



COPRA CHRONICLE

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

September 2009

MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH

Issue 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

	Page
President's Message.....	2
Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol.....	2
In Remembrance.....	3
Important Reminder.....	3
Camp Colley.....	4
Library Culture Passes.....	4
May COPRA Meeting.....	5
Change of Address.....	5
New Retirees.....	6
Free Benefits for Seniors.....	7
Social Security COLA.....	7
Paying Too Much Property Taxes?.....	7
COPRA Board.....	7
Meeting Dates.....	8

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

POSITIVE PLANNING FOR YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE EDUCATION EXPO

Attend the city of Phoenix **Positive Planning for your Financial Future Education Expo** being conducted by Nationwide Retirement Solutions, the Administrator of the city's 457/401(a) Plans and Post Employment Health Plan (PEHP). It's being held:

October 5th

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

City Hall Atrium and Assembly Rooms A & B.

Learn ways to better manage your 457 and/or 401(a) Plan account and help your retirement savings to potentially grow by:

- Spreading out your assets among various options
- Investing despite the condition of the market

The Expo features:

- Educational workshops on "The Basics" of the City's Plans and "Debt Reduction and Asset Allocation" to help you reduce your outstanding debt and diversify your Plan assets.
 - The Basics at 9:00-9:30 a.m. and 11:00-11:30 a.m.
 - Debt Reduction & Asset Allocation at 10:00-10:30 a.m. and 12:00-12:30 p.m.
- Local plan service representatives from Nationwide to assist with your accounts in the city's 457 and 401(a) Plans, and/or PEHP.
- Information booths include:
 - Representatives from the various mutual fund houses
 - Beneficiary designations
 - Asset allocation and re-balancing
 - Making exchanges
 - Appointment booth for scheduling meetings with local Nationwide representatives
 - City Retirement Office

Take a positive step toward improving the way you manage your 457 / 401(a) Plan and/or PEHP account investments by attending this year's Expo!

No pre-registration is required!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hi to everyone and I hope all of you had a great, adventurous, and most importantly, a healthy summer. Even though COPRA did not have any formal meetings this summer some segments of the group continued to be very active participating on the Pension Board and Health Care Task Force functions along with keeping the new COPRA Website up and growing with terrific new information for all City retirees. Check it out at www.phoenixcopra.com

We have also been busy getting ready for the final big meeting of 2009 with the City Manager, Frank Fairbanks, on October 8th. If you have not put that on your calendar yet, please do so. Frank will be sharing information with us regarding the State-of-the-City in 2009 and hopefully additional information that may be important for City retirees to know about. This has been a challenging year for the City with dramatic budget reductions while also trying to provide critical services to the citizens, so his feedback should be very informative. Additionally, this will also be our chance to say goodbye to Frank as the City Manager and wish him well in his retirement. He has, for many years, been a great leader helping COPRA work through many issues concerning retirees and we will miss having him at City Hall. We know he will still be around the community and like others before him we will also welcome him in November as a new member of the COPRA organization with his complementary first year membership.

I hope to see all of you at the October 8th meeting.

Jack Thomas
President

PHOENIX NEIGHBORHOOD PATROL - P.N.P.

Information Provided by the Police Department

Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol has long supported the notion that involved residents are the most effective crime fighters, reporting suspicious activity as it occurs. This program allows residents to become more actively involved as partners in crime prevention. They are the Phoenix Police Department's "Eyes and Ears!"

History of Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol

The Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol Program began in 1994 as Block Watchers on Patrol and was associated with the Block Watch McGruff logo. In 1995 P.N.P. members donated over 5,468 hours of their time patrolling their neighborhoods. By 2004, they spent over 26,000 hours and traveled 77,490 miles assisting the police officers of the City of Phoenix Police Department by driving through their neighborhoods and watching for suspicious criminal behavior, fights, traffic problems, stolen vehicles, and missing persons.

In 1999 the program adopted the name of Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol and its new logo and had the opportunity and privilege of training over 1500 citizens in observation skills, criminal codes, police procedures, and drug recognition through non- confrontational methods.

If you need more information or would like to register for an upcoming training event, please contact the police precinct in which you live, or contact the Community Relations Bureau at 602-262-7331.
<http://www.phoenix.gov/POLICE/bwonpa1.html#training>

In Remembrance

Josephine Kent	04/20/09
Helen Kalifut	04/29/09
Joan Young	05/01/09 Survivor
Antonio Cota	05/01/09
Donald Hibma	05/01/09
Neva Claassen	05/02/09 Survivor
William Lambert	05/04/09
Edward Cadriel	05/04/09
Ruth Niemeyer	05/08/09
Wayman Cloud	05/14/09
Nancy Domfort	05/22/09
James Perry	05/24/09
Paul Kulongowski	05/25/09
Philip Durocher	05/26/09
Marie Watkins	05/27/09
David W. Thompson	05/30/09
Eleanor Estarda	06/02/09 Survivor
Robert E. Hawksley	06/03/09
Cruz A. Coronado	06/07/09
John C. Perkins	06/12/09
Ethel Bernal	06/11/09 Survivor
Ruthven Boozer	06/13/09
Mary Jane Butler	06/15/09
Lloyd Boss	06/17/09
Frieda Katz	06/17/09 Survivor
Lewis Rupe	06/17/09
Jerry Coffman	06/18/09
P. Harry Tesauro	06/21/09
Nicholas Carlo Jr	06/22/09
Robert M. Flores	07/01/09

Rodney Hodges	07/01/09
Jeanette Jenkins	07/02/09
Luis Sanchez	07/04/09
Majorie Chandler	07/05/09
Albert Cordova	07/05/09
James K. Greene	07/07/09
David O. Cano	07/14/09
Leona Reynolds	07/16/09
Curtis Brown	07/18/09
Calvin Eades	07/19/09
May Edge	07/20/09
Chung Y. Lee	07/22/09
Robert M. Vanegas	07/30/09
George Brockman	08/02/09
Rosemary Tidball	08/05/09 Survivor
Helen Vincent	08/06/09
John McCormick	08/07/09
Tony Frausto	08/09/09
Julia Coronado	08/10/09 Survivor
George Veno	08/13/09
Librada Lechuga	08/11/09 Survivor
Marie Scafidi	08/15/09
Cora Velasquez	08/12/09 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-

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Federal and Arizona Tax Withholding Changes for Pensions

Federal income tax withholding tables were changed in February 2009 as part of the Federal stimulus package by lowering the amount being withheld. Arizona withholding amounts were effectively reduced as well because the Arizona rates were a percentage of the Federal rate. Arizona rates are decoupled from the Federal rates effective July 1, 2010.

These changes in Federal and State withholding rates could mean that you receive a smaller refund next year or, in some situations, you may owe taxes when you file your 2009 tax returns because not enough was withheld from your pension.

(Continued on page 6)

CAMP COLLEY

COPRA recently made a \$100 contribution to support Camp Colley, a camp created by the City of Phoenix for under-privileged kids. Nestled in the inspiring Ponderosa Pines on Arizona's Mogollon Rim, Camp Colley is a secluded adventure camp that introduces deserving young people to the fun and education of outdoor recreation. The camp is one of Arizona's most effective interventions for at-risk, inner-city youth and people with life challenges.

Nature teaches some amazing lessons.

By bringing these kids together in an unspoiled, natural environment, Camp Colley offers them the experience of a lifetime.

- They build character and learn about themselves.
- They discover the beauty of nature and understand why it should be protected.
- They develop lasting values and learn to appreciate diversity.
- They leave with memories that will stay with them forever.

An Invaluable Experience

You can't put a price on the wilderness experience Camp Colley provides. For these deserving kids, this is a chance of a lifetime. For the community it's a chance to positively influence a lifetime. Here's a testimonial from one of the kids:

I had such a good time. Thanks for letting me be here. I liked doing new things like roasting marshmallows, campfires, activities, meeting new friends, and hiking to the creek. I have no words to explain all the fun I had.

James A. Colley

Camp Colley was named in honor of James A. Colley, who served for 22 years as the director of the City of Phoenix Parks, Recreation and Library Department. Mr. Colley believed that parks and recreation services were essential to the quality of life for all. So the camp not only bears his name, but it also reflects his commitment to the outdoor experience and the enduring benefit it provides. Mr. Colley also served on the COPRA Board.

This information was developed from the Camp Colley website which provides more specific information: <http://campcolley.org/index.php>

LIBRARIES INITIATE CULTURE PASSES

Through April 1st 2010 using what is called a "Culture Pass", you can get a group of 4 into the following places for FREE:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| AZ Museum for Youth | Heard Museum |
| AZ Museum of Natural History | Mesa Contemporary Arts |
| AZ Science Center | Phoenix Art Museum |
| The Bead Museum | Phoenix Zoo |
| Cave Creek Museum | Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art |
| Children's Museum of Phoenix | Taliesin West |
| Desert Botanical Garden | |

All you need is a library card in Scottsdale, Phoenix, Chandler, Mesa, Tempe, or Glendale. Go to any of these libraries and ask to check out a pass for the particular place you would like to visit. For more information see: <http://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/borrowing.jsp?lwbid=6988>

MAY COPRA MEETING

The presentation attended by many at the May 21st COPRA meeting was very informative and contained a variety of important facts for retirees. The presentation included guest speakers from the Personnel and Retirement Offices, as well as representatives from CVS/Caremark, CIGNA, and BlueCross/BlueShield.



Mary Kyle, City Personnel

Janet Smith, Personnel Director



Kathy Erickson, COPRA Chronicle's Editor from October 2006 to May 2009, was presented with an award by Jack Thomas, President, for her dedicated and much appreciated service.

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.

NEW RETIREES

Additional February 2009 Retirees

Yolanda Rodriguez
Gary Ross
Leslie Ross
Rodney Sanborn
Karen Sankey
Frances Schulte
Dennis Schultz
Michael Scolari
Judith Smith
Ernest Springer
Rosemary Stefaniak
Brenda Tevis
Catherine Walsh
Karin Warren
Glenn Westmoreland
Terrance Whelan
Patricia Wood

March 2009 Retirees

Eric Aiken
Gerald Beeler
Mary Brower
Richard Hinds
Gisela Ibrahim

Rose James
Charlene Jernigan
Dorothy Kelly
Beverly Marsh
Peggy Newby
George Nunez
Ramon Osuna
Jane Pincus
Marie Ramirez
Daniel Rollins
Wayne Rosch
Tony Walters
Robert Wingenroth

April 2009 Retirees

Joseph Cordova
William Cowans
Robert Goodhue
Jay Green
Ardis Hoffmann
Brenda Horton
Van Hughes
Melvin Lucas
Richard Reynolds
Sherry Starr

Beverly Stewart
Rosa West
Russell Wilhelm

May 2009 Retirees

Denise Anderson
Peter Burbank
Manuel Cabrera
Alan Cumpton
Michael Delay
Troy Ferguson

June 2009 Retirees

Gary Clinkenbeard, Sr.
William Coates
Guadalupe Cordova
Thomas Ferguson
Debra Garcia
Vernon Jones
Steven Kaltenberg
Victor Leon
Joe Madrigal
Richard Martin
Cecilia Quiroz

August 2009 Retirees

Linda Grave

IMPORTANT REMINDER (Continued from page 3)

Pensioners who believe their current withholding is not appropriate for their personal situation can perform a quick check by using the IRS withholding calculator on IRS.gov or by contacting your tax advisor. Any necessary adjustments can be made by filing revised forms W-4P (Federal) and A-4P (Arizona) with the Retirement Office.

Forms to adjust Federal and state withholdings are available on the Retirement Office web site www.phoenix.gov/phxcopers.html or by calling 602 534-4400.

*"It's not what happens to you,
It's what you do about it."*

w. Mitchell

"Membership is Our Strength"

FREE BENEFITS FOR SENIORS

The website www.benefitscheckup.org is an online service which identifies more than 1,550 government and private benefit programs for those age 55 or over. Users fill out a confidential questionnaire and receive a personalized report listing programs and benefits they may be eligible to receive, along with detailed descriptions of programs and contact information.

Source: The National Council on Aging

SOCIAL SECURITY COLA BENEFITS

Your Social Security checks and City PEP adjustments are both affected by the CPI, Consumer Price Index. Have you wondered why the government calls it a cost-of-living adjustment when it doesn't seem to remotely cover the increase in your cost-of-living?

That's because the COLA doesn't cover "seniors" true cost of living. It's based on the increase in costs experienced by younger working people instead.

ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH FOR YOUR PROPERTY TAXES?

The Maricopa County Assessor's Office is conducting a comprehensive audit of all property tax records. This is the first such review of property tax records since 1994. County officials fear many owners may have paid more property taxes than they owe.

An article in the Arizona Republic on July 29, 2009, stated that the County Assessor's Office has found thousands of erroneous property tax bills across the Valley. If you are aware of an error, in which you may have overpaid your taxes, you may contact the Maricopa County Assessor's Office and request a Notice of Claim. This form allows you to start the refund process.

If you have questions or concerns about your property, please contact them at www.maricopa.gov/assessor/ or call them at 602-506-3406.

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.....franklinjm@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 **25th 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: franklinjm@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.



SEPTEMBER COPRA CHRONICLE

Annual dues includes \$5.00 for the COPRA Chronicle
Dues are \$7.00 Single, \$10.00 Couples
COPRA Chronicle (USPS No. 0016-924) is published
Monthly, except June, July and August
By City of Phoenix Retirees Association
2425 E. Turquoise Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85028-4351.
Periodicals Postage Paid at Phoenix, AZ

POSTMASTER

Please send address corrections to:
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

**NOT September 24 as announced previously
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 ~