



COPRA CHRONICLE

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

January 2012

MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH

Issue 6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

	Page
President's Message.....	2
New Board Members.....	3
Christmas Tree Drop-offs.....	3
Redistricting.....	3
Martin Luther King Jr Breakfast.	4
2012 Renewal Notice.....	4
City Manager's Corner.....	5
Tidbits of Information.....	6
In Remembrance.....	7
New Retirees.....	7
COPRA Board.....	7
Meeting Dates.....	8

FALL PREVENTION CLASSES OFFERED AT PHOENIX SENIOR CENTERS

“A Matter of Balance” program, hosted by the city of Phoenix Human Services Department, will begin free eight-week classes on Jan. 6, at 10 city senior centers and the Travis L. Williams Family Services Center. Fall injuries are one of the main causes nationally for the loss of independence for people over the age of 60. “A Matter of Balance” is a nationally recognized program that helps participants address their fear of falling.

The two-hour classes will cover topics such as fall anxiety, effect of falls on people's finances and health, behavior and home modification, creating a personal action plan, exercise and a pharmaceutical review of current medications. The classes are lead by physical therapy and occupational therapy students at A.T. Still University. Since class size is limited, interested participants need to register as soon as possible.

To register, call one of the following senior centers.

Adam Diaz Senior Center

4115 W. Thomas Road

602-262-1609

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Fridays

Goelet A.C. Senior Center

3435 W. Pinnacle Peak Road

602-534-9743

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Fridays

Devonshire Senior Center

2802 E. Devonshire Ave

602-262-7807

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Fridays

Chinese Senior Center

734 W. Elm St.

602-262-6411

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Fridays

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

For more information, call 602-262-7379 or visit phoenix.gov/humanservices/programs/older/fallsprevention.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



January 2012 has finally arrived bringing a new year hopefully full of opportunities for us all. I hope that everyone had a great holiday season and enjoyed New Years Eve with family and friends fully charged for 2012. COPRA will be kicking off the new year with our first board meeting on January 12 where we will begin setting the calendar of events, elect board officers, and move forward with all the various committee assignments.

December brought to a close the work of the Pension Reform Task Force which conducted its final meeting on December 6. Once again a big thank you to the many retirees who took the time to attend this final meeting and provide their support for the current city employees. A final report is being prepared with various recommendations that are summarized below. As I reported last month, the work of the committee was

difficult recognizing the complexities of the Pension System and the challenges that were in front of the Task Force. The final recommendations that have been made will impact both current employees and new hires but they also attempt to preserve the foundations of a good retirement system that has served the City and its employees well for many years. We also should understand that the recommendations are just that, a set of suggestions that the Council can agree with and move forward to the voters of Phoenix as documented, or they may once again be subject to further discussions and possible changes by the City Council before being presented to the voters for consideration.

The Pension Reform Task Force recommendations that were agreed to at the final meeting on December 6, 2011 were as follows:

New Hires Only

1. Modify retirement eligibility.
 - Eliminate Rule of 80 and other current age/time worked retirement provisions
 - Establish Normal Retirement Age of 63 with a minimum of 10 years of service
 - Establish an Early Retirement Age of at least 55 with 10 years of service
 - Early Retirement benefit amount would be actuarially reduced from Age 63
2. Change the pension multiplier to a graduated multiplier based on years of service. These are cumulative multipliers applying to all prior years of service.
 - Up to 14.99 years of service: 1.85%
 - 15-19.99 years of service: 1.90%
 - 20-24.99 years of service: 1.95%
 - 25-29.99 years of service: 2.00%
 - 30 or more years of service: 2.10%
3. Vacation and sick leave payments made at retirement cannot be used in pension final average compensation.
4. Final Average Compensation for pension calculations will exclude travel, communications and technical allowances.
5. Time of service calculations shall reflect actual service time with 20 days of service required before a month of service is credited and 240 days of service required before a year of service is credited.
6. Minimum Pension: Terminate any existing minimum pension requirements.

New Hires and Existing Employees

Institute a floating contribution rate for all new and existing employees with no grandfathered group. The actuarially determined rate shall be split evenly between employees and the city as determined officially each year. The city/employee rate will vary as the determined rate varies, but will be split evenly.

The new rate would be implemented immediately for NEW employees and would be phased-in for EXISTING employees beginning with the effective date, with the employee rate rising no more than 2% of salary per year until it reaches the equal split amount.

A very Happy New Year to you all!
Jack

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Welcome New Board Members: There are several new members on the board who were elected at our Annual Meeting in December. We welcome Cathy Gleason and Robert Salemi to our board, joining returning members re-elected and ready to take on the challenges ahead. Sheryl Jeremiah who was also elected at the December meeting has regretfully had to resign. The Board will be deciding in upcoming meetings what to do with this open position.

CHRISTMAS TREE DROP-OFFS

The city of Phoenix Public Works and Parks departments have partnered again this year with A to Z Equipment Rental & Sales to offer free drop-off locations for cut Christmas trees, Dec. 26 to Jan. 8. Trees will be recycled and turned into mulch for city parks and other uses. Trees must be free of all decorations, tree stands, nails and metal stakes. Trees may only be left at the specified parking lot site within the park, sunrise to sunset. Sites accept single trees from Phoenix residents only. For multiple tree loads, please call 602-262-7251.

Christmas tree drop-off locations, by area:

North Phoenix: Deer Valley Park, Utopia Road and 19th Avenue; Paradise Valley Park, 40th Street, south of Union Hills Drive; Sereno Park, Sweetwater Avenue and 56th Street; Cactus Park, 3800 W. Cactus Road.; Mountain View Park, Peoria and Seventh Avenues.

Central, West, East Phoenix: Marivue Park, Osborn Road and 59th Avenue; Washington Park, Maryland and 23rd Avenues; Madison Park, Glenrosa Avenue and 16th Street; Los Olivos Park, Devonshire Avenue and 28th Street; Desert West Park, Encanto Boulevard and 67th Avenue.

South Phoenix: El Reposo Park, Alta Vista Road and Seventh Street; Mountain Vista Park, 50th Street, north of Ray Road; Cesar Chavez Park, 35th Avenue and Baseline Road; Desert Foothills Park, Desert Foothills and Chandler Boulevard.

Trees may be dropped off at A to Z Equipment Rental & Sales, 15634 N. 32nd St. or 4050 E. Indian School Road, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dec. 26 to Jan. 7 (except Dec. 31 where trees will be accepted 9 a.m. to noon. Stores will be closed on New Year's Day). Trees also may be dropped off at the "I Recycle Phoenix Festival," 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30, Seventh Avenue and Camelback Road. For more information on reducing, reusing and recycling, call 602-262-7251 or visit phoenix.gov/publicworks.

The city's residential recycling program does not accept the following holiday related materials:

- Plastic or foil wrapping paper
- Ribbons/bows/yarn
- Foil-embossed greeting cards
- Plastic bubble wrap and foam packing materials
- Confetti
- Strings of lights
- Light bulbs
- Christmas trees (artificial or real)
- Holiday decorations
- Electrical extension cords
- Paper cups
- Candles
- "Film" plastic

REDISTRICTING WEB PAGE

Redistricting - City Clerk staff is working with staff in Public Information and Information Technology to create the redistricting information web page. The redistricting page is on schedule to be posted about January 10, before the public hearings begin in late January.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR BREAKFAST

Celebrate the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday at the 26th annual MLK Awards Breakfast, "Stand Up for Justice," 7 to 9:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 13, at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel, 340 N. Third St. Doors open at 6:30 a.m. The event recognizes one winner for the Calvin C. Goode Lifetime Achievement Award and six individuals for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Living the Dream Award, who have made Phoenix a better place to live through a lifelong commitment to creating a compassionate and socially just society.

The Calvin C. Goode Lifetime Achievement award will be presented to Dr. Gene C. Blue, president and chief executive officer of Arizona Opportunities Industrialization Center (Arizona OIC). The award recognizes an exceptional individual who has made Phoenix a better place through a lifelong dedication to promoting social and economic justice, defending civil rights and enhancing the dignity of all people. The award is named for former Phoenix City Councilman Calvin C. Goode, who worked to ensure these rights for all residents during his 22-year tenure on the council.

The six Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Living the Dream awardees include: Dr. Madeline Adelman, associate professor, Justice and Social Inquiry, Arizona State University; Dr. Donald Campbell, retired, Arizona State University; Dr. Wil Counts, professor emeritus, Gateway Community College and pharmacist, PharMerica; Adam Lopez Falk, governing board member, Alhambra Elementary School District #68; Dr. Carnella Hardin, business faculty emeritus, Glendale Community College; and Jerry Oliver II, detective, city of Phoenix Police Department.

The event is sponsored by the Arizona Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee and supported by the Phoenix Human Relations Commission. The awards breakfast is one event in a series of activities throughout the month of January to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Cost for the event is \$65 per person or \$650 for a table of 10. The reservation deadline is 4 p.m. Jan. 6. To receive a reservation form and/or obtain additional information on this or other Dr. King events in January, call 602-254-5081.



MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!
TIME TO RENEW YOUR COPRA MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2012**

Please check the mailing label on this Chronicle for the "Dues Paid Thru:" year. If the "Dues Paid Thru:" year is "2011", you should renew your COPRA membership now!

If you receive the COPRA Chronicle by email which doesn't have a mailing label, you should have received an email in December advising you of the status of your COPRA membership.

As a retiree, it is important that you stay abreast of events happening in the City that may have an impact on your benefits and the retirement fund. Please renew your membership today. As our motto says, "Membership is Our Strength."

COPRA membership dues are \$10.00 annually. The dues special is still available so if you pay dues for 4 years (\$40.00), you get credit for 5 years. To renew your COPRA membership, send a check payable to "COPRA" to the following address:

COPRA
% Marvin Roelse
10701 East Peralta Canyon Drive
Gold Canyon, AZ 85118-5130

CITY MANAGER'S CORNER

A common misconception about retirees is that they don't understand or use social media. Nothing could be further from the truth. I've seen studies that indicate almost 28 million people over 55 participate in social networking.

City of Phoenix retirees are especially tech-savvy, using email, Google, Yahoo, Facebook, and YouTube to stay connected. You'll be glad to know that the city has increased its use of social media to communicate with residents, regardless of their age.



I know many of you regularly check our Facebook page, where you can find news, photos and videos about city events. By "liking" us at facebook.com/cityofphoenix, residents can get up-to-the-minute information about the city. Several city departments, including Phoenix Public Library, Parks and Recreation and Aviation, also have their own Facebook pages.

Just about every city department has a Twitter account, making it easy to get updates about what's going on in city departments. Visit phoenix.gov/socialmedia for a list.

And, thousands of residents subscribe to city list serves to receive emails about news releases, weekly job announcements, transit updates, City Council agendas and more. To subscribe to a particular list, visit phoenix.gov/subscribe.

Technology also has changed the way residents view PHX11 or report problems in their neighborhoods. You no longer need a TV to enjoy PHX11, the city's news and information station, because programs are available online, live and on demand, at phoenix.gov/11.

Got a smart phone? If so, there's a free application that allows residents to point, click and send photos of graffiti, over-height weeds, abandoned shopping carts and other blight violations to the city's Neighborhood Services Department. Phoenix was the first city in the nation to offer this application.

I've noticed that more departments are using QR codes, those little black-and-white square images that recently started popping up on everything from magazine ads to soap bottles.



Quick Response (QR) codes are two-dimensional barcodes that store large amounts of data. The combination of smart phones and QR codes created a powerful new way for people to get information at the click of a button. City departments are using the technology in innovative ways to enhance customer service:

- Aviation's Sky Harbor Airport uses the codes on comment cards to make it easier for travelers to provide feedback; bus-stop signage so travelers can receive a reminder about where they parked; and staff shirts inviting people to view the airport's new mobile website.

(Continued on page 6)

CITY MANAGER'S CORNER (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 5)

- Parks and Recreation places QR codes on park signs that invite visitors to take a “Park Quality Survey” on phoenix.gov.
- The Phoenix Convention Center prints codes on business cards that are given to visiting clients. This provides a streamlined and time-saving way for customers to easily download and store contact information on their smart phones.
- At Phoenix Public Library, QR codes on posters promote library programs and point to calendar listings on the library’s mobile website.
- Planning and Development’s Historic Preservation Office printed the codes on postcards to promote “Midcentury Marvels: Commercial Architecture of Phoenix, 1945-1975.” The code goes to an order form on phoenix.gov that allows customers to order and pay for the book online.
- Public Works places the codes on posters and signage that point to recycling and household hazardous materials information on phoenix.gov.

Quick Response codes support the city’s overall innovation, efficiency and sustainability goals because they represent a more efficient use of resources and reduce the amount of paper and ink associated with printed materials.

Don’t let the emphasis on social media discourage you from picking up the phone and calling the city if you have a problem or suggestion.

As of this writing, plans are under way for the Mayor and City Council inauguration ceremony at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, at the historic Orpheum Theatre. Mayor-elect Greg Stanton, Vice Mayor Thelda Williams and Council members William Gates, Daniel Valenzuela and Michael Nowakowski will be inaugurated for four-year terms. This will be the first term for both Mayor-elect Stanton and Councilman-elect Valenzuela from District 5.

Phoenix residents can watch the event live on Cox Cable Channel 11 or on phoenix.gov/11.

I know I speak for all city employees when I say we are looking forward to working with the Mayor and the Council to make Phoenix the best city in the world.

TIDBITS OF INFORMATION

Consider itemizing deductions after age 65 if your medical expenses, including Medicare premiums, are more than 7.5% of adjusted gross income. Many seniors simply claim the standard deduction because they pay little or no mortgage interest and do not pay much in state and local income property taxes. But medical deductions cover more expenses than many seniors realize. Premiums for Medicare Part B, Medicare Part D for prescriptions drugs and Medicare Advantage policies count as medical expenses. So do premiums for Medigap policies and, within limits, qualified long-term-care insurance. Out-of-pocket copayments, deductibles, and dental and vision costs also count.

SmartMoney.com

Experts are available to answer questions online at www.FoodSafety.gov for: Food recalls and alerts, roasting times and temperatures, proper storage, power-failure strategies, food poisoning symptoms and treatments.

In Remembrance

Rudy Hernandez	10/08/11	
Doris Normle	11/04/11	
Rolf Koenigs	11/20/11	
Robert Billek	11/27/11	
Ralph G. Smith	11/30/11	
Carol A McDonald	12/05/11	Survivor
Ronald Davis	12/07/11	
Betty Jensen	12/09/11	
Rose Knapheide	12/11/11	Survivor
Donovan Adkisson	12/11/11	
Henry Blanco	12/15/11	

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.

NEW RETIREES

October 2011

Robert A. Allen
 Harvey Baker
 Michael Bornhoeft
 Richard Canez
 Cheri Ditto
 William Fagiola
 Toni Garvey
 James Hays
 Angela Holguin
 Alice Houlihan
 Robyn Knotts
 Jean Maiocco
 Carol Marben
 Alvin Marsh
 Victor Merino
 Cindy Morrissey
 Roger Olsen
 F. Tyler Rich
 Kathy A. Scarpati
 John Siefert
 Lawrence Smith
 Rachel Spelliopoulos
 Elayne Taylor-Tyler
 John Waldecker

Disclaimer

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

2012 COPRA BOARD

President:	Jack Thomas	(623) 825-6999
	E-Mail	jtnt@cox.net
Vice President:	Laura Ross	(623) 878-3334
	E-mail	ljross50@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Barbara Kellogg	(623) 322-5227
	E-mail	avidgolfer@aol.com
Secretary:	Dawnell Navarro	(623) 412-0854
	E-mail	navarro2@cox.net
Board Members:	Robert Salemi	(480) 821-6707
	E-mail	rsalemi451@gmail.com
	Cathleen Gleason	(623) 399-9190
	E-mail	cgleason2@cox.net
	Sue Stites	(602) 819-7106
	E-mail	ssites@cox.net
	Karen Clifford-Anderson	(623) 772-7472
	E-mail	kcliffander@yahoo.com
	Yvonne Warren	(602)952-1025
	E-mail	yimmons@yahoo.com
	Vacant	
Benefits Committee Chair & Health Task Force:	Laura Ross	(623) 878-3334
	E-mail	ljross50@gmail.com
Retirement Board Rep:	Cathleen Gleason	(623) 399-9190
	E-mail	cgleason2@cox.net
Member Support and Social Chair:	Vacant	
Membership Chair:	Marvin Roelse	(480) 288-1046
	E-mail	marvinr567@msn.com
Website Chair:	Sue Stites	(602) 819-7106
	E-mail	ssites@cox.net
Chronicle Editor:	Mary Dysinger-Franklin	(602) 705-8822
	E-mail	copranewsletter@gmail.com

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

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



JANUARY COPRA CHRONICLE

Annual dues includes \$5.00 for the COPRA Chronicle
Dues are \$10.00
COPRA Chronicle (**USPS No. 0016-924**) is published
Monthly, except June, July and August
By City of Phoenix Retirees Association
1465 E. Rosemonte Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85024-2962
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



*COPRA wishes everyone
A Healthy &
Prosperous New Year!*

MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Dates for the General Membership meetings specifically for
Pension
Health and Benefits
State of the City
& Holiday Party
will be established after the first of the year**

**Board meetings are at 10 am on the 2nd Thursday of the Month
Except for June, July and August**