



COPRA CHRONICLE

Issued by and for the City of Phoenix Retirees Association
Your advocate in pension and insurance matters

October 2009

MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH

Issue 3

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MEMBERSHIP

Changed your address or phone number? For address and/or telephone number changes, or for any questions about your COPRA membership, please contact Marvin Roelse, Membership Chairman. Marvin can be reached by telephone at (480) 288-1046, or by mail at: COPRA Chronicle, 10701 E. Peralta Canyon Dr., Gold Canyon, AZ 85118, or by e-mail at marvinr567@msn.com

COPRA Board Elections

In accordance with the COPRA By-Laws, as amended April 10, 2008, it is time once again for elections for the COPRA Board of Directors. There are ten elected positions on the Board, each serving a two year term. Elections are staggered with five Board positions coming up for election each year.

Candidate biographies and ballots will be included in the November issue of the COPRA Chronicle with the actual election taking place at the December 3, 2009 Holiday Party & Membership Meeting.

The Nominating Committee is currently seeking persons interested in serving on the COPRA Board of Directors.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for the Board of Directors, please contact Karen Clifford-Anderson, Nominating Committee Chair, at (623) 772-7472 or e-mail her at kcliffander@yahoo.com.

If you are interested, we must hear from you no later than October 20, 2009!!

(Nominating Committee: Karen Clifford-Anderson, Laura Ross, Sue Stites, Gary Gross, Kerry Wangberg)

Website of the Month – eHow.com

This month's Website of the Month is eHow.com. eHow.com is a website containing an endless amount of useful information on every subject imaginable. From Arts and Entertainment to Weddings, use eHow as your guide to just about anything. They even have thousands of videos available in just a few clicks. The best part? It's free! To learn more about eHow, go to www.eHow.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We are quickly coming up to our General Meeting on October 8 when the City Manager, Frank Fairbanks, will give us his "State-of-the-City" address to all retirees. Frank has been gracious to do this for COPRA for multiple years now and it is greatly appreciated given his busy schedule. This upcoming meeting is even more significant because it will be his final address to all of us as the City Manager, since he retires early this November. In addition, and in spite of his busy schedule, he still took time this month to meet with several of us and go over items and issues that may be important to share with all our members at our upcoming meeting. As always, he has been more than willing to have these meetings as needed to assist in his understanding the issues of our retirees. This is greatly appreciated by all of us. I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend this meeting to meet with Frank and again show that his efforts are very much appreciated by all retirees. In addition to this meeting, the City will host a celebration of Frank's career on October 29. Check the Chronicle and/or our website at www.phoenixcopra.com for more information on this special event. You are all invited to join in this celebration on the 29th as well. Frank shared with us that he was looking forward to the opportunity of meeting with old friends and fellow City employees as he joins the ranks of retirees.

COPRA has also been busy on behalf of all retirees. One of the more significant news events deals with Dental Insurance. Our Vice-President, Laura Ross, has actively pursued this important subject over the past several years and it now appears to be coming to fruition. As it now stands, on March 1, 2010, all retirees will have the option to take out Dental Insurance through the City. Please look in the Chronicle for more information about this or visit our Website. A big thank you to Laura and her committee for all the hard work on this project.

Again, I hope that all of you can make this General Meeting on October 8 and I look forward to seeing you there.

Jack Thomas

RETIRES INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN 2009 COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND DRIVE

This year marks the fourth year that retirees have contributed to the City of Phoenix Employee's Community Service Fund Drive (CSFD). Your generosity gave much needed assistance to residents in the Valley. This year's slogan is "**When You Give – You Rock**" and we encourage everyone to step up and do their part to help achieve the **goal of \$1.4 million**. Our campaign kickoff began on **September 16, and will run through October 16**. We will be at the October 8, 2009 meeting to give a brief presentation and will provide pledge cards and agency lists to earmark your contribution. You may participate by making a credit card or check contribution. Credit card pledges will appear on your **January 2010** statement. A complete list of agencies can be found on the internet at <http://www.phoenix.gov/AGENCY/PHXWELL/09agencies.pdf> (Please use capital letters as noted.)

Thank you for your generosity in helping our community!

Sincerely,

Doug Mummert
Executive Committee Retirees Subcommittee Chairperson
& Your CSFD Executive Team



Please join us for a retirement celebration honoring

Frank Fairbanks



As he concludes 37 years of public service with the City of Phoenix

Thursday, October 29, 2009

4 to 6 pm

(Light refreshments at 4 pm, program at 5 pm)

Phoenix Convention Center - South Ballroom
100 North 3rd Street, Phoenix AZ 85004

Admission is free, however, contributions to support the event
Are welcomed, with proceeds benefiting the
“Spirit of Service Scholars” Fund at the ASU College of Public Programs.
This fund provides scholarship assistance to low income students
Preparing for public service careers.

Checks can be made out to: Frank’s Retirement Event and delivered to
Dava Hall, City Manager’s Office,
200 W Washington St, 12th floor, Phoenix, AZ 85003

RSVP to dava.hall@phoenix.gov by October 16, 2009

“Membership is Our Strength”

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please notify Marvin Roelse, COPRA Membership Chairman, if you have a change of address. This is important to ensure you continue receiving the COPRA Chronicle. Address change notification should be done by any of the following methods:

- 1) calling Marvin at (480) 288-1046
- 2) sending an email to marvinr567@msn.com; or
- 3) sending a note to Marvin at 10701 E. Peralta Canyon Drive, Gold Canyon, AZ 85118

It is important that you also notify the City of Phoenix Retirement Office of your address change.

U.S. Postal Service
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

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There are no known bondholders, mortgages and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities.
 The purpose, function and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed during the preceding 12 months.

ISSUE DATE FOR CIRCULATION DATA BELOW:

	Oct. '08-Sept. '09 Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months	Sept. '09 Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date
EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION		
A. Total number of copies printed	2,377	2,360
B. Paid circulation		
1. Outside-county	352	344
2. In-county	1,975	2,005
3. Distribution outside the mail	-	-
4. Other classes mailed through USPS	-	-
C. Total paid circulation	2,327	2,349
D. Free distribution by mail		
1. Outside-county	-	-
2. In-county	6	6
3. Other classes through USPS	-	-
4. Free distribution outside the mail	-	-
E. Total free distribution	6	6
F. Total distribution	2,333	2,355
G. Copies not distributed	44	5
H. Total	2,377	2,360
I. Percent paid	99.7	99.7

I certify that the statements made by me are correct and complete.
 Gary Gross, Business Manager

CHRONICLE ISSUES VIA E-MAIL

Many COPRA members have asked if Chronicle issues can be distributed directly to them through e-mail. Starting in November, COPRA will send the newsletter to any member who requests to receive it electronically and then discontinue mailing the printed copy.

If you are interested in receiving your copy of the CHRONICLE electronically, send a request (including your name) to COPRAchronicle@gmail.com or call Mary Franklin at 602-705-8822. We will, of course, continue sending CHRONICLE issues to all members who prefer to receive it in the mail. Receiving your newsletter electronically will help defray some of the printing and mailing costs and be COPRA's effort to help make the world a little greener!

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH COPRA MEMBERS

COPRA'S Annual Holiday Buffet will be held on
Thursday, December 3, 2009 at
The Mountain Preserve Reception Center,
1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix, AZ

Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

Cost is \$18.00 per person (additional costs subsidized by COPRA)

Tickets must be purchased in advance no later than Friday, November 20, 2009

No tickets will be sold at the door on the day of the event

Please make checks payable to COPRA and send to:

Gary Gross

2425 E. Turquoise Drive

Phoenix, AZ 85028-4351

Please join us for a lovely meal and good conversation
With your COPRA friends.

You can bring a new toy (not gift wrapped)
For delivery to a local toy drive, if you choose.

Limited handicapped parking will be available.

Is your 457/401(a) Plan Beneficiary Designation Current?

Whether you have account assets in the city's 457 Deferred Compensation Plan and/or, the 401(a) Plan, or if you're an active employee only participating through contributions made on your behalf by the city (Fringe contributions) to the 401(a) Plan, designating a beneficiary means you control who receives your benefits if you pass away before your account is paid out.

The beneficiary designated on file with Nationwide, the administrator of the city's 457/401(a) Plans, is the person who receives your 457/401(a) Plan assets when you pass away. Even an out-of-date beneficiary form would generally override wishes you express in a will. And if you are a divorced participant, please realize that if your former spouse is still named as sole beneficiary at the time of your death, the benefits may be distributed to that designated beneficiary, even if your former spouse has previously waived his or her rights to plan benefits as part of a divorce settlement. *In other words*, documents like divorce decrees or property settlements will not necessarily override beneficiary designations on file with a plan under the plan's procedures.

To check or update your beneficiary:

- Review your latest account statement (on the last page); or
- Call Nationwide at 602-266-2733 or 1-800-891-4PHX (4749) to confirm your beneficiary information or request a Beneficiary Designation Form; or
- Print a beneficiary form from www.phoenixdcp.com under "Forms" and send your completed form to Nationwide.

NEW RETIREES

July 2009 Retirees

Shannon Autwell
 Galdina Avila
 Sally Bartsch
 Myron Baysinger
 Karen Becketts
 Danny Bender
 Marylyn Bolden
 Wade Carmen
 Tony Chaney
 Carl Christoferson
 Daisy Culbertson
 Lucille Dawa-Bustamante
 Tracy Dowdle
 Larry Dunbar
 Merrie Eason
 Robert Esparza
 Floyd Farrar
 Helen Fernandez
 Pamela Foster
 Cynthia Fusselman
 Micke Gallagher

Gilbert Gomez
 Linda Green
 Edward Hargraves
 Glenn Heiselman
 Linda Heiselman
 Linda Henderson
 Jerry Holloway
 Ethel Hutchinson
 Roberta Ibarra
 Kristine Kylo
 Randall Lawless
 Jeff Lind
 John Maloney
 Susan Martinez
 Michelle Mathis
 Georgana Meiner
 Sandra Miller
 Orelio Moreno, Jr.
 Deborah Munson
 Michael Negrete
 Arthur Ortega
 John Parks, II
 Margaret Parma

Mahesh Patel
 Susan Pope
 Cesar Pringles
 Susan Racine
 Mary Rappleyea
 Louissette Rumble
 Julie Samson
 Charles Scott
 Michael Scott
 Ruben Silvas
 Karen Smith
 Armando Taddel
 Alice Thomas
 Timothy Tilton
 David Untied
 Alfonso Villaverde
 Carol Von Schenk
 John Watson
 Virginia Weaver
 Richard Wendt
 Richard West
 William Witting
 Sandra Zwick

MEDICARE INFORMATION MEETINGS

Have you received your Medicare Card in the mail and wondered “what do I do now?” Do I need to sign up for Medicare Part B because it costs me money? Or you are nearing the Medicare age of 65 and receiving “tons of mail” from healthcare carriers advertising their medical coverage? Do you ask yourself “should I stay with the City’s plan or choose something else for my coverage?” Are you confused with all the choices out there?

Get the answers to the above and more by attending one of the Medicare Informational Meetings that will be held in November. The City Benefits Office, in conjunction with representatives from BlueCross/BlueShield and CIGNA, will be in attendance to answer your questions. This meeting is primarily to educate the Medicare eligible retiree of their responsibilities and choices as it pertains to health coverage. But it is also for any retiree who has questions about their options as they come closer to Medicare eligibility.

Meetings and times are listed below:

- 11/3/09 – 9-11 A.M. Desert West Senior Center - 6501 W. Virginia
- 11/6/09 – 9:30–11:30 A.M. Washington Community Center – 2240 W. Citrus Way
- 11/6/09 – 1-3 P.M. Paradise Valley Senior Center – 17402 N. 40th Street
- 11/9/09 – 1-3 P.M. South Mountain Senior Center – 212 E. Alta Vista
- 11/10/09 – 9-11 A.M. City of Phoenix Personnel Dept. – 135 N. 2nd Ave
- 11/13/09 – 1-3 P.M. Devonshire Senior Center – 2802 E. Devonshire

For your consideration in deciding whether to attend: We’re also going to share information on the new retiree dental plan to be offered next year!

You won’t want to miss this meeting!

In Remembrance

Mary C Garcia	12/15/08
Nancy McLeod	08/02/09
Beulah McKnight	08/25/09 Survivor
Edward Anck	09/05/09
Robert Hudak	09/01/09
Marjory Otis	09/09/09 Survivor
Joy E. Knackstedt	09/13/09
Fred Ames	09/16/09
Doreatha Colter	09/11/09 Survivor

HEALTH AND COMPASSION

We care about our members and their families. If someone in your family is ill, whether at home or in a care facility, or if a loved one has passed away, please call Mary Dysinger-Franklin at (602) 705-8822

TAX AID VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The City's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Campaign is seeking individuals who will become Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Volunteers. VITA volunteers help low-income working individuals and families by preparing their taxes and claiming the federal Earned Income Tax Credit.

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming season. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), in partnership with the city of Phoenix, will be conducting free training sessions from November to January at locations around the city.

Last year, volunteers helped prepare more than 5,500 returns resulting in \$7 million to Phoenix residents. One hour of your time may be worth more than \$1,800 to a working family.

For more information, call 602-262-4520, e-mail to eitc@phoenix.gov or visit phoenix.gov/humanservices/phxeitc.html.

COPRA BOARD

President:	Jack Thomas(623) 825-6999 E-Mailjtnt@cox.net
Vice President:	Laura Ross(623) 878-3334 E-mailljross50@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Gary Gross(602) 992-7495 E-mailgwgross1@cox.net
Secretary:	Barbara Kellogg(623) 322-5227 E-mailavidgolfer@aol.com
Board Members:	Donna Lewis(480) 361-8784 E-mail.....dglewis09@cox.net Al Zielinski(602) 510-0408 E-mailal.zielinski@cox.net Jim Flanagan(480) 497-8317 E-mailjamesaflanagan@gmail.com Sue Stites(602) 957-6099 E-mail.....sstites@cox.net Karen Clifford-Anderson(623) 772-7472 E-mail.....kcliffander@yahoo.com Kerry Wangberg(480) 893-2794 E-mail.....wangwell@qwest.net
Benefits Committee Chair & Health Task Force:	Laura Ross(623) 878-3334
Retirement Board Rep:	Kerry Wangberg(480) 893-2794
Member Support and Social Chair:	Donna Lewis(480) 361-8784
Membership Chair:	Marvin Roelse(480) 288-1046 E-mail.....marvinr567@msn.com
Chronicle Editor:	Mary Dysinger-Franklin(602) 705-8822 E-mail.....copranewsletter@gmail.com
Past President:	John Burke (ex officio).....(928) 427-9461

COPRA website.....	www.phoenixcopra.com
City Retirement Systems (COPERS).....	(602) 534-4400
Personnel - Benefits Section	(602) 262-4777
COPMEA.....	(602) 262-6857
COPERS website.....	www.phoenix.gov/phxcopers

Chronicle Article Deadline

Please be advised that the deadline for submitting articles for the Chronicle is the **20th day of the month** before you want the article to appear. Any member may submit material for publication, but the Editor determines what will appear in the final copy based on suitability and available space.

This is your Chronicle. Help us by submitting articles of general interest. Tell us about yourself, your family, a trip you've taken or an interesting hobby you have. Suggestions are always welcomed.

E-mail to: COPRAnewsletter@gmail.com
Or mail to: Mary Dysinger-Franklin
6208 E. Desert Cove Ave
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

Disclaimer

Acceptance of advertisements or articles in the COPRA Chronicle does not constitute an endorsement by COPRA of goods or services.



OCTOBER COPRA CHRONICLE

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COPRA Chronicle, %Marvin Roelse
10701 East Peralta Canyon Dr.
Gold Canyon, AZ 85118

MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Washington Community Center
2240 W. Citrus Way
Phoenix, AZ**

Note: New date for fall meeting
October 8, 2009 - 1:30 pm
State-of-the-City

December 3, 2009 - 11:30 am
Holiday Party and Annual Membership Meeting
~ Holiday Party held at the
Mountain Preserve Reception Center
1431 E Dunlap Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020 ~