



Alive!

TAKING CHARGE

— PAGE 10

You've read that LA has the first all-electric fire engine in the Western Hemisphere. (Awesome!) Now read about how it happened.



Alive! photo by Summy Lam

With the LAFD's RTX electric fire engine at Fire Station 82 in East Hollywood are (standing, from left) Capt. II Darius Cunnigan; Battalion Chief Peter Hsiao; and Michael Dunbar, Equipment Specialist II. In the driver's seat: Engineer Patrick Turner, Fire Station 82 B shift.

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The Future Arrives

The future has arrived! I have seen it myself on duty at Fire Station 82 in East Hollywood.

The LAFD's new all-electric fire truck is indeed impressive. In this month's Alive!, we dig deeper to tell you how it came about. Meet **Battalion Chief Peter Hsiao, Capt. II Darius Cunnigan** and Equipment Specialist II **Michael Dunbar**, who made it happen. (Let me also laud the stunning cover and inside photos by our Vice President of Marketing, **Summy Lam**.)

People Notes



Rod Garcia

After we published last month that **Americo Garza**, Retired, Public Works, had died, we learned that his fellow Hispanic engineer, **Rodrigo Garcia**, Retired, Public Works, also recently passed away (in July, a month after Americo). Rod founded the national Society for Hispanic Professional Engineers, which his colleague, Americo, co-founded. We mourn Rod's passing, too, in the spirit of honoring those who made a difference in the history of municipal employees in Los Angeles. May he Rest in Peace.



At Fire Station 82 in East Hollywood are (from left) Michael Dunbar, Equipment Specialist II; Battalion Chief Peter Hsiao; and Capt. II Darius Cunnigan.



Harold Johnson in 2006.

I wish a very happy retirement to **Harold Johnson**, Airports, 21 years of City service. Harold worked with the Club on many stories at LAX and Ontario Airports. Thank you, Harold!

I also honor **Erika Rodriguez**, LAPD, who also retired. Erika worked behind the scenes with LAPD's Air Support Division, helping make the operation work. She worked with us

several times on stories. Thank you, Erika!

ROBERT'S BLOG

by Robert Larios, CEO, The Club



Foot Tapper

I read in this month's Top 10 downloaded song list from the LA Public Library that Buddy Guy, 86, has released a new single, "We Go Back," with fellow legend, Mavis Staples ... and it is number five! That makes it more popular than even a couple of Harry Styles songs. Yay for legends, I say. You can read that, and other amusing facts, every month in Alive! online. Check it out.

Worth Considering

This month marks one year since I became the President and CEO of the Club. I can positively report that I am even more humbled now at the impressive things I see Club Members performing to serve the City. I pledge to continue, with our dedicated Club team, to bring you innovative and value-enhancing ways of honoring your great contributions. We notice what you do and promise to celebrate you for it.

Finally, I wish a sincere and simple Happy Thanksgiving to our Club Members and their families. May we all stop and count our blessings.

¡Gracias por leer!



At a recent Mobile Team site visit.

Schedule a Mobile Team Visit

Supervisors: Raise employee morale! Bring the Club to your worksite!

The Club Store Mobile 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!



For your continued safety:

- The Mobile Team is accepting only outdoor set-ups for now.

#ClubMobile

Mobile Team Schedule*

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

Harbor Boys and Girls Club

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

Wednesday, Nov. 2

Wednesday, Dec. 7

Wednesday, Jan. 4

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

Thursday, Nov. 3

Chevy Chase Worksite, Rec and Parks

Wednesday, Nov. 9

Hansen Dam, Rec and Parks

Schedule A Site Visit

To schedule a site visit, contact **Lupe Lira, Club Store Manager:**

(213) 819-0350, or
mobile@employeesclub.com

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



TAKING CHARGE

LAFD

— PAGE 10

NEW THIS MONTH
ONLINE!
alive.employeesclub.com

John's Picture Perfect

All the winners from this month's contest on the theme "pies."



Rest Insured

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



Cooking with the Club

Chef Larios returns to a Thanksgiving classic: turkey-cranberry meatballs with roasted Brussels sprouts and sweet potato. We'll have some more, please!



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The LAFD developed the Western Hemisphere's first all-electric fire truck. Meet the team that made it happen.

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Are You a Veteran?

The last few years, *Alive!* has been telling the stories of American veterans as part of our Fourth of July issue. We know many of you are veterans. For now, we're looking to interview veterans of World War II or Korea who also were City employees. We might not be able to interview you all right away, but we'll do our best.

Contact us at: talkback@employeesclub.com

THANK YOU!

Art Spaulding, 12 years of City service, wearing his original World War II Army uniform shirt.





**The Club
Is Here
to Help**

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

Contact the Club

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

help@employeesclub.com
(800) 464-0452

Physical Club Store Hours:

Monday–Friday • 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

NOTE: The walk-in Club Store is closed every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. for staff meetings.



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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.

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Here's what you'll learn:

- What is Long-Term Care insurance, and why you need it.
- What qualifies as Long-Term Care.
- How much will Long-Term Care insurance cost for you.
- How to implement Long-Term Care insurance into your retirement strategy.

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NOV 14th (Monday) in Room 2

DEC 8th (Thursday) in Room 7

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GENERAL SERVICES



At the February 2022 opening of StreetsLA's Center for Green Innovation were (from left) Richard Coulson, Assistant General Manager for Fleet, General Services; Tony Royster, General Manager, General Services, Club Member; Keith Mozee, StreetsLA Executive Director; Greg Spotts, (then) StreetsLA Chief Sustainability Officer; and Natalia Swalnick, Roush CleanTech (vendor).

Richard Rides Away

RICHARD COULSON, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER FOR FLEET, RETIRES AFTER 34 YEARS OF CITY SERVICE.

Richard Coulson, Assistant General Manager for Fleet Services, retired in September. He had 34 years of City service.

As the longtime Director of Fleet Services, then the Assistant General Manager for Fleet Services, he oversaw the division's mission to maintain and dispatch safe, reliable and appropriate vehicles and equipment for City departments in the most cost efficient manner possible. That included approximately 10,600 vehicles used by 24 departments, Mayor and Council offices, and the overall motor pool.

Fleet Services also oversaw aircraft for the LAPD, LAFD and the LADWP.

He was instrumental in beginning the City's move toward employing electric vehicles.

Congratulations on your retirement, Richard! ●



From December 2014: Richard Coulson (second from left), then the Director of Fleet Services, was honored for his work by General Services.

THANK YOU!

The Club thanks Richard Coulson for his 34 years of City service, keeping the City moving forward and toward electrification.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

From The Club

Thanksgiving reminds us of the importance of family.

...reminds us of the importance of friends.

...reminds us that working hands have dignity.

...reminds us to be grateful for our blessings.

...reminds us we are all part of the human family.

...reminds us how grateful we are for you.



Employees Club of California

Celebrating the work and lives of California municipal employees.

For Club Store holiday hours, see page 15.



LACERS

LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

FOR RETIRED MEMBERS:

Open Enrollment for 2023 Is Here

This year's LACERS Health Benefits Open Enrollment period is being held now through Nov. 17, with Open Enrollment packets being mailed in early October (you should have received yours by now). This will be Retirees' opportunity to enroll in a plan, change your plan, or add dependents with changes taking effect Jan. 1, 2023.

For Members *under age 65*, your packet will include a Health Plan Statement, Open Enrollment Overview, and instructions on how to access the 2023 Health Benefits Guide online. If you need a hard copy after you receive your packet you can email LACERS.health@lacers.org (with the subject line "Requesting 2023 Open Enrollment Health Benefits Guide") to have one mailed to you. Include your name and mailing address in the body, and one will be mailed to you. If you do not have email access, call LACERS at (800) 779-8328.

For Members aged *65 and older*, your packet will include a Health Plan Statement, Open Enrollment Overview, and 2023 Health Benefits Guide.



FOR RETIRED MEMBERS:

LACERS Well Events Coming This Month

Register for these virtual events below through your MyLACERS account at <https://mylacers.org> or by calling LACERS. If you need assistance, email LacersWell@lacers.org. Space is limited for each event so be sure to sign up early. To view additional dates and information, visit: lacers.org/lacers-well-events.

VIRTUAL

Mom's Computer Technology Class:

Mom's Computer will host monthly technology classes throughout 2022; the next one is set for 3 p.m. Wed., Nov. 9. These classes help members navigate the changing technology landscape and offer tips on using computer, smart phones/tablets, Internet, and more...

Fitness Made Simple: Exercise Class:

Why just talk or dream about exercise when we can "Make Fitness Simple?" Join Coach Sean Foy at 9:30 a.m. Wed., Nov. 16 as he helps you train in the comfort and convenience of your own home to realize your personal health and fitness goals!

Brain Health Class: Alzheimer's Los Angeles (ALZLA) is hosting monthly brain health classes, the next being held at 2 p.m. Wed., Nov. 30. The mission is to improve the lives of local families affected by Alzheimer's and dementia by increasing awareness, delivering effective programs and services, providing compassionate support, and advocating for quality care and a cure. Both active and retired members are welcome at this event.

IN PERSON

Beach Walk With Frankie:

Join Champion Frankie Gallagher for a Playa del Rey beach walk every Friday morning.

Missed Past LACERS Well Events?

LACERS offers several event recordings on various topics: finances, emotional wellness, fitness, and more! Visit the LACERS YouTube channel at youtube.com/lacersyoutube and hit the subscribe button to receive alerts of newly posted videos. Also, enjoy exclusive content and get connected with LACERS Members on the LACERS Well Facebook Group. Log on to your account at [Facebook.com](https://facebook.com) and search for the LACERS Well group to join.

READY FOR RETIREMENT



Resources for Club Retirees or Those About to Retire



LONG-TERM CARE MAKES SO MUCH SENSE



Noelle Kauffman
Director of Sales
CA LICENSE NO: 0H45598

This month, we continue our discussion of the importance of having **long-term care insurance**.

2020 states that the median costs for these services range from \$53,768 to \$105,850 per year.

Long-term care insurance is designed to protect your retirement savings and assets by paying a monthly benefit for some of the expenses you may incur if you need supervision or assistance with basic activities of daily living (ADLs), such as bathing, eating, continence, dressing, toileting, ambulating and transferring – situations that can follow an accident or illness such as a stroke, because of older age and frailty, or because you need supervision due to a cognitive disorder like Alzheimer's disease.

Make an appointment with our Retirement Specialists. Lock in your rate today!

JOIN THE CLUB

Club Membership for Retirees costs only \$4 a month and can be deducted from your pension. As a Retiree, you are entitled to group rated insurance benefits including life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment, pre-funeral planning, long-term care, and our popular legal plan by MetLife.

Congratulations on your retirement. Enjoy it!

LET'S TALK ABOUT LONG TERM CARE (LTC) INSURANCE

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, nearly 70 percent of Retirees will need some type of long-term care. A survey conducted by Genworth in

HERE'S WHY YOU NEED THE CLUB'S LONG-TERM INSURANCE

Long-term care insurance is designed to pay benefits for some of the expenses you may incur if you need supervision or assistance with basic activities of daily living (ADLs), including bathing, eating, continence, dressing, toileting, ambulating and transferring.

You may need this kind of help following an accident or illness such as a stroke – because of older age and frailty, or because you need supervision due to a cognitive disorder like Alzheimer's disease.

- Your premiums are conveniently deducted through your pension
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- Group rates are locked in at the age you apply
- Coverage is available to you, your spouse/domestic partner, parents, and grandparents
- Available payout benefits range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per month
- Your plan pays a monthly benefit directly to you, as opposed to most other programs that pay out on a reimbursement schedule
- Choose from four plans: 1) Long-Term Care facility; 2) professional home care; 3) total home care; and 4) simple inflation protection
- Available terms: four-year nursing facility/eight years in home. Also 10-year nursing facility/20 year in home* (Home care benefit pays out at 50 percent)

***TIP!**
Apply before the end of the year to lock in your premium at your current age. *

Schedule an appointment today with a Club Retirement Counselor, and be ready for your best retirement.

IMPORTANT: The best time to buy long term care insurance is **before you need it.**

Retired or retiring Soon?

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



Cheryl Martin

(800) 464 -0452,
EXT. 136

Work cell: (213) 819-0794

23 years of insurance experience
CA LICENSE NO: 0C12823



Tiffany Sy

(800) 464-0452,
EXT. 202

Work cell: (213) 440-8270

20 years of insurance experience
CA LICENSE NO: 0D75348

2022 Events

Dec. 17 **Annual Holiday**
11 a.m. **Celebration** (LARFPA)
Sheraton Universal Hotel
333 Universal Hollywood Dr.
Universal City

RESERVATION INFORMATION:

LADWP Retiree Association:

vincedolores@gmail.com

LARFPA: events@larfpa.org

Contact Information

Employees Club of California

Club contact:
help@employeesclub.com

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

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

LADWP Retirees Association

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

Fire and Police Pensions (City Dept.)

(844) 885-2377
pensions@lafpp.com

LA Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA)

(888) 288-5073
membership@larfpa.org

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)

See page 16

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

FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

ARE YOU READY FOR RETIREMENT?

HERE ARE SOME CURRENT PROGRAMS TO HELP WITH YOUR PLANNING:

Webinars

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

Wed., Nov. 9
Thurs., Nov. 17
Sat., Dec. 10

All webinars begin at 9 a.m.

Applying for Retirement Online

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

For example, if your desired retirement date is Dec. 17, 2022, you would have aimed to submit your retirement application in the portal on Oct. 18, 2022. For more information, please visit lacers.org/applying-retirement.



LAPD

Erika Lands

ERIKA RODRIGUEZ RETIRES FROM THE LAPD AFTER A LONG CAREER.

Erika Rodriguez, Management Analyst, LAPD, with the department's Air Support Unit, has retired.

The Club thanks her for her long career and service to the City of LA. Erika provided great assistance to us as we produced our cover story on the LAPD Air Ops in 2019.

Congratulations on your retirement! ●



THANK YOU!



The Club thanks Erika for her service, and Tactical Flight Officer Kevin Ishida and the Los Angeles Women Police Officers and Associates for the information.



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

John's Picture Perfect Contest

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

The Club's online photo contest, organized by Association CEO John Hawkins, has a monthly theme. For the next contest, we're looking for images that feature the holidays. Send us something awesome!

This month's contest theme: **Holidays**
DEADLINE: Nov. 15

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

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<p>GATE PRICE \$79⁹⁹ General Admission</p> <p>CLUB MEMBER \$52⁵⁰</p>	<p>GATE PRICE \$30⁰⁰ K1 Speed eVoucher</p> <p>CLUB MEMBER \$17⁰⁰</p>	<p>GATE PRICE \$67⁰⁰ Adult Ticket</p> <p>CLUB MEMBER \$53³⁰ ADULT</p>

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Be a Part of a Club Holiday Tradition

It's Party Pix Time



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

The past three years, departments have had to improvise when it comes to planning the official holiday gatherings ... or just hold off and wait.

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 submit to the Club at the address below.
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.
3. If your department party is going virtual again, send us an email and we’ll try to schedule it from there.



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

LADWP

Cynthia Goes Out Big

CYNTHIA BILLINGSLEA, CUSTOMER SERVICE REP, RETIRES AFTER 30 YEARS OF CITY SERVICE.

On Oct. 2, Cynthia Billingslea, Customer Service Rep, LADWP, and Club Member, retired with a big reception.

She began her City career as a Property Officer with the LAPD in 1991.

Her reception, held in Inglewood, featured catered food, a DJ, comedians and a band. She was surrounded by friends, family and former co-workers. “It was a day filled with love,” she says. ●

At Cynthia’s retirement party.









THANK YOU! The Club congratulates you on your City career, Cynthia. We honor your service and dedication to the people of LA.

LA CIVIL RIGHTS



LA Civil Rights staff celebrated the department’s anniversary Sept. 22 in Lincoln Park.

‘LA for All’ Week

DEPT. CELEBRATES ITS FIRST ANNIVERSARY.

Alive! Oct. 2021

On Sept. 22-23, the LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Dept. – LA Civil Rights – celebrated its first anniversary by emphasizing its LA for All Campaign across the City.

Alive! featured the new department, including an interview with General Manager Capri Maddox, in October 2021, as the department was just getting on its feet and moving into its new headquarters in the LA Mall downtown.

Congratulations on your first anniversary, LA Civil Rights!

CELEBRATION IN LIGHTS

City icons celebrated the department’s anniversary with lights. Included were:

Dodger Stadium



LAX



The Sixth Street Viaduct



LAFD

Information courtesy LAFD

Well Done!

LAFD PROMOTES 25 SWORN AND CIVILIAN STAFF MEMBERS.

On Aug. 24, the LAFD honored 25 sworn and civilian personnel who completed the process of promoting in rank or status within the department.

Fire Chief Kristin M. Crowley oversaw a formal promotion ceremony at the LAFD Frank Hotchkin Memorial Training Center.



Group photo of the 25 sworn and civilian personnel promoted at the Aug. 24 event.

Individually honored at the event were:

(listed according to new rank or status)

Chief Deputy John Drake Armando Hogan	Engineer Daniel Colbert Daniel Blase David Chang Garrett Pascolla Matthew Goodrich	Fire Protection Engineer Associate IV Menoa Aghajani
Deputy Chief Richard Fields		Fire Protection Engineer Associate III Vidal Garcia
Assistant Chief David Perez	Inspector II Miguel Rodriguez Fernando Barrios	Equipment Superintendent Guy Patenaude
Captain II Shaun Gath Timothy Roarty Thomas Nyberg	Principal Accountant II Christine Isidro	Departmental Chief Accountant III Mario Pasaporte
Captain I Alex Gonzales Brian Wilson Justin Horwedel	Sr. Management Analyst Kimberly Perry	Congratulations to all the new promotions!
Apparatus Operator Jacob Dilbeck	Management Analyst Mary Lin	

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LAFD

Kindling a Passion

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

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the LAFD resumed its annual Girls Camp to introduce fire skills to high-school-aged young women and encourage their interest in becoming Firefighters. It was the department's ninth Girls Camp.

The camp was held Oct. 1 – 2 at Drill Tower 81 in Panorama City. Fifty-one young women ages 14-18 participated. Staff from five other fire agencies assisted.

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

Well done, LAFD!

At the LAFD's Girls Fire Camp.

THANK YOU!

The Club thanks Battalion Chief Kristine Larson, photographers Gary Apodaca and Teron Bell, and Club Ambassador Jackie Koci Tamayo, title, for their assistance in producing this story. We honor your service.



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With the LAFD's RTX electric fire engine at Fire Station 82 in East Hollywood are (standing, from left) Capt. II Darius Cunnigan; Battalion Chief Peter Hsiao; and Michael Dunbar, Equipment Specialist II. In the driver's seat: Engineer Patrick Turner, Fire Station 82 B shift.

TAKING CHARGE



Representatives of the City of LA at the ceremonial transfer of the keys to the RTX in May were (from left) Councilmembers Monica Rodriguez and Mitch O'Farrell; Mayor Eric Garcetti and (in chief's hat) Fire Chief Kristin Crowley.



Some of the Fire Station 82's B-shift team that's specially trained to operate the RTX electric fire engine are (from left) Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew Rees, 6 years of City service; Firefighter III Sergio Mayorga, 19 years; Capt. II Darius Cunnigan, 23 years; Michael Dunbar, Equipment Engineering Specialist II, 16 years; Battalion Chief Peter Hsiao, 23 years; Firefighter II Hai Dinh, 2 years; Engineer Patrick Turner, 14 years; Capt. I Brian Wilson, 17 years; and Firefighter/Paramedic Roman De La Torre, 16 years.



Capt. II Darius Cunnigan (center) and Michael Dunbar, Equipment Engineering Specialist II (right) display the RTX's ample equipment storage space to Club CEO Robert Larios.



Club CEO Robert Larios (right) with Michael Dunbar, Equipment Engineering Specialist II, 16 years of City service (left) and the Fire Station 82 B-shift, from left: Engineer Patrick Turner, 14 years; Firefighter III Sergio Mayorga, 19 years; Firefighter II Hai Dinh, 2 years; Firefighter/Paramedic Andrew Rees, 6 years; Firefighter/Paramedic Roman De La Torre, 16 years; Capt. I Brian Wilson, 17 years; and Capt. II Darius Cunnigan, 23 years.

Alive! Feature

Photos by Summy Lam, Club VP of Marketing; and courtesy the LAFD

You've read that LA has the Western Hemisphere's first all-electric fire engine. (Awesome!) Now read about how it happened.



The LAFD's new fully electric RTX fire engine by Rosenbauer, the first fully electric fire engine in operation in the Western Hemisphere.

It's the first of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. It's the future. And it's helping protect you and keep you safe.

It's the RTX, the LAFD's customized and specially designed all-electric fire engine, curated by a special team at the LAFD and built by Rosenbauer of Austria.

The Fire Dept. is a pioneer, bringing this new technology to fire prevention and safety to North America for the first time.

It's not just about propelling the fire engine forward on electric power. There's a lot more to it than that, and these many advantages place the

department at the edge of the future.

It wasn't easy rebuilding the RTX from its European roots into a machine that can deliver all the features the LAFD needs. The process began in 2019 with research into figuring out just what the department wanted in an electric pumper, then creating specs and requirements for its construction, then managing the build, and finally bringing it home and training the crews.

That's the story you haven't read about. You can read all about it in this month's cover story. ■

THANK YOU!

The Club thanks Dep. Chief Richard Fields, Battalion Chief Peter Hsiao, Michael Dunbar, Capt. II Darius Cunnigan and Cheryl Getuiza for their assistance.

'Something That Made History'

ALIVE! INTERVIEW

On Tues., Sept. 27, Club CEO Robert Larios and Alive! editor John Burnes interviewed Michael Dunbar, Equipment Specialist II, Equipment Engineering Unit, 16 years of City service; and Capt. II Darius Cunnigan, Equipment Engineering Unit, Supply and Maintenance, 23 years of City service. They are part of the team that researched, re-engineered and recommended for purchase the LAFD's first all-electric fire engine, the Rosenbauer RTX. After final work was completed at the LAFD's Service and Maintenance Worksite in Lincoln Heights, the RTX began service with the LAFD at Fire Station 82 a few weeks before this interview was conducted. The interview took place via Zoom.

Q: Thank you, Michael and Darius, for joining us today to talk about what happened behind the scenes to secure North America's first all-electric fire truck.



Michael Dunbar

Michael Dunbar: Of course.

Q: Before we begin, we like to ask: How did you get to where you are? What led you to the position you're in now?

Michael: This is my second career. I started in the automotive industry as a mechanic and made my way up into management. I spent 25 years there, then I came to the Fire Dept. for 16 years. I had

to start again as a Mechanic for a short time, and then I worked my way up through supervision at the LAFD. I was then promoted to the LAPD, and then was promoted back to the LAFD in Equipment Engineering.

Q: Do you specialize in any one kind of equipment – ambulances, or engines, or aerials?

Michael: Since I've been in Equipment Engineering, I write specifications for anything from gloves to aerial ladder trucks. I'm working on a helicopter spec right now. In general, a little bit of everything.



Darius Cunnigan

Q: Darius, same question.

Capt. II Darius Cunnigan: It takes two different kinds of promotions for this position. First of all, you have held the rank as an Engineer or Apparatus Operator, a rated position member, and then at least a Captain I. I was a Firefighter/Paramedic for three-and-a-half years; then an Engineer for ten-and-a-half years; a Captain I for three years; a Captain II/Task Force Commander at Fire Station 94 for three-and-a-half years; and now a Captain II/Special Duty Assignment at the Supply and Maintenance Division's Equipment Engineering Unit.

Since I've been on my current job, I have been involved in testing new tools and equipment, working with the In-Service Unit. I've always been interested in apparatus and tools and equipment. I interviewed for the Captain II position at Supply and Maintenance, and I have been here since April 12, 2020. In this position, I'm more open to vendors, and I begin to see how things go from the white board planning perspective to the end user.

Equipment Engineering

Q: Give us a broad overview – what is the Equipment Engineering Unit all about?

Michael: Equipment Engineering is part of the civilian side.

My role is to research the latest and greatest technology, to see what is reliable and makes the most sense for needs of the department and our members. I then write specifications to develop the products or vehicles for the Fire Dept.'s use.

I look at which manufacturer is suited closest to our needs, then I set the parameters. I write a specification based on that. I then send it out to bid to see who wants to build it at the lowest price.

'This vehicle will perform all of the functions, and even some more, than its diesel-powered equivalent.'

— Michael Dunbar

Q: Is there another unit that's involved in the purchasing of the new equipment, or is it pretty much centered directly in the Equipment Engineering Unit?



Michael Dunbar, Equipment Engineering Specialist II (left) and Club CEO Robert Larios in the interior of the new RTX, which was not in motion when this photo was taken.



Club CEO Robert Larios and Michael Dunbar, Equipment Engineering Specialist II, at the new electric vehicle charging system installed at Fire Station 82 by the LADWP and its vendors.

Michael: Our Purchasing Dept. Part of my job is initiating the request for the purchase. Then that goes to our Purchasing section. It goes through them, and then they run the request up to ASB, the higher section in Fire. From there it goes to General Services, which actually produces the purchase orders and puts it out to bid.

Adapting the RTX

Q: Talk about researching and developing the parameters for the new electric fire truck.

Michael: Sure. Rosenbauer [a manufacturer of fire-fighting equipment based in Austria] came to the LAFD with a concept prototype for an electric Fire Engine they were working on, the CRT. We looked at it and drove it. Mayor Eric Garcetti and Fire Chief [at the time] Ralph Terrazas liked it and thought it would be a good candidate for the new Green program emerging across the nation. Only a couple of companies were working on developing an electric fire truck at that time. We looked at others that were in development at the time that we knew about, and they were all hybrid, basically taking an electric motor and installing it on a conventional Fire truck.

Rosenbauer offered a totally different concept. They had designed a purely electrically driven fire truck, starting as electric from the ground up. It looked nothing like a conventional fire truck and was loaded with innovative ideas. It had all-wheel drive, all-wheel steering, an electric-driven pump with a redundant diesel backup system, and many other innovative ideas.

Q: Right.

Michael Dunbar: The Fire Chief and the Chief of my division at the time, Wade White, came to me and said they and the Mayor liked the vehicle and wanted me to create a specification. I wanted to make it user friendly to our members and for the U.S. style of firefighting. The Rosenbauer concept version was designed for the European way of firefighting, which is very different from ours...

Alive! Interview
continues on web *Alive!*: alive.employeesclub.com

LAPD

Goodbye, Jason

LT. JASON ZABEL RETIRES AFTER 27 YEARS OF CITY SERVICE.

A going-away reception was held Sept. 22 for Lt. Jason Zabel, who's retiring after 27 years of City service.

"He is known for his compassion, strong work ethic and humble demeanor," LAPD Communications (911) Tweeted. "We wish you many happy years in retirement." ●



Lt. Jason Zabel



At the retirement celebration.

THANK YOU!
The Club thanks you for your service, Lt. Zabel, and honors you for your commitment to the City of LA.

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LAPD

Stories and photos courtesy Los Angeles Police Foundation

Above and Beyond



This Year's Honorees

Purple Heart

- Officer Jose L. Anzora
- Officer Nicole Minarik
- Officer Rodney Williams (also Medal of Valor)

Medal of Valor

- Officer Miguel Alarcon
- Officer Rafael Rodriguez
- Sgt. Albert Funes
- Officer Christopher Aboyte
- Officer Damien Castro
- Sgt. Joseph Cavestany
- Officer Robert Sherock
- Officer Andrew Rea
- Officer Rodney Williams (also Purple Heart)

Preservation of Life

- Sgt. Michael Porter

Police Dept.'s annual event honors 14 heroes with Purple Heart, Medal of Valor and Preservation of Life honors.

On Oct. 20, the LAPD hosted its annual "Above and Beyond" ceremony. This year's event honored 14 Officers who demonstrated the highest level of courage and bravery in protecting the City.

The event was held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel downtown.

This year's event continued the awarding of Purple Heart, Medals of Valor, and the Preservation of Life. Purple Hearts have been distributed only ten times in the history of the event. This year, three LAPD Officers were honored with the Purple Heart, nine with the Medal of Honor, and three with the Preservation of Life. (One Officer was awarded with both the Purple Heart and the Medal of Valor.)

For the sixth time, the LAPD awarded the Preservation of Life medal, a recognition of efforts at de-escalation of public safety situations by avoiding the use of deadly force during dangerous encounters. The Department is one of only a handful in the country to bestow such an honor.

During the ceremony, two Officers were remembered who lost their lives this year: Officer Fernando Uriel Arroyos and Officer Houston Ryan Tipping. *Alive!* reported on their deaths earlier in 2022.

It is *Alive!*'s great honor to publish every year the names and stories of those honored.

The Purple Heart recognizes Officers who have sustained grievous physical injury during a tactical situation and posthumously to the next of kin of those Officers who did not survive their injuries.

The Medal of Valor is awarded to Officers who distinguish themselves by conspicuous bravery or heroism above and beyond the normal demands of police service. To be awarded the Medal of Valor, an Officer shall have performed an act displaying extreme courage while consciously facing imminent peril.

The medals are awarded by the Board of Police Commissioners and presented by the Chief of Police in the name of the Department at the annual ceremony. The award consists of a medal, ribbon, and citation. The Medal of Valor was first presented in 1925, and the Purple Heart was first awarded in 2009. The Preservation of Life honor was first awarded in 2016.

THANK YOU!

The awards ceremony is made possible thanks to the generosity of the Los Angeles Police Foundation. The Club thanks Dana Katz, Executive Director, for her assistance.

The awards ceremony is made possible thanks to the generosity of the Los Angeles Police Foundation. The Club thanks Dana Katz, Executive Director, for her assistance.

Read the Riveting Stories of Heroism

The stories of their bravery are published on the *Alive!* Website. Read them here: alive.employeesclub.com/aboveandbeyond2022



Assistance for Gang Pursuit

CONTINUED ONLINE



Officer Jose L. Anzora

On the evening of Feb. 26, 2021, Newton Division Officer Jose Anzora and his partner were on patrol when they heard a Newton Gang Enforcement Detail Unit (GED) broadcast that they were following a vehicle at a high rate of speed and needed additional resources. The driver had committed several traffic infractions and was driving in a manner that showed a willful and wanton disregard for public safety. The GED officers continued to follow the vehicle until it collided with an uninvolved vehicle and came to rest...

Car Crash Rescue

CONTINUED ONLINE



Officer Rafael Rodriguez

Late in the evening on Jan. 9, 2021, Officer Rafael Rodriguez was off duty and at home when he heard what sounded like a car crash in front of his residence. He went outside to investigate and saw a mangled vehicle that had lost control and crashed. He could see fire starting from under the vehicle and hood of the car and ran to try to open the driver's door.

Smoke had already filled the inside of the car, making it impossible to see how many people were there...

MORE STORIES ONLINE

LAFD

Hogan: Firefighter of the Year

FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION HONORS CHIEF DEPUTY ARMANDO HOGAN.

LAFD Chief Deputy Armando Hogan was named Firefighter of the Year (2021) by the LA City Firefighters Association (LAFFA). Friends, family and co-workers attended the event, held April 21 at the Doubletree Hotel downtown.



Chief Deputy Armando Hogan

Chief Hogan has 39 years of City service. Prior to his promotion to Chief Deputy, he was assigned to Operations West Bureau, where he served as the Bureau Commander in the rank of Deputy Chief. Chief Hogan has held the ranks of Inspector I, Captain I, Captain II, Battalion Chief, Assistant Chief and Deputy Chief.

His previous areas of service include Airports, the LAX coastal communities, Hollywood and Griffith Park, Silver Lake, Pacific Palisades, Bel Air and West Los Angeles.

Additionally, Chief Hogan has served the LAFD as the Chief Training Officer at LAX as well as Community Liaison Officer, where he represented the Fire Chief as his spokesperson. He earned a bachelor's degree in emergency services management from the Union Institute and University along with a master's degree in leadership from the University of Southern California (USC).

He has also attended the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where he received an executive certificate for his participation in the National Preparedness Leadership Initiative.

The LA City Firefighters Association instituted its Firefighter of the Year luncheon in 1967. This annual event recognizes members of the Association who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. More than 50 member Firefighters have been chosen for this prestigious award.

Congratulations from the Club, Chief Deputy Hogan! ●

THANK YOU! The Club thanks the LA City Firefighters Association for providing information. *The photo is courtesy LAFD.*



The Club thanks the LADWP Photography Team for the images.

Air Cleaners

DEPT. CELEBRATES CALIFORNIA CLEAN AIR DAY.



On Oct. 5, LADWP celebrated California Clean Air Day by hosting a Clean Air Fair at department headquarters with partners Public Works/Sanitation: City Plants, an organization at the hub of a collaboration between the City and seven other nonprofit organizations, community members and businesses that provides free trees to LA citizens; Metrolink and Northeast Trees, a community-based nonprofit in LA.

Some 775 LADWP employees pledged to take action to support clean air and reduce pollution.

Well done to the LADWP and partners! ●

At the event.



Read All About It: It's Thanksgiving!

These LAPL recommendations can help your family celebrate Thanksgiving.

LIBRARY: As the holidays progress, *Alive!* continues publishing recommendations from our favorite Library - Los Angeles Public Library - for your seasonal reading pleasure and to remember the point of the holiday, gratitude.

These suggestions are available through the LAPL, either as hard-cover loans or digital downloads. Go to: www.lapl.org

Thanks to the LAPL Librarians.

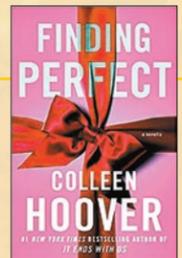
Look for a Christmas/Hanukkah/winter holiday installment next month.

For Adult Readers

Compiled by Librarian Elizabeth Graney

Finding Perfect, Colleen Hoover

Set in Hoover's bestselling Hopeless series, this novella follows several of Hoover's most beloved characters as they gather for a Thanksgiving celebration at Sky's parents' house. With Sky and Daniel still reeling from the secret they must keep, Daniel takes it upon himself to search for the answers that will heal their relationship. A heartwarming holiday tale for the die-hard Hoover fan.



For Young Adult Readers

Compiled by Librarians Lyr Heller and Amanda Charles, Central Library TeenScape

INDIGENOUS VOICES

Fiction by Indigenous Creators:

- *The Marrow Thieves*, Cherie Dimaline
- *Walking in Two Worlds*, Wab Kinew
- *Elatsoe*, Darcie Little Badger
- *Firekeeper's Daughter*, Angeline Boulley
- *Heart's Unbroken*, Cynthia Leitich Smith



Graphic Novels by Indigenous Creators

- *Moonshot: The Indigenous Comics Collection*
- *Super Indian*, Arigon Starr
- *This Place: 150 Years Retold*
- *Borders*, Thomas King and Natasha Donovan
- *A Girl Called Echo*, Katherena Vermette

Other Titles

- *If I Go Missing*, Brianna Jonnie
- *Red: A Haida Manga*, Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas
- *Surviving the City*, Tasha Spillett-Sumner and Natasha Donovan
- *Dakwākāda Warriors*, Cole Pauls
- *Sugar Falls: a Residential School Story*, David Robertson

For Young Readers

Compiled by Librarians of the Children's Literature Dept.

Picture Books

Keepunumuk: Weeâchumun's Thanksgiving Story

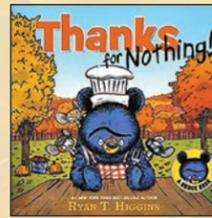
Danielle Greendeer, Anthony Perry and Alexis Buntin

A Wampanoag harvest tale about their ancestors' first encounter with the Pilgrims in Massachusetts.

Thanks for Nothing

Ryan T. Higgins

The bear from the Grumpy Bruce picture book series is trying to prepare a Thanksgiving feast, but his clueless mouse friends keep getting in the way.



Around the Table that Grandad Built

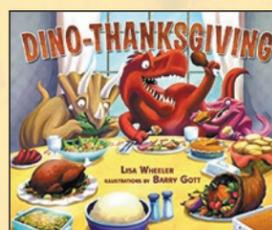
Melanie Heuiser Hill; Illustrated by Jaime Kim

A multi-cultural clan happily prepares for a feast of tamales, samosas, home-grown vegetables and a variety of scrumptious desserts. Though not specifically about Thanksgiving, this brightly illustrated cumulative rhyme celebrates family, friends, food and gratitude.

Dino-Thanksgiving

Lisa Wheeler; Illustrated by Barry Gott

Both meat-eating and vegetarian dinosaurs enjoy the holiday in a jaunty, rhyming story that hits all the Thanksgiving highlights - travel, parades, football, food and even a corn maze! But best of all is the chance to share all of the things for which they are thankful!



Chapter Books

Turkey Trot Plot

Carolyn Keene; Illustrated by Peter Francis Nancy and her friends search for a missing chocolate turkey, in the 12th book in the interactive Nancy Drew Clue Book mystery series.

Non-Fiction

Kids Can Bake: Recipes for Budding Bakers

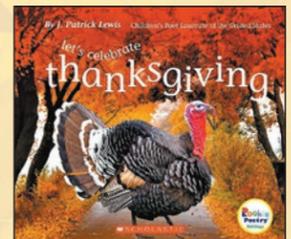
Illustrated by Esther Coombs

Find a new recipe to try out over the holiday weekend with a cookbook written for kids! The helpful illustrations and step-by-step instructions make this a fun and easy activity for the whole family.

Let's Celebrate Thanksgiving

J. Patrick Lewis

A poetic introduction to the holiday, focusing on modern traditions. Back matter includes ways that people give thanks around the world and a glossary.



History Smashers: The Mayflower

Kate Messner; Illustrated by Dylan Meconis Uncover the myths of the first Thanksgiving and find out the truth in this installment in the History Smashers series!

The Mayflower

Libby Romero

Learn about the Pilgrims and their perilous journey. Their story is enhanced by maps and informative illustrations. Find out what it was like on the Mayflower and what happened once it set anchor in a new land. This book provides much historical context for the Thanksgiving holiday, geared to kids aged 7 to 9.

Salute to Veterans

The Club honors our Veterans.

We are honored once again to salute our Club Member Veterans in honor of Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

To all Club Veterans, thank you for your service!

SEND IN YOUR TRIBUTES:

We're still accepting submissions for publishing on the online *Alive!*. Submit to: aliveemployeesclub.com/veterans

DEADLINE: Tuesday, Nov. 8

PUBLISHED ONLINE: Friday, Nov. 11



Greg Fontes (brother): E-3, 1983, 6 years of military service, US Navy.

"This is my brother, Greg Fontes. He served six years in the US Navy. Honorable Mention."

— **Rebecca Davis, LAPD**



E-3, Airman, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2004-07, US Navy.

"Life goes quick. Enjoy every day and spend it with those you love."

— **Gabriel Mendez, LADWP**



Duane Lloyd Hart (friend): Retired as Lt. Colonel, World War II.

"Colonel Hart: Thank you for your service, both to our country and to me personally."

— **Alan Wendell, Building and Safety**



Lorenzo Cervantes Jr. (friend): First Class Security Force, 1980, 6 years of military service, US Air Force, Honorable Discharge.

"My best friend!"

— **Rebecca Davis, LAPD**



Photographer's Mate II, Feb. 1992-Jan. 1999, US Navy. Stationed aboard the USS Samuel Gompers from 1992-94, and at NAS North Island from 1994-99.

"Thank you to all Veterans who served this country. Our bravery, sacrifice and strength do not go unnoticed. Thank you to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice."

— **L'keva Harris, LAPD**



Sergeant, Med Tech, Clerk, in a fighting squadron at March Air Force Base and Norton Air Force Base, 1982-88, US Air Force.

"It was an honor to serve."

— **Joan Brown, Retired, LADWP**



E-4, 19E Armor Crewman/Tanker, 1979-86, US Army.

"Hooah to all our Veterans who have or are still working for the City Of LA."

— **Keith Smith, Retired, Airports**

Reserve, 1987-2004, US Army; First Sergeant, 729th Adjutant General Company (Postal), then 376th Personnel Services Battalion.

"Thank you to my fellow Veterans and thank you to my coworkers who have children who are serving! Lead by example! You did it!"

— **Kimberly Ganier, LAPD**



Edward S. Wendell (father): World War II, US Army

"The US Army brought you and Irene to Los Angeles, and you both rest here today."

— **Alan Wendell, Building and Safety**



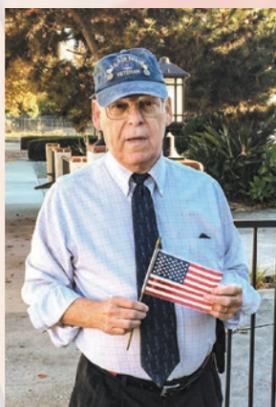
Military Graduation

"My son, Christopher Solis, graduated Navy boot camp PIR 9-16-22. He's currently attending school in Pensacola, Fla., pursuing a career as a Navy airman."

— **Lisa Solis, LADWP**

Air Policeman, 1962-66, US Air Force.

— **Louis Aguilar, Retired, LAPD, 30 years of City service**



Vietnam War Veteran, June 1964-June 1968, US Air Force.

"Enlisting right out of high school was one of the best things I ever did for myself."

— **Alan Wendell, Building and Safety**

Johnny Suarez

(grandfather): 91st Infantry, US Army, World War II; and recipient of two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star.

"My grandfather served in the Army during WWII. He was in the 91st Infantry and received two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. He also retired from the LADWP in 1991."

— **Lisa Solis, LADWP**



James Osborne

(son of Ruth Perry): E-5, Aircraft Structural Mechanic Second Class, 2005-present, US Navy. Currently serving on the USS Ronald Reagan on his fifth deployment.

Ruth Perry: E-4, Personnel Records Specialist, 1982-85, no conflicts, US Army.

Otto Sturcke (brother of Ruth Perry): E-4, Field Artillery Cannoneer, 1989-95, Gulf War, US Marines.

"Much love and admiration for my brother Otto's service in the Marines and especially for my son, James. He has chosen military service as a career, and I couldn't be prouder of his growth and accomplishments. I am honored to call him my son and pray for his health, happiness and safety every day."

— **Ruth Perry, Retired, LACERS President, RLACEI**

Pablo Serrano: Specialist Infantry, US Army

Jesus Serrano (brother): Corporal, Desert Storm, 1991, US Marines
"Jesus Serrano: There are no words to describe how proud I am to know we are not only brothers, but brothers in arms as well. We both uphold the significance of the freedom we defend and a nation with its flag that represents those values. Happy Veterans Day, brother. With love and dedication, your brother Pablo Serrano."

— **Pablo Serrano, Public Works/Sanitation**





CLUB STORE Holiday Schedule

For the 2022 holiday season, the physical Club Store will be open on a limited basis for all your holiday needs! The Club Webstore will be open 24/7 for shipping (see below for deadlines), with limited curbside pickup options, too.

Physical Club Store Hours:*

Open:

- Mon.- Fri., 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Closed:

- Nov. 11 (Friday), closed for Veterans Day
- Nov. 24-25 (Thursday/Friday), closed for Thanksgiving
- Dec. 26 (Monday), closed for Christmas
- Jan. 2. (Monday), closed for the New Year holiday

The Club Store is also closed for curbside pickup on the above days.

Staff Meetings: The physical Club Store is closed every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. for staff meetings.

*Club Store hours are subject to change. Go to employeesclub.com for current schedule.

**ORDER
ONLINE
24/7**

The online Club Webstore is open 24/7, but orders are not processed on holidays.

www.employeesclub.com

Shipping: If you want your Club Webstore order to arrive by Christmas using shipping, the Club recommends you order by the close of business Dec. 15 (standard shipping) and Dec. 17 (priority shipping). Don't wait!

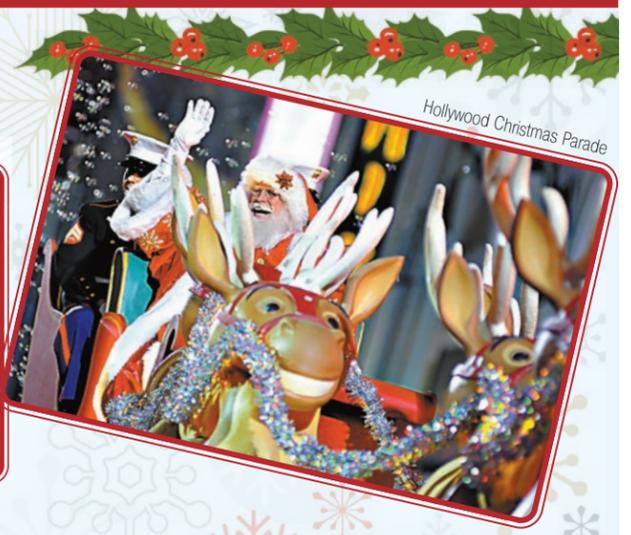
Curbside Pickup: Club Webstore orders will be processed and available for curbside pickup (by request) instead of shipping Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. except those days listed above.

Happy Holidays from the Club Store!

Holiday Events Are Back!

Some City-sponsored events returned last year, and more continue reopening this year as the pandemic seems to fade into the distance (cross our fingers).

Every year, the City produces and sponsors a variety of events to celebrate the holidays. Here's *Alive!*'s annual guide for 2022; check back in next month for updated information.



Hollywood Christmas Parade

When: 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27
Where: Starting at Hollywood Boulevard and Orange Streets.
Cost: Free; grandstand reserved seating is on sale at press time.
City sponsor: City Council
Information: (866) PARADE-1, or www.thehollywoodchristmasparade.com

Hollywood's long-running Christmas Parade, sponsored by the City, returns this year at 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 27, in Hollywood. Grand marshal is TV host Sheryl Underwood.

The parade, an American tradition for 90 years, is held traditionally the Sunday after Thanksgiving and telecast locally and throughout the nation during December. The parade returned last year after the pandemic.

Take the Metro/Red Line to the Hollywood and Highland station, or park in the center's garage (fee).

LA Zoo Lights: Animals Aglow

When: 6-10 p.m. nightly, Nov. 18 – Jan. 22 (closed most Mondays and Tuesdays, plus Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas).
Where: LA Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Griffith Park, 5355 Zoo Dr. Free parking.
Cost: \$27-\$39 (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

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.

Holiday Light Festival Train Ride

When: 5-8 p.m. weeknights; 5-9 p.m. Fri-Sun. Nov. 25 – Jan. 6
Where: 4400 Crystal Springs Dr., Griffith Park
Cost: \$7
City sponsor: Rec and Parks
Information: (323) 662-9678, www.griffithparktrainrides.com

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

The trains operate every night until Dec. 23, then resumes Dec. 26 – Jan. 7. The trains do not operate in the rain.

Victorian Christmas

When: noon – 4 p.m. Sat., Dec. 3
Where: Banning Museum, 401 E Main St., Wilmington.
Cost: Free admission.
City sponsor: Rec and Parks, Harbor
Information: (310) 548-2005 or 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. Proof of full COVID vaccination required for those 12 and over to tour the indoor museum.

Holiday Ice Rink Pershing Square

When: various times, Nov. 23 – Jan. 1.
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

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.

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

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.



Club Angels
To donate, go to:
ClubAngels.org

Help Others for the Holidays

Many fellow City employees are hurting due to the pandemic. Can you help make their holiday season brighter?

The pandemic may be easing, but the hardships faced by some City Employees and their families remain critical. Club Angels, the charity started by staff members of the Employees Club, invites you to join our efforts to help.

Since the Club Angels appeal began, the charity has provided nearly \$13,500 in grocery assistance to approximately 70 fellow City Employees through your gifts and matching funds from the Club.

"As we enter the Christmas and Hanukkah season, people are in need," says Arlene Herrero, Club Angels President. "Club Angels is there for Club Members and all City employees during this very special time. Can you help make their holiday season brighter?"

If you are facing hardship, please reach out to us. Club Angels is here to help.

The Club encourages City Employees and everyone to contribute to the Club Angels



fund. Donations go to City Employees in need; Club Angels and the Employees Club earn nothing from the transaction. Donations might be tax deductible; consult your tax professional.

Please be generous.



Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.

RLACEI For Retired Club Members

CONTACT INFORMATION

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



Ruth B. Perry

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

2022 Executive Board of Directors

- Ruth B. Perry, *President*
- Beverly J. Clark, *First Vice President*
- Mark Blunk, *Second Vice President*
- Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, *Treasurer*
- Nancy Hammoudian, *Secretary*

RLACEI DIRECTORS

Dial (800) 678-4145 plus extension

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

RLACEI RETIREE HELPLINE:

(800) 678-4145, Ext. 0

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

RLACEI WEBSITE

Visit the RLACEI website www.RLACEI.org to find the latest news.
Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 0 to make suggestions.
EMAIL: Contact@RLACEI.org

MAILING ADDRESS:

Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.
Terminal Annex
P.O. Box 86264
Los Angeles, CA 90086

Change of Address?

Please notify Ruth B. Perry, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 ext. 717 or Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org for a change of address or to add or change your email address. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, LAPCU, and LAFUCU as applicable.



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. 15, 2022 Annual Holiday Party
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. *Friendship Auditorium*
3201 Riverside Dr.

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

RETIREES ON THE MOVE



Beverly J. Clark

Meet Ilesia 'Faye' Jones

by Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director

Ilesia "Faye" Jones retired in 2020 from Personnel, the same year the Lakers won the NBA Championship, and the Dodgers won the World Series!

She was employed with the City for 33 years and worked for the Harbor, Public Works/Sanitation and Personnel.

In retirement, Faye enjoys reading, playing the game "Words with Friends," and backgammon. She is an enthusiastic sports fan and cheers for her favorite teams, the Dodgers, Lakers and Rams. Whenever she has an opportunity, she attends Dodgers and Lakers games. She hopes she will be able to attend a Rams game this year!

Faye loves to take walks in the morning, spend time with family and friends, garden, assist her brother's and twin sister's ministries, and being on "Grammy" duty (her grandchildren call her Grammy).

Faye has been married to her husband, Reggie, for 35 years. They have one daughter, Lanae, and one son, R.J.; one granddaughter, Logan; and one grandson, Harper. She has a twin sister and five older brothers.

What are you doing in retirement to fill your days and stay active?

"Since retiring, I have not had the opportunity to travel for pleasure yet. My travels have been only to fulfill familial obligations, i.e., weddings, funerals, sick relatives, etc. However, my plans are to go on a cruise with family within the next year or so. I would love to take my grandchildren on the Disney Cruise.

"I am learning to keep myself busy in retirement and have joined RLACEI and a book club. I am also involved with my church, New Life Baptist Church, where I serve as the Youth Director, and I am a member of a Mental Health Awareness Task Force, where the goal is to remove the stigma attached to mental illness."

Do you have words of wisdom to share with retirees or those about to retire?

"Absolutely! Make sure you have something to do. Retirement is the best thing ever for me, but I am grateful that I am still busy. It's a different type of busy – busy helping with my grandchildren, busy helping with different ministries, busy catching up on my favorite television shows. Whatever it is, I have something to keep me occupied. I recall a day where I was just idly sitting in the house, and remember my son saying to me, 'Make sure when you retire you have something to do.' When my son first told me this, I thought, 'I don't need to do anything but sleep when I want to.' Well, my son was right... you do need something to do. You need to keep moving! But as a Retiree, I can move on my own schedule ... for the most part."

What was the smartest thing you did to prepare for retirement, or did you plan on retiring when you did?

"I believe preparing financially for retirement was the smartest

thing I did. I wanted to make sure that any job I had post-retirement would not be a necessity, but a pastime."

What do you miss or don't miss about your years of service to the City of Los Angeles?

"The main things I miss about my years of service with the City of Los Angeles are the friendships that I developed along the way. Even though I am still in contact with many of my City friends/family, it's not the same as being able to walk to Starbucks with them, or have friendly conversations in the Public Works Building, or wherever I see them – elevators, Subway, etc. I miss the day-to-day interactions. I truly enjoyed working for the City of Los Angeles for 33 years, but the people are what made it special. Some of these same people have become more like family to me, and they will no doubt stay a part of my life."

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

"No, I don't think I would have done anything differently. Sure, there were mistakes I made along the way, but that's all a part of life. You take the good with the bad – learn from it and move on. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have worked for the City of Los Angeles for 33 years."

How do you fill your days in retirement?

"I start each day with prayer, followed by a morning walk with my husband. The rest of the day just depends on what day of the week it is. I have a specific routine for each day of the week. On Mondays, I listen to my sister on talk radio. On Tuesdays, I attend Bible Study. Wednesdays are my cleaning and gardening days. On Thursdays, I participate in my sister's mental health ministry. Fridays are when I meet with my prayer group. The weekends are dedicated to my family and church. Although each day has a specific activity and/or purpose, on any given day I might go to the movies, or shopping, spend hours on the phone, or help family and friends however they may need me."

If you could change one thing about Retired life, what would that be?

"It's a blessing to be Retired. There isn't anything I would change." ■



Facebook Giveaway Winners

Here are the winners from last month's Facebook Giveaway Contest. Congratulations for joining RLACEI and following us on Facebook!

Refer a Member Winners (\$25 gift card)

Katrina Winkelman
Lili Wren

Followed RLACEI on Facebook Winners (\$5 gift card)

Daniel Braviroff
Rachel Griffin
Mildred Jackson
Wanee Jeerapaet
Barry Jones
Jan Perry
Patricia Rosas
Ann Seales



RLACEI MEMBERS

Not an RLACEI member?

Join and like us on **FACEBOOK**

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

RLACEI 2022 ANNUAL MEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022
11:30 A.M.— 2:00 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 7, 2022.

RLACEI member plus one (1) guest limit at no cost.
No additional guests allowed at this time due to attendance limitations and social distancing requirements. To join RLACEI, call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 717.

RLACEI 2022 Holiday Party Reservation Form

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Number of Attendees _____ (Limit 2)

Email to Contact@RLACEI.org or mail to RLACEI, P.O. Box 86264, Los Angeles, CA 90086

Only RLACEI members will be eligible to win prizes.

Become an RLACEI Member!

RLACEI is dedicated to advocating for retiree interests. We are over 5,800 strong! Members of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. enjoy all RLACEI events such as the golf tournament, member picnic and holiday party with FREE membership to the Employees Club with access to all group benefits (insurance, discounts, etc.).



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

Looking for a Board Member With Computer Skills



Computer savvy RLACEI Board Director needed!

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

For more information on this position contact:

Dennis Harding at: (800) 678-4145, ext. 706
Email: Dennis.Harding@RLACEI.org or
Beverly Clark at: Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org

LACERS BOARD UPDATE

Health Insurance Carriers Refund Surpluses



Michael R. Wilkinson

by Michael R. Wilkinson, LACERS Commissioner

Email: MikeWilkinson4LACERS@gmail.com

LACERS has received the return of surpluses of more than \$4 million from Anthem Blue Cross, and an amount already with LACERS from Delta Dental that may be used by the plan to reduce any expenses in the future, such as increases in premiums that would otherwise be passed on to our members. The refund was for the 2021 calendar year.

LACERS will receive more than \$2.2 million in surplus from the “participating plans” that Anthem has with LACERS.

A participating plan is one in which the insurance company tracks the claims costs for the insured members and, if the premium is more than the claim costs, then the surplus is refunded. If the claims are more, then the insured (in this example, LACERS) may have to make up the difference.

In addition to a participating contract with Anthem, LACERS also has a “self-funded contract” with Delta Dental. This is like a participating contract except that LACERS takes on all the risk if the premium amount does not cover the claims. LACERS has self-funded its dental plan since Jan. 1,

2019 and has benefited from doing so each year since then. In 2019 the surplus of the budgeted premium over the total cost was nearly \$1.7 million; in 2020 it was more than \$2.7 million! When added to the \$1.8 million in surplus for 2021, the total is \$6.2 million that LACERS would not otherwise have had on hand without the self-funded contract with Delta.

The LACERS staff and Board continue to look for innovative ways to keep your benefits high and your costs as low as possible! ■

RETIREES UPDATE

Making Board Member Terms Make Sense



Tom Moutes

by Tom Moutes, RLACEI Director

Email: Tom.Moutes@RLACEI.org

Now that the terms in office for the mayor are based more closely on the calendar year instead of the fiscal year, it’s time to examine whether the current LACERS board member terms make sense.

The LACERS board consists of seven members: four are appointed by the mayor – one of whom must be a LACERS Retiree; two are elected by active employees; and one is elected by Retirees. The terms of the appointed board members are five years in length and are staggered so they don’t end at the same time. Because recent mayors have required LACERS board members to sign undated letters of resignation, some board members are replaced prior to the expiration of their terms.

At least in recent times, every new mayor has replaced almost all of the existing appointed members of the LACERS board, regardless of the lengths of their remaining terms. The appointments of new LACERS board members tend to take some time as the mayor typically fills more high-profile

board positions – such as the paid Board of Public Works, the Police Commission, and the LADWP board before getting to some of the other boards, such as LACERS.

When a new mayor replaces all of the LACERS appointed board members at once, that means a majority of the LACERS board lacks the knowledge needed to make educated decisions on behalf of the active and Retired members. Depending on the backgrounds of the appointed board members, learning what they need to know to be an effective board member can take a year or two, and sometimes even longer.

Based on the new terms in office, the mayor will begin serving in December 2022. He or she will serve an initial term until December 2026. Because of this timing, it would make sense for two of the appointed LACERS board member terms to expire in June 2023 – which would be around the time new mayors typically make replacements. It would further make sense for the terms of the other two appointees to end in June 2024. Having newly appointed board members start their terms approximately six months (for

two) and one year and six months (for the other two) after the new mayor comes into office allows the new members to learn their roles and serve (one hopes) well during one mayor’s term. It would also allow the board to always have a majority of the board to have the knowledge necessary to make educated decisions on behalf of the active and Retired members.

The terms for the appointed board members should be changed to four-year terms to line up with the mayoral administrations, and board members should be allowed to serve out their terms unless they are let go for cause – meaning no more pre-signed letters of resignation.

The board terms for the elected members can also be changed to four years or left at five years. The terms for these board members do not need to line up with the mayoral administrations. Also, because of the churn of appointed board members, the elected board members frequently have the most experience. This is a good thing. ■



Life's Important Moments



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

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

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



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

Retirements

Below is a listing of those who Retired from the City in August 2022. 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!

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

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Adams, Vernon P.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	33	Griffith, Timothy	Pr. Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	34	Ontiveros, Amanda A.	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	9
Aldredge, Marvin H.	Parking Meter Tech.	Transportation	21	Guerrero, Salvador E.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D	Pelaez, Carlos M.	Sr. Housing Inspector	Housing	28
Alloh, Emmanuel E.	Envmntl. Eng.	Public Works	35	Henriquez, Carlos E.	Engineering Assoc.	Transportation	25	Petterez, Martha A.	Investigator	City Attorney	5
Antrilli, Nicola R.	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D	Home, Maureen M.	Deputy City Attorney	City Attorney	1	Puchalski, Mayra	Chief Mgmt. Analyst	City Clerk	30
Arellano, Antonio B.	Special Programs Asst.	Rec and Parks	7	Horlick, Jay D.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D	Rolston, William J.	Energy Distribution	LADWP	N/D
Ayers, Randal A.	Security Officer	Airports	22	Huynh, Linda M.	Benefits Specialist	LACERS	37	Saad, Hana	Systems Programmer	ITA	25
Bagnerise, Anthony C.	Sr. Park Maint. Sup.	Rec and Parks	28	Johnson, Harold	Pr. Public Relations Rep.	Airports	21	Saiyan, Antranik G.	Environ. Eng. Assoc.	Public Works	20
Baker, Carl N.	Construction Inspector	Public Works	22	Jones III, Ernest	Building Operating Eng.	Airports	10	Sanchez, Fermin G.	Parking Attendant	Gen. Services	32
Batson, Marleen L.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Bldg. & Safety	30	Jones, Mary Kate	Aide	Council	13	Seales, Ann	Sr. Benefits Analyst	LACERS	27
Bernal, Edna D.	Supply Chain	LADWP	N/D	Kenard, Courtney A.	Property Mgr.	Airports	26	Sementelli, Gary	Recreation Asst.	Rec and Parks	3
Berns, Lori T.	Energy Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Kwong, Benson	Energy Generation	LADWP	N/D	Setiarto, Benjamin	Parking Mgr.	Gen. Services	25
Boney, Bernita	Admin. Clerk	Public Works	20	Lacey, Paul H.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Sevilla, Aurora R.	Accounting Clerk	Finance	23
Boyer, Dale D.	JFB/Facilities Mgmt.	LADWP	N/D	Lahoree, Daoroong	Financial Mgr.	Airports	32	Silva, Ricardo E.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Gen. Services	23
Bravioff, Daniel C.	Equipment Mechanic	Gen. Services	30	Lopez, Javier	Animal Care Tech. Supv.	Animal Services	31	Slaughter, Dreda M.	Crossing Guard	Transportation	4
Calderon, Terry	Admin. Clerk	LAFD	16	Martinez, Javier	Gardener Caretaker	Rec and Parks	27	Thomas, Darryl L.	Custodian Supervisor	Gen. Services	14
Cruz, Joseph F.	Asst. Dir., Str. Maint.	Public Works	27	Moore, Gary L.	City Eng.	Public Works	37	Tjia, Sulastris B.	Office Eng.ing Tech.	Bldg. & Safety	32
Davis, Brenda J.	Investigator	Housing	20	Moran, Victor H.	Refuse Coll. Supervisor	Public Works	32	Torres, Eleno	Bus Operator	Airports	16
Drones, Ronald L.	Sr. Security Officer	LAPD	29	Mosley, Joseph E.	Traffic Painter Sign Post	Airport	23	Torres, Maritess T.	Sr. Accountant	Public Works	15
Edralin, Annette S.	Comm. Info. Rep.	ITA	34	Muniz, Edward L.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D	Valerio, Priscilla L.	Maintenance Laborer	Public Works	18
Esparza, David L.	Asst. General Mgr.	Econ./Wrkfr. Dev.	3	Muntz, Paul D.	Field Eng. Aide	Public Works	27	Wang, Chaoyen	Deputy City Attorney	City Attorney	33
Fong, Peter	Dept. Chief Acct.	Library	34	Nabegh, Reza G.	Sr. Wastewater Treat. Op.	Public Works	15	Williams, Kenneth E.	Traffic Officer	Transportation	13
Fowler, Charles L.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Napue, Trena D.	Supply Svc. Payment Ck.	Gen. Services	22	Wilson, Trenita L.	Sr. Systems Analyst	LAPD	38
Geere, Stacy T.	Public Relations Dir.	Airports	17	Neaman, Maria L.	General Accounting	LADWP	N/D	Wong, Irene L.	Sr. Legal Clerk	City Attorney	8
Gold, Scott S.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Nonnemaker, Craig A.	Field Eng. Aide	Public Works	17	Young, Dwight D.	Power Safety/Training	LADWP	N/D
Gonzales, Jesse R.	Special Programs Asst.	Rec and Parks	7	Odulio, Dominic M.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D				
Griffin, Eric	Facility Director	Rec and Parks	20	Ogbeni, Adonis	Envmntl. Eng.ing Assoc.	Public Works	32				

N/D = not disclosed

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.

NOTE: If you wish to have a listing deleted from our online posting of these death notices, please email us at admin@employeesclub.com, stating the name and department of the deceased, and your relation to that person. We derive our lists from official public records provided by the City and LADWP.

DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
ACTIVE					
Alatorre, Jose L.	Airports	13	Garcia, Ernest	N/D	N/D
Butler, Gabriel F.	Rec and Parks	4	Hardaway James, Dorothy	Finance	26
Cassel, Donald A.	LADWP	42	Harlan, Patrick J.	LADWP	30
Mendoza, Michael R.	LADWP	30	Homiller, Norman C.	LADWP	36
Naguib, Camelia	LAPD	10	Hovasapian, Papkin K.	General Services	38
Piazza, Francis E.	LADOT	15	Itomura, Richard G.	Public Works	24
Sullivan, Tara R.	Council	2	Jepson, Richard L.	N/D	N/D
RETIRED					
Alfaro, Leslie H.	LAPD	32	Jones, Matthew	N/D	N/D
Bernal, Fred	LADWP	30	Kirby, Samuel D.	LADWP	30
Birch, Mack	LADWP	29	Langton, Stephen J.	LADWP	27
Bowen, Roosevelt	N/D	N/D	Lankau, Robert J.	LADWP	21
Clark, Robert C.	LADWP	25	Lenzy, Melvin	LADWP	13
Clark, Ronald L.	Rec and Parks	17	Lewis, Lee C.	N/D	N/D
Cotton, Sheldon	Airports	38	Lewis, Reggie R.	Rec and Parks	26
Dall, Marjorie G.	Rec and Parks	35	Logan, Barry	Public Works	36
Dolan, David E.	City Attorney	28	Lopez, Patricia A.	Library	33
Duhme, Betty L.	N/D	N/D	Lyday, Donald E.	N/D	N/D
Foote, Wilson H.	LADWP	38	Lyles, Samuel	N/D	N/D
Fowler, Alfred H.	LADWP	31	Madison, John E.	LAPD	31
Gaffney, Mary J.	Library	10	Manzano, Angel	City Attorney	16
			Matsumura, Wakatsu	N/D	N/D
			McKinley, Joe D.	N/D	N/D
			McKinney, Marina S.	General Services	36
			Odorica, Leon M.	LADWP	36
			Patitucci, Ronald C.	General Services	41
			Rahim, Khalid	ITA	13
			Reed, Stephen E.	Building and Safety	18
			Sakamoto, Neil M.	LADWP	28
			Sher, Arthur L.	N/D	N/D
			Smith, Alonzo	Rec and Parks	44
			Smith, Yvetta D.	LADWP	31
			Smuckler, Steven J.	LADWP	28
			Snodgrass, Jack D.	LAPD	21
			Tomines, Aida B.	Controller	30
			Villegas, Santiago Q.	LADWP	27
			Walker, James C.	Public Works	31
			Washington, Booker	N/D	N/D
			Wasserman, Simon	LADWP	1
			Wesier, John K.	N/D	N/D
			Williams, Gary T.	N/D	N/D
			Yamaguchi, Grant K.	LADWP	30
			Yuge, Shigeo	LADWP	31
			Zaferes, Demetrios A.	Harbor	23

N/D = not disclosed

Alive! AROUND THE WORLD

Captain's Log

Traveling with Capt. Michael Barnes, Retired, Harbor



Rhodes, the Knight's Island

This late in the year, the weather is still nice, children are back in school, tourists are at their minimum, and best of all most cruise ships are in moth-balls. So, what better time could there be to visit the Greek Island of Rhodes?

Many years ago, as a young man and long before I started working for the Port of Los Angeles, my professional boating career started at this medieval port. I worked aboard luxury yachts for the rich and famous around the Mediterranean.

The Old Town of Rhodes has been inhabited for more than 6,000 years, and over the years has been invaded by everyone from Alexander the Great, Greek and Roman democrats, Arabian pirates, failed crusader Knights of St. John and the mighty Ottoman Empire to Benito Mussolini.

In 305 BC, to celebrate the end of one siege, the citizens sold all the defeated army's weapons and siege equipment to pay sculptor Chares of Lindo to create a giant 31-meter-tall bronze statue of Colossus, whose legs (according to legend) straddled the entrance to the port. (Today there are a couple of symbolic deer on tall columns standing there.) It is more likely to have stood on the high ground where today's crusaders' Grande Master Palace now stands.

Regardless of where it stood, an earthquake 66 years later caused it to fall, and the locals felt that it was cursed. Four hundred years later, Arab pirates captured the port and sold the bronze scrap to a Jewish merchant whom they say needed 900 camels to take it away.

During Greek and Roman times, the port prospered, and a temple to the Sun God Helios was built on the foundations where the Colossus of Rhodes once stood. When the Christian Knights of St. John were forced to leave the Holy Land, they occupied the island and extended the

fortifications and moat around the port during the 13th to 15th centuries. The moat is a lovely walk from the entrance near the new gate to the end by the cruise terminal. Do wear sensible shoes, as this and the Old Town



The main gate

cobblestone streets can be very hard on in high heels.

Today, Rhodes is considered one of the best-preserved fortified medieval towns in Europe. Behind its six gates are mosques, fountains, Byzantine and Gothic churches, shops and tavernas, plus a warren of some 200 small, cobbled stone alleyways and streets waiting to be explored. Getting lost is a distinct possibility. Visit the Archaeological Museum; walk up the street next to the tourist information office where the Knights of St. John once lived six centuries ago, and visit the imposing Palace of the Grand Master at the top. From 1500 to 1912, the island was under Ottoman Rule, then overtaken by the Italians during World War I. After World War II, in 1947, it finally became part of Greece.

There are many ways to get to Rhodes — by plane, ferry or cruise ship.

By air, you can travel from LAX via Frankfurt to Rhodes International Airport. It's a \$35 tax ride or a \$2.50 on the public bus to the Old Town. A ferry from the port of Piraeus...



Where the statue of Colossus of Rhodes might have once stood

The adventures of Michael Barnes continue on **Web Alive!**



Send in a travel picture holding the Alive!



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Larios In the City

BY ROBERT LARIOS, Chief Executive Officer



Congratulations!

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



Robin A. Schifand

Retired from the LADWP after 37 years of City service.



Patrick K. Owens

Retired from the LADWP after 32 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.)

Get started here:



THE CLUB

Welcome, Ambassadors!

CLUB HOSTS FIRST AMBASSADOR MINGLE AS PART OF EXCITING NEW PROGRAM.

On Oct. 11, the Club hosted its first meet-and-mingle dinner event for its new Ambassador Circle. There, new Ambassadors met Club staff, learned about upcoming Club benefits, open enrollments, holiday events and exclusive Club discounts.

ATTENDING THIS FIRST MINGLE WERE THESE CLUB AMBASSADORS:

- Edward Giron, LADOT
- Scott Walton, State of California
- Edward Wu, City of Burbank
- Will Martinez, Zoo
- Catalina Alvarado, LAPD
- Lady Smith, LACERS
- QueJonne Cross, Personnel
- Amanda Cadena, LADWP



Amanda Cadena, LADWP, and guest.



Edward Giron, LADOT.



Will Martinez, Zoo.

The Club Ambassador Circle, a Club representative program, is a group of exceptional Club Members who volunteer to spread the good news and activities of the Club in their department and throughout California. Through the program, they also gain access to deals just for them.

"The Club Ambassador Circle is a great way for Club Members to honor their fellow municipal employees, to get to know them and to volunteer for the betterment of all," said Club CEO Robert Larios. "And have fun doing it." ●

Apply today to join the Club Ambassador Circle!

GET STARTED BY GOING TO THIS LINK: <https://aliveemployeesclub.com/ambassador/>



From left: A guest with Catalina Alvarado, LAPD.



Amanda Cadena, LADWP, with Club CEO Robert Larios.



From left: The Club's Dylan Noel and Marcus Martin.

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ALIVE! INTERVIEW

— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Q: The original Rosenbauer concept needed a lot of changes to make it right for the LAFD.

Michael: Yes. I worked with a couple of Firefighters, Shane Hirsh and Bret Cartier, who would be end users for the electric fire truck. They were very helpful in developing what we thought would be the best, most user-friendly design for use in the field. Later into the project, Capt. Cunnigan came to our unit, the Equipment Engineering Unit, and Chief Richard Fields replaced Chief White over our section. They too had good input into the final specifications as well.

Q: What did you alter from the European design?

Michael: The hose beds required pretty much a redesign of the entire vehicle. Part of the mandate I put on myself was to make sure that this vehicle would do absolutely everything that our current vehicles would do as far as carrying equipment and performing. To achieve that, we had to lengthen the wheelbase of the vehicle by a foot, and then we also lengthened the vehicle behind the rear axle by a foot. And then we created the hose bed. We added a 180-foot hose reel, a tool we've never had before on our rigs. It's a high pressure hose reel; so far in practice, the Firefighters are really liking it. Overall, we were able to get every single tool that we carry onto the RTX with a little bit of room to spare.



Michael Dunbar, Equipment Engineering Specialist II, points out the RTX's hose reel to Club CEO Robert Larios. Hose reels are new to the LAFD's current equipment.

Darius: I would describe it as a true unicorn of an apparatus. This project was a completely new drawing of the Rosenbauer model to fit the LAFD standards. We wanted to make everything on the apparatus functional to our current operations and tactics. That's why it was so important to get all the equipment that we use on the apparatus shipped to Austria. Then we had to decide where the tools and equipment should be mounted for maximum usefulness in an operational way. There was a lot of thought behind the placement of each tool on this apparatus from my perspective and also from the Test Pit Engineer, Bret Cartier, and the In-Service Training Engineer at the time, Shane Hirsh. We all had the outlook to design this apparatus for the end user for practicality.

Q: Right.

Michael: Having a good working relationship with the Rosenbauer engineering team was important. Our Austrian representative, Steve Johns, the one who brought the first CRT out here for a demonstration, has been fantastic and instrumental.

Darius: One of the biggest challenges that we encountered on our end was the mindset change. This was a blank sheet of paper. Some had the mindset to just take an LAFD fire truck that they're used to and make it electric. But this was more than that – it was ground up. It operates differently, but it does the same functions.

Q: How long was this process from the first time you talked to the Mayor and the Fire Chief?

Michael: I first got involved late in 2019. We were supposed to have a working vehicle by the end of 2020, but obviously COVID hit. We had COVID issues on both sides – the LAFD and with Rosenbauer in Austria.

Q: Right, of course.

The Future of LAFD Firefighting

Q: Why is this project so important to the LAFD and to the City of Los Angeles?

Darius: From my perspective, I think any time there's new technology setting standards in the fire service, the LAFD is a trendsetter. We give other departments throughout the nation the opportunity to see how it actually works, or at least our evaluation after testing. Also, emissions – it's a chance to see if this can lower emissions at incidents. Another reason – we're a large metropolitan city with busy highways, hillside homes, seaports and high-rise areas – we can see how this apparatus functions in all of them, to test it to the max and see what it can do. At the end of the day, it's a machine and you can't make everything perfect, but at least it gives us the opportunity to see if we can change the fire service in a better way or where is it going to take us in the future.

Michael: Like Darius suggested, we have been mandated to have our fleet fully electric by 2035, and the options for vehicles available to do this are very limited. This vehicle is important in trying to meet those goals without sacrificing ability or dependability.

Darius: The other day they ran 22 calls using the RTX and didn't use any fuel at all. Twenty-two calls, all electric.

Q: That's incredible. Is any special setup required?

Michael: There is no special setup, but there is some special training for the operators. Most of the special training is to use the electronic pump panel. The members learn this system very quickly, as it's similar to using your cell phone.

We installed a charging station at Fire Station 82 where the RTX is stationed. We also are having a charging station installed at the main maintenance facility so it can be charged there if it needs to be tested or maintained.

There is no limited use of the vehicle; this is part of what was appealing to LAFD. If the batteries drop below 20 percent while driving or pumping water, there is a small diesel engine on board that automatically turns on to recharge the batteries and will outpace the battery usage even during operation. The diesel engine can run the fire pump even if all the battery supply or electric would fail for some reason.

Darius: The Equipment Engineering Unit worked with the LAFD Fire Facilities Unit, the Dept. of Water and Power and Rosenbauer to tie in the infrastructure to charge the electric apparatus. Once the power grid was installed, a Heliox DC portable fast charger was hooked up to the Fire Station.

Q: I presume this is the first of many installations.

Darius: Yes, that is the goal. We have newer stations throughout the City that can have the same setup as Fire Station 82 in Hollywood [where the RTX is stationed now]. The wiring and infrastructure to install the electrical grid is already in place for this type of upgrade if we decide to add more electrical vehicles to our fleet.



Gerald Durant, Inspector, LAFD, 34 years of City service, Club Member, charges his LAFD electric vehicle early in the morning at the LADWP Customer Service Center on Crenshaw Blvd. (From Alive! June 2021)

Q: The Fire Dept. has had electric vehicles for a while. We published a photo of a Fire Inspector [Gerald Durant] with an LAFD Chevy Volt, charging it at an LADWP facility. Is the RTX program connected to the other electric vehicles the department is developing?

Michael: The two programs are broadly connected, as they both are part of our going green. Other than that, though, I would say no. This project was separate from the electric vehicles we're managing for everyday utility use.

What Success Looks Like

Q: What will success look like, whether it's a year with this RTX or down the road in 15 years?

Darius: It's two parts. Operationally for the end user – is it safe to operate under normal firefighting conditions? What's the durability of it? The other part is whether other departments will jump on board to purchase the RTX with our adaptations, and whether the LAFD will buy more apparatus like this.

Michael: Success will be when it's been in operation a while and the members feel that it is performing the same job at the same level or better than the pumpers we currently use. There are a lot of our members who don't like change and have a negative attitude about this project. When they start using the rig I think they will change their minds. I've seen many change their minds after they use it for a short time during training. This too would be a big success.

Q: What have you learned?

Michael: I've learned a lot. In the beginning when the Fire Chief and the Mayor came to me with this project, I wasn't too enthused; I've never been a big electric vehicle guy. But I thought, "This is an opportunity to start from scratch." I knew this was unique, I knew it was going to be something that made history. So I reevaluated. The end product does everything that we expected and more.

Darius: I had to be completely open to a new look and the change to a new style of a fire apparatus. It took me a few months to realize this project was really going to happen. At the time I didn't really understand that Rosenbauer had already started designing this Electric Vehicle (Euro-spec) ten years prior to coming to the United States and pitching their new concept vehicle. It took me about three to four months before I realized, "Let this concept develop and add what I can to make this project successful." I kept taking notes, asking a lot of questions, and adding input from my experience as an Engineer. It's amazing what Rosenbauer was able to engineer and design to build this amazing apparatus.



Michael Dunbar, Equipment Engineering Specialist II, displays the RTX's space for storing nozzles.

Q: What are the challenges from here on out?

Michael: There were many challenges in adapting the concept vehicle to fit our way of firefighting and to fit all of the equipment we carry.

Challenges still ahead are creating a charging infrastructure for our entire fleet to go electric and to work out any changes we may decide to make on the next version of the RTX.

Darius: Training the field members; getting everybody up to speed; and having enough Engineers to use this apparatus will be challenging. It's going to take time.

Michael: I get probably a call a week at least from different agencies throughout the nation asking about this vehicle. People want to know how it's working out.

Q: What are you working on now?

Michael: We are interested in developing aerial ladder trucks, airport crash rigs, electric ambulances and growing our charging station infrastructure for the mandates ahead.

Dedicated to Fire Service

Q: What do you love about what you do with the LAFD and the City of Los Angeles?

Michael: It's a history-making opportunity. I can always say I was on the ground floor.

Every day is a challenge, and I enjoy solving each challenge. I'm the only person at LAFD who has been involved in developing this RTX with Rosenbauer since the very beginning, so it's been very satisfying to see it completed. It feels good to know that I was part of the development of this vehicle, not only for the LAFD but for use in the Western Hemisphere. I first started this project in 2019 as a concept, and even with the delays we all suffered from COVID hitting the world, we have succeeded in designing a working electric fire truck at Hollywood Fire Station 82!

When I was first asked to write the LAFD specifications for this electric fire engine, I wasn't a fan of electric vehicles because for the most part they weren't truly capable of doing the same job as petroleum-powered vehicles. It's gratifying to know that this vehicle will perform all of the functions, and even some more, than its diesel-powered equivalent.

Darius: For me it's an eye-opener. I was an end user at the Fire Station for more than 20 years, and there I just wanted to get in the rig, start it up, take off and run incidents. When I came into this position it changed my whole outlook – I took part in the design process, the purchasing process, the budget behind it, the safety behind it, and better technology. There was some equipment that we were using for a long time. But now some of our equipment is changing probably every five to six years now. Working in the field is rewarding, but I think the reward I get now is because I feel like I'm trying to provide a safer product to the field. There was the idea of why reinvent the wheel? But this makes our job better, safer and more effective. Why not! I've never had a problem with change, it's just convincing members that change is coming.

Q: The future's here already.

Michael: It is.

Darius: The field members – the Engineers who are actually using the apparatus – are shocked how well it works. What they thought the apparatus would do is totally different in how it works. They're impressed on the driving capabilities and how well it actually pumps. It's important for me to get to a real incident and see how it's doing over a length of time and in a real situation. Over a few years we'll have a better evaluation. But I think overall this is the start of that serious change, going this way with electric.

Q: Michael, did you ever think when you were a teenager in the driveway with the hood open and your wrenches in your hand, that you'd be doing this?

Michael: I didn't. I love mechanical things. I rebuilt my first V8 engine when I was eight years old with my dad's help. I've had a love for mechanical things right from the beginning, but I didn't expect to be here. On our last field trip, Darius and I were talking about exactly that. It's been a great opportunity.

Q: Gentlemen thank you so much for your service to the City of LA, and for looking at the future and helping us get there.

Darius: Thank you.

Michael: Thank you. Thanks for the opportunity. ■