



# COPRA CHRONICLE

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

September 2021

**MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH**

Issue 6

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### **"Membership is our Strength" MEMBERSHIP**

Membership for COPRA is \$12 per year or \$50.00 for 5 years. If you have changed your address, email address or phone number, or have any questions about dues payments, please contact Linda Henderson.

Linda can be reached by: telephone at 623-693-9955, or by email at [lindajoyhenderson@gmail.com](mailto:lindajoyhenderson@gmail.com)

**Mail payments to:**  
COPRA  
PO Box 2464  
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340

**PayPal Payments:**  
You can send in dues via PayPal. Use our email address [phoenixcopra@gmail.com](mailto:phoenixcopra@gmail.com) from your account.

## COPERS NEEDS OUR HELP!

Please see the message and list below from the City of Phoenix Retirement Administrator.

### **We're looking for you.**

"The Retirement Office is trying to locate the below retirees. If you know them or have information about them, please contact Retirement at (602) 534-4400."

David A. Perez	Ronald Shelton	Richard Casillas
Vaughn Plumb	Rebecca Velasquez	Richard Comella
Louise Riley	Vivian Will	Thomas Connelly
Wilma Rogge	Glen Williams	Evon Daab
Dorothy Roney	Tony Aguilar	Myron Demeritt
Alice Ruiz	Rita Baker	Juan Dominquez
Maria H. Ruiz	Karen Brown	Ida Egelhoff
Theresa Ruiz	Loretta Brown	James Fulbright
Francisco Salinas	Frances Brzoznowski	

## LEARN ABOUT 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY HISTORIC RESIDENCES ON PHXTV

There are almost 50 properties in Phoenix that date back to the 19th century. Join city of Phoenix Historic Preservation Officer Michelle Dodds as she tells the stories of these historic properties. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmlpKzPiZ94>) You will visit the Dougherty - Peterson House (1899), the Rosson House (1895) in Heritage Square, the Evans House (1893) with its unusual "onion" dome, the Jones - Montoya House (1879) the oldest documented house in the city of Phoenix and the Smurthwaite House (1897), which was moved from 7th St and Fillmore to the Pioneer and Military Memorial Park near the Arizona State Capitol.

Source: PHXConnect, August 11, 2021

## CHECKOUT COOL IN YOUR ZIP ON PHXTV

As the 5th largest city in the U.S., Phoenix offers numerous opportunities for residents and visitors to experience Arts & Culture, dynamic dining, world-class museums, outdoor recreation and so much more. Watch PHXTV Cool in Your Zip to find cool places and hidden treasures to visit in your neighborhood.

Source: PHXConnect, April 21, 2021

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Rob Sweeney

Fall will soon be upon us in the Northern Hemisphere. The time when daylight hours shorten, temperatures start to cool and most red-blooded Americans want 24/7 football. As with most things in this COVID-influenced life we lead, we are a bit upside down and are confused if it is 2020 or 2021 after watching the Tokyo Olympics.

I grew up obsessed with sporting events, especially the Olympics. Like ABC's Wide World of Sports always said: "The Thrill of Victory and the Agony of Defeat." My most memorable examples of this: the US beating the Soviet Union in the, 'Miracle on Ice' hockey game in 1980 to set them up for the eventual gold medal against Finland; the heartbreak in 1972 losing to the Soviets in basketball in a heavily contested and protested gold medal game. So many names of champions and athletes we cheered: Carl Lewis; Nadia Comaneci; Eric Heiden; Michael Phelps; Usain Bolt; Bruce Jenner; Brandi Chastain; Mark Spitz; Mary Lou Retton.

Growing up, my focus was not who won a medal, but who represented themselves and country the best. When television commentators opined how unfortunate the athlete placed fourth and missed a medal, I would focus on the fact the athlete just blew their personal best, AKA "PB" out of the water! They have NEVER performed better. How great to peak during the Olympics and leave with a smile and PB!

That same thought came over me during my time watching the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics in the summer of 2021. These athletes have incurred so much in their life just for the chance to be an Olympic athlete. Of the scores and perhaps hundreds of athletes who compete in each event, only three can walk away with a physical prize. The rest bring home the fact they competed in one of the strangest sporting events of all times.

The Olympics were delayed not due to military conflict or political disagreement, as has happened in the past, but due to a pathogen wreaking havoc around the globe. The athletes were able to train in strange conditions, subject themselves to multiple tests and protocols, just for the opportunity to, at least, score a PB!

We all have experienced sacrifices over the past (too tired to count) umpteen months! We have each endured our own Olympic journey. Too many lives lost. Too many opportunities lost. Yet, we remained focused on what is that PB we want tomorrow, next month and next year.

So what is your short, mid and long-term PB goal? My wife and I share the same goal or PB: experience summer in December and January. How? Travel to the Southern Hemisphere! Our oldest daughter and son-in-law live in New Zealand. While we get to communicate easily due to technology, we have not seen their smiling faces in person and embraced since 2019. This may not happen anytime soon, but we remain focused and determined to make it happen. Anything less would be to admit defeat.

We can learn a lot from the elite athlete. Even when they may know they are out of the medals, they keep fighting, like an injured runner rejecting assistance to cross the finish line. We need to stay the course and keep focused on achieving our goal, whenever the opportunity to achieve it may present itself.

Stay safe, healthy and happy - Rob

*"September days have the warmth of summer in their briefer hours,  
But in their lengthening evening a prophetic breath of autumn."*

*—Rowland E. Robinson*

**City of Phoenix retirees are invited to participate.**

The City is once again partnering with Valley of the Sun United Way in its annual campaign where City employees and retirees give back to the community—supporting organizations that give back to families and individuals.

With the help of City retirees, the Community Service Fund Drive (CSFD) raised almost \$25 million since inception in 1998 for health and human services programs. The CSFD Executive Committee is counting on your generous support again, and thanks you for your continued generosity.

No matter where you give, your gift goes far—but not far away. All contributions stay in Arizona to address our most critical health and human service needs. You may consider choosing Agency #9000 to help the Valley of the Sun United Way stomp out hunger; end homelessness; ensure children and youth succeed; and improve financial stability for families. Or consider helping fellow City employees through a donation to Agency #9201, Helping Other Phoenix Employees (HOPE) Fund. This fund is designed to lessen an employee’s financial burden caused by an unexpected event. Or consider donating to an agency that is also eligible for a tax credit.

In addition, we are sponsoring two fun events for our retiree donors including a **CUTEST PET CONTEST** and a **PUB QUIZ COMPETITION** on October 13 at 2pm with PRIZES awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners! You can compete in the competitions for FREE after making a minimum \$5/month pledge to the charity of your choice. For more information on the **CUTEST PET CONTEST** and the **PUB QUIZ COMPETITION** please email [patty.dunlap@phoenix.gov](mailto:patty.dunlap@phoenix.gov).

Everyone is invited to join the Virtual Agency Showcases to learn more about how the work of United Way and local agencies impacts our community. See *page 6* for a schedule of agency presentations. Please email [patty.dunlap@phoenix.gov](mailto:patty.dunlap@phoenix.gov) if you’d like to be invited to these. Additionally, you are all welcome to participate in volunteer opportunities and can find more information at <https://volunteer.vsuw.org/need/> Volunteer hours logged contribute \$24.58/hr toward the CSFD goal!

For a full list of eligible agencies, volunteer opportunities or for any other questions please contact us at [csfd@phoenix.gov](mailto:csfd@phoenix.gov) or at (602) 534-6374.

Contributing to the fund drive is easy and convenient –you can use eCHRIS, submit a paper pledge form or even donate using a credit card. For your convenience, a special retiree pledge form is attached below for your cash or check contribution. We look forward to your continued support as a valued member of our City family.

Sincerely,  
The CSFD Retiree Committee

**RETIRED CITY OF PHOENIX EMPLOYEES  
COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND DRIVE  
PLEDGE FORM**  
[csfd@phoenix.gov](mailto:csfd@phoenix.gov)

**RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:**  
City of Phoenix Human Resources Department  
Attn: CSFD Program Coordinator/Yolie Briseño  
251 W. Washington Street, 7th FL, Phoenix, AZ 85003

Last Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street, City, and Zip Code

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATION**

I would like to make a one-time cash or check contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**Please make checks payable to CSFD.**

*All cash & check donations will be deposited and will count towards the tax year in which it was submitted.*

**CONTRIBUTION DESIGNATION**

There are many worthwhile organizations on our agency list that would benefit from your donation. You may, however, consider selecting from these popular agencies. Or request a full agency list to make your selection.

1. Helping Other Phoenix Employees (HOPE) Fund (Agency #9201); or
2. Valley of the Sun United Way for health and human services programs (Agency #9000).

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Continued on page 6)*

## NEW RETIREES (APRIL)

Cynthia Brown	Police Dept.	Noel Ratliff	Police Dept.
Christine Diaz	Parks & Rec.	Al Rodriguez	Public Works
George Goodale	Street Transportation	Margaret Ruiz	Municipal Court
Frank Holderby	Street Transportation	Cathleen Russo	Parks & Rec.
Joe Martinez	Parks & Rec.	Robert Scott	Public Works
Rita Murphy	Finance Dept.	Thomas Sokatch	Public Works
Barbara Newmeyer	Parks & Rec.	David Miller	Information Tech. Services
Barbara Parascandola	Charging	Olga Soto	Neighborhood Services
Luis Patino	Public Works	Wendy Wonderley	Deputy City Manager's Office
Anthony Pina	Water Dept.		

## NEW RETIREES (MAY)

Kathleen Ahearne	Housing	Robert McFadden	Water Services
Julie Bosshart	Property Management	Mike Nunez	Aviation
Alicia Gallardo	Finance Dept.	Reginald Ragland	Public Transit
Gerald Gallegos	Public Works	Michael Ricuito	Municipal Court
Joseph Guerin	Public Works	Rosalind Rikli	Planning and Dev Dept.
Margaret Harris	Aviation	Curtis Rounsberg	Municipal Court
Brenda Hartle	Human Resources	Dale Schmidt	Water Services
James Kotchou	Aviation	Joseph Serio	Water Services
Kristine La Roche	Police Dept.	Laurie Stewart	Personnel Dept.
John LaBua	Public Works	Steven Tullock	Water Services
Albert Larsen	Water Services	Elaina York	Water Services
Robert Lopez	Public Works		

## NEW RETIREES (JUNE)

Robert Bates	Aviation	Kenneth McKinney	Aviation
Bertha Figueroa	City Clerk	Robert Favour	Planning and Dev Dept
Michelle Glancy	Aviation	Rocky King	Phoenix Convention Center
Richard Gonzales	Parks & Rec.	Cindy McLaughlin	Neighborhood Services
Stephen Tassinari	Parks & Rec.	Jack Noble	Street Transportation
Charles Thomas	Water Dept.	Ronda Hollander	Information Technology Services
Alice Valenzuela	Civil	Jaime Tovar	Street Transportation
John Hicks	Public Works	Alberto Gonzalez	Information Technology Services
Jeffrey Holland	Public Works	Cindy Walker	Information Technology Services
John Mason	Parks & Rec.		

## YOUR E-MAIL IS YOUR ENTRY

As you all know, receiving the COPRA Chronicle by email significantly defrays the printing and postage costs for COPRA. An added benefit is that if there is any important information that COPRA wants to send you, we have your email address on file and can transmit to you in a timely fashion.

In order to encourage our COPRA members to receive the Chronicle by email, each month we will randomly select one member who receives their Chronicle by email and that member will receive a \$25 gift certificate to a grocery store (Fry's or Safeway).

The September winner is **Lisa Nevitt**. **CONGRATULATIONS LISA!**

If we already have your email address, you are automatically entered! If you do not receive the Chronicle by email, do so NOW! You can provide your email to Linda Henderson at [lindajoyhenderson@gmail.com](mailto:lindajoyhenderson@gmail.com). She can also be reached by phone at (623) 693-9955.

**Sign up now!**

## IN REMEMBRANCE

### You asked and we responded!

We have received requests over the past year to include the Department for which our deceased retirees last worked. Beginning this month, we will include that information, if we have it available. For many years that information was not shared with us, so we do not have the information for many of them.

Also, we were asked to identify those who are listed in the column who were surviving spouses of City retirees, as opposed to the retiree themselves. Those on the list who are surviving spouses will have the retiree's name in parentheses after the deceased's name.

Name	Department	Date of death
Betty Alford		04/11/2021
Rocky Alvidrez	Water Services	04/21/2021
Lupe Sotelo		04/19/2021
Michael F. Thomas		04/20/2021
Larry R Leister		05/01/2021
Alexander Archacki Jr		03/27/2021
Arthur McKinn		05/05/2021
Jesus G. Ybarra		06/02/2020*
Virginia Cluen (Lawrence)		04/29/2021
Craig Babonis	Public Works	04/30/2021
Frank B. Gonzales		01/17/2021*
Dolores M. Woytonik (Edward)		04/08/2021
Ricardo R. Sanchez		04/14/2021
Mary Reynolds (Duane)		05/06/2021
Hortencia Cota (Luis)		01/21/2021*
Joseph Camerata (Roma)		05/03/2021
Mary A. Torres	Water Services	05/21/2021
James A. Smith	Aviation	05/20/2021
Carmen Serrano (Arthur)		05/21/2021
Rochelle Garrison (Robert)		05/08/2021
Charles McCormick		05/20/2021
Beatrice Gamez (Conrad)		05/20/2021
Anita Van Boerum	Human Services	05/07/2021
Carl Ferrell		05/25/2021
Don L. Stevens		05/30/2021
Helen Hullum		05/26/2021
Linda Hinkley		05/01/2021
Cross Mocerri		06/07/2021
Robert S. Molnar	Water Services	05/06/2021
Cresencio Vidaure		06/01/2021
Margaret E. Luther		05/21/2021
Betty Duprest (Camiel)		06/06/2021
Jean Renaud		06/12/2021
Raymond Figueroa		05/27/2021
Gary D. Huebner		06/11/2021
John Barter		06/16/2021
Alfred Valenzuela		05/19/2021
Adolfo Medrano		06/04/2021
Kenneth J. Hook		06/18/2021
Edwin A. White		06/06/2021
David Elkin		06/30/2021
Vicki Kimelman		06/26/2021
Gloria J. Shelton		06/14/2021
Bertha Palma (David)		06/28/2021
Karin Magdaleno		06/08/2021
Marilyn Crider (Richard)		06/04/2021
Alvin Moore Jr.		06/11/2021



## IN REMEMBRANCE (CONTINUED)

Nelson J. McCoy		04/27/2021
Dorethea V. Daye		11/28/2020
Ronald W. Land	Public Works	07/18/2021
Joe L. Loreda		07/06/2021
Glenyce Beadles (Rufus)		06/25/2021
Harvey Baker		07/17/2021
Michael Gorecki		07/09/2021
David P. Wendell		07/12/2021
Rodney B. Lyons Sr.	Street Transportation	01/22/2021
Paulette Camfield		07/13/2021
Lissant Reed Forman		07/26/2021
Joseph R. Motto		07/21/2021
Christopher Fickling	Parks & Recreation	07/16/2021
Gladys I. Gordon (Gerald)		07/17/2021
Joe V. Moreno		07/31/2021
Carolyn Richardson (John)		04/25/2021
Lola Bishop	Parks & Recreation	07/02/2021
Frances Sutton		07/17/2021
Barbara VanMilligan		08/05/2021
Dalcie Jespersen	Human Resources	08/08/2021
Robert Anderson	Water Services	07/27/2021
Valerie McDonough	Aviation	08/12/2021
Roy Yanez	Parks and Recreation	08/02/2021

\*This date is correct. Retirement was not notified until May 2021 that this retiree had passed.

## 2021 COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND DRIVE (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 3)*

### Save the Dates -- Virtual Agency Showcases

- |   |                 |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| • Wednesday, September 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 12:00 to 1:00pm | • Wednesday, September 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 12:00 to 1:00pm |
| • Monday, September 13 <sup>th</sup>    | 12:00 to 1:00pm | • Monday, September 27 <sup>th</sup>    | 12:00 to 1:00pm |
| • Wednesday, September 15 <sup>th</sup> | 12:00 to 1:00pm | • Wednesday, September 29 <sup>th</sup> | 12:00 to 1:00pm |
| • Monday, September 20 <sup>th</sup>    | 12:00 to 1:00pm |   |                 |

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT THE CITY OF PHOENIX COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND DRIVE

When you volunteer with the Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW) as a City of Phoenix Retiree your efforts count towards the retiree giving goal. For every hour you volunteer, \$24.83 is credited to the CSFD on your behalf. Hours are tracked via the VSUW website.

In addition to volunteer opportunities you can find at Volunteer (vsuw.org) , there is an exciting opportunity to inspire a love of reading as well as tutor students via a program called Vello. Created by the team of the Valley of the Sun United Way, Vello has been adopted by some 15 United Way chapters across the country.

Vello is the innovative, 1:1 tutoring program from United Way that matches tutor teams with local classrooms for guided reading support. Vello mobilizes passionate professionals to tutor students in reading through a safe and secure digital setting. Together, students and tutors read e-books using super simple screen sharing and audio. Check Vello out at: Vello 1-on-1 online tutoring.

If you are interested in participating or learning more about the Vello opportunity, please email Patty at [patty.dunlap@phoenix.gov](mailto:patty.dunlap@phoenix.gov).

Thank you,  
CSFD Retirement Committee

## BENEFITS OPEN ENROLLMENT IS COMING!

We have not received information about open enrollment dates, yet. But be prepared! Open enrollment is usually from mid-October to Mid-November. We will have more information in the October Chronicle.

We expect that notices will be mailed out with open enrollment dates and with information about offerings for 2022. **It is especially important** to keep contact information (including email address) up to date for open enrollment season. If your information has changed since last year, please contact the Benefits Office at 602-262-4777 or by email at [benefits.questions@phoenix.gov](mailto:benefits.questions@phoenix.gov) as soon as possible. If you know of any other retirees whose information may have changed, please encourage them to contact the Benefits Office, also.

## NEW MEMBERS

Margaret Harris	Aviation
Benita Beckles	Water Services
Judy Sotelo	Police Dept.

## DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN WEBSITE TRANSFORMATION

On May 28, 2021 the city of Phoenix Deferred Compensation Plan website ([phoenixdcp.com](http://phoenixdcp.com)) went through a digital transformation. Before you log into your account, you'll notice the enhanced layout was designed to be more intuitive. All navigation is from the homepage, making your choices easy and clear so you can focus on what truly matters to you. Enhancements include digital services, online tools, access to upcoming workshops and a host of financial education tailored to your life stage. Take some time to explore the new user-friendly site!

Source: PHXConnect, May 26, 2021

### Disclaimer

All articles are for informational purposes and not intended to be a substitute for professional, legal, financial or medical advice. Consult an attorney or other professional what is best for your situation. COPRA expressly disclaims and denies liability for any decisions based on the information presented.

COPRA website.....	<a href="http://www.phoenixcopra.com">www.phoenixcopra.com</a>
COPERS website.....	<a href="http://www.phoenix.gov/copers">www.phoenix.gov/copers</a>
COPMEA website.....	<a href="http://www.copmea.com">www.copmea.com</a>
City Retirement Systems (COPERS).....	(602) 534-4400
Human Resources - Benefits Section .....	(602) 262-4777
COPMEA.....	(602) 262-6858

## 2021 COPRA BOARD

President:

**Rob Sweeney** 480-215-2215  
E-mail [coprapresident@gmail.com](mailto:coprapresident@gmail.com)

Vice President/Benefits Chair:

**Laura Ross** 623-878-3334  
E-mail [ljross50@gmail.com](mailto:ljross50@gmail.com)

Treasurer:

**Louis Matamoros** 623-734-6624  
E-mail [biglou6415@yahoo.com](mailto:biglou6415@yahoo.com)

Secretary:

**Barbara Wiess** 602-799-1374  
E-mail [b1925wiess@gmail.com](mailto:b1925wiess@gmail.com)

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**Susan Perkins** 602-861-5914  
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Chronicle Chair:

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E-mail [lindajoyhenderson@gmail.com](mailto:lindajoyhenderson@gmail.com)

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E-mail [sssites@cox.net](mailto:sssites@cox.net)

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**Mary Dysinger-Franklin** 602-705-8822  
E-mail [copranewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:copranewsletter@gmail.com)

### Chronicle Article Deadline

Please be advised that the deadline for submitting articles for the Chronicle is the **20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:COPRAnewsletter@gmail.com)

Or mail to: Mary Dysinger Franklin, 6208 E Desert Cove Ave, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

# SEPTEMBER COPRA CHRONICLE

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**POSTMASTER**

Please send address corrections to:  
COPRA  
PO Box 2464  
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340



## **2021 MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Membership meetings held

**Virtually until further notice**

**October meeting date TBD - Healthcare Update**

**December meeting date TBD - Holiday Luncheon/Board Member Voting**

Board meetings are held quarterly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month  
Except for June, July and August.