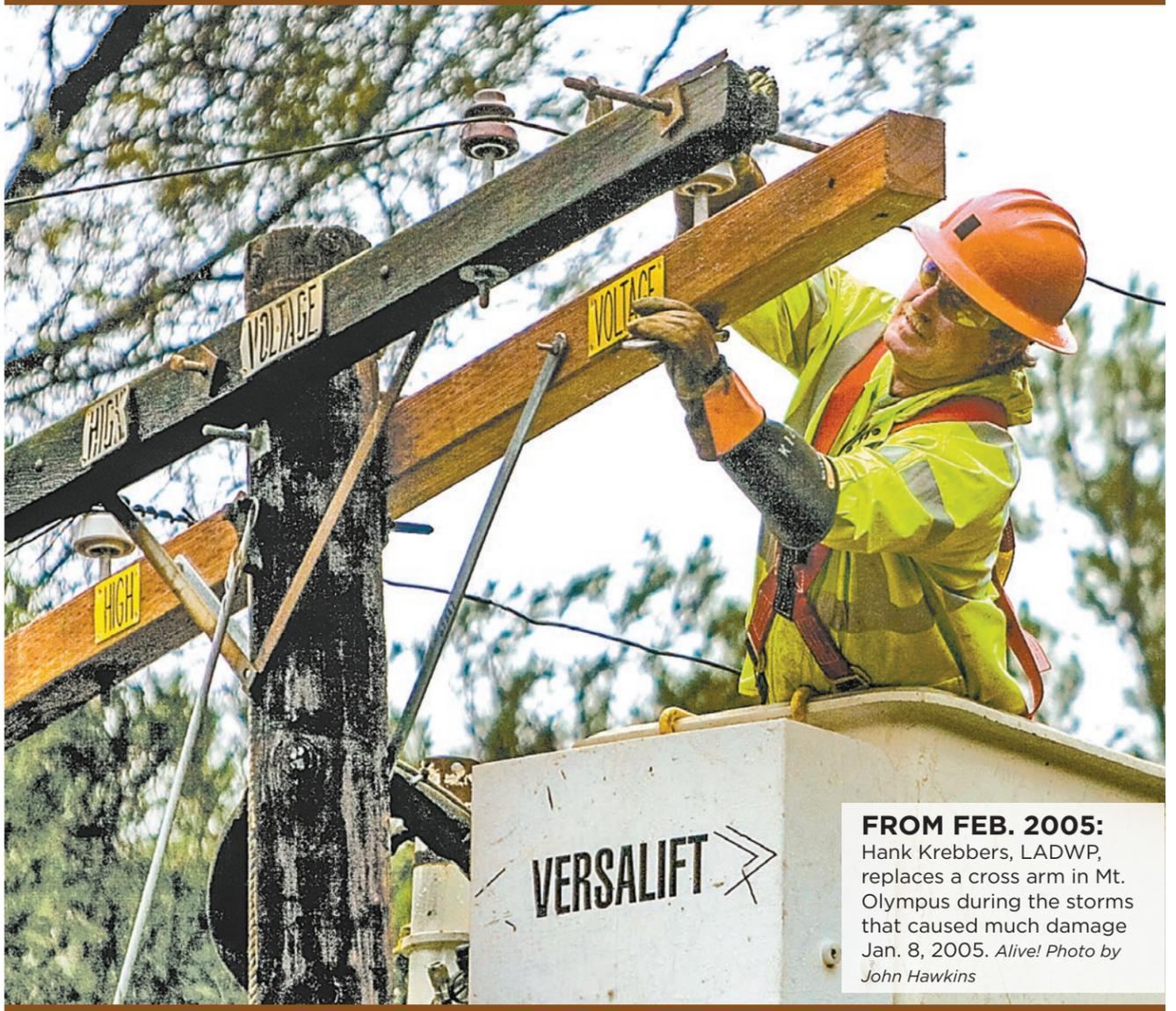
Go to the Club Website for details:

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



A monthly photo from the *Alive!* archives looking back at the men and women whose hard work helped build a better LA. Thank you!

## Throwback Thumbs Up



**FROM FEB. 2005:** Hank Krebbers, LADWP, replaces a cross arm in Mt. Olympus during the storms that caused much damage Jan. 8, 2005. *Alive!* Photo by John Hawkins



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# — OVERFLOW TO WEB *ALIVE!*

## *Alive! Interview*

— continued from page 14

### The ‘Whoa’ Factor

**What kind of reactions are you getting? I heard the umpire at the recent Club Softball Tournament say, “Whoa, that’s the Club?” He was very impressed!**

**Guadalupe:** Right! Some Members have actually asked if we’re Amazon. That was before we put the graphics on the Truck. Once we opened that door, and they saw their favorite gear, like the City classic T-shirts and hats, they said, “Wow, you guys really upped your game. You guys are here to serve us.” Within five minutes, they had the hats they wanted. They had their shirts and their sweaters, too. It’s been a happy surprise for them. Nobody saw it coming, and they’re all for it. They’re eager to see what else is going to come out of the truck as we set up. It’s that type of surprise that helps boost employee morale, especially for new employees who had no idea this type of benefit exists.

**Everything behind the engine now can be operated on solar, right?**

**Guadalupe:** Right. It’s diesel powered as far as our fuel, but when it comes to our equipment, like our hat presses and our electrical power, it’s solar powered. We have panels on the roof. That’s how we get our juice.

**What’s your favorite part of it so far?**

**Guadalupe:** The ability to drive, show up and open the door, and be ready to go. The accessibility and the service. Members don’t have to wait on us. A few years ago, we showed up with the classic ClubMobile red tent at a Sanitation yard, and Members helped us pull the bins out because of how much merchandise we had. We still love the Red Tent, but I felt like that was a disservice. We weren’t serving them, they were serving me. Now, I can just open the side door and say, “Hey, what do you need? I have it.” It’s so much easier, and they get to enjoy that moment. It’s pure service now.

**The Red Tent is still part of ClubMobile, right?**

**Guadalupe:** Absolutely. There are really windy days when we don’t use the awning on the Club Truck; we don’t want to risk it getting broken. In those cases we still set up our tent instead of the awning.

We use the Red Tent on its own, too, or in combination with the Club Truck. Sometimes we have requests for multiple visits on the same day. We use it then.

But to see the difference – last spring we had a mobile visit at the West LA Yard Sanitation Yard. When we were there last year with the Red Tent, it took us the usual hour or 90 minutes to set up. This past year, it took us about 10 minutes. We were ready to go when the gates opened; it was a game changer. The Sanitation crew was very impressed! We had more time to serve them without disrupting their schedules.

### The Dream

**Is the new Club Truck just the beginning? Are you thinking of having more than one?**

**Guadalupe:** That’s the dream! Nothing immediate, as we’re just implementing this one now and learning the best ways to use it. But yes, that is the dream. With so many more yards requesting us, we’ve even talked about converting our older white van into a mini-Club Truck. We could still visit Members, open the doors and simply start serving them as soon as possible.

**You’re already seeing demand increase.**

**Guadalupe:** Absolutely, we’re already seeing demand for a second truck. Like I said, nothing for sure, but the dream is out there. The demand is there for it, and it’s working.

### A Truck That Celebrates

**The new Club Truck has the Club motto – celebrating the work and lives of public service employees – written on the side. How does it celebrate their lives?**

**Guadalupe:** We focus on their requests, their needs and their fulfillment. We get to focus on what they’re asking for – the apparel they wear on the job and outside of the

job. A lot of people have enormous pride that they work for the City, and that’s where we come into play, giving them the resources that they can use to show that pride.

I met an employee last year, and he said, “I just passed work probation, and I kept telling myself I wasn’t going to buy any City merchandise until I passed probation, because then I would feel like I was a part of the City and earned and deserved that shirt.” I was overjoyed to sell him that shirt. It meant a lot to him. He was very proud of working for the City and took his job seriously. It was very nice to be a part of that experience with him. And it just goes to show you, people really do love showing that pride on their backs with a T-shirt, or on their hat.

### Hot Holiday Sellers

**What do you predict is going to be a big seller this Christmas?**

**Guadalupe:** Our hats and jackets.

**It seems you can’t make enough of the customized bomber jackets for the demand.**

**Guadalupe:** We can’t, but we do! The jackets are customizable. Members try different City seal patches for the coloring, or they’ll add their department to it.

And then secret news here: We’re getting an embroidery machine! That’s going to escalate how people can customize their jackets and hats. If they want to put their names on there; if they want to script their department on there, or their years of service, we’ll be able to do that for them. I’m crossing my fingers we’ll have the machine and the training and certifications in time, but we’ll see.

**Seems like you’re entering into an era of customization. First the hats and jackets and mugs, and eventually embroidery.**

**Guadalupe:** Yes. It’s what Members like, so that’s why we keep finding ways to offer them that customization.

### Holiday Season Is Special

**It sounds like 2023 is going to be a memorable holiday season for Club retail.**

**Guadalupe:** Christmas is always great with the Club, so this upcoming season looks to be another special one. Don’t forget about the mugs, too! Remember, we offer customizable mugs. I just wrapped up an order for Mayor Karen Bass’ office – customized glasses and customized coffee mugs.

We have new products that we’ll be releasing soon, too.

**Like ...**

**Guadalupe:** We have new apparel for women and kids. We also have our travel drinkware that keeps drinks nice and cold. We also have a coffee version. We have excellent new patches, too.

**Tell Members about the new women’s and kid’s apparel.**

**Guadalupe:** New, feminine colors for our classic City T-shirts. We’ve added purple, pink and a light green. And a different shade of red that people really like. We also added a kid’s version of the City Classic T’s, and also for toddlers! We’ll have those available after the holidays.

**I know you have to set up for your visit now, but thanks for letting Members know all about the awesome new Club Truck. As you said, it’s a game changer.**

**Guadalupe:** It is. Thanks for sharing my thoughts with Club Members.

Before I go, please keep an eye out for more updates on our website about all the awesome products we have coming soon. It’s going to be a great year ahead! Thanks again. Bye!