



COPRA CHRONICLE

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

May 2011

MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH

Issue 1

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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

REVERSE 911

For Maricopa County, AZ Residents –

***When you have an emergency you know to call 911.
What happens if there is an emergency in your area that you should know about?***

How about Reverse 911!!

Maricopa County, AZ residents are fortunate to have a Reverse 911 System available. It is a system used by your local law enforcement and fire agencies to rapidly notify an affected area of an emergency by sending a recorded message through the telephone system.

Reverse 911 uses the 911 database to extract phone numbers in an area determined by the circle or area drawn on the map. A prerecorded message is sent to the telephone numbers in the area defined. Each notification call will be different as the primary agency handling the emergency will make the recording you will hear.

It is important to follow the instructions on the recording. **Do not call 911.** 911 should only be called when you have an emergency. The emergency notification recording will give you instructions to follow. Your caller ID will show "REVERSE911CALL" as the caller, with a (480) area code.

The system is designed to leave a message on voice mail or an answering machine. It is also designed to call back if the line is busy or if there is no answer.

Cell and VoIP (i.e. Vonage, MagicJack) phones are **not** part of the 911 database but you now have the option to register your Cell or VoIP phone with the Reverse 911 system. You will only receive Reverse 911 notifications based on the address you provide for your Cell and or VoIP phone. Below are the instructions to register your Cell or VoIP phone.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I cannot believe we are now coming into another summer which will mean that this will be the last Chronicle until September. Of course, the CO-PRA Board does not take a vacation and will continue its important work through the summer and will keep updating the website as needed when important information needs to be shared.

May also marks the month for our annual Health and Benefits meeting and the important information that we will be updating you with. Please try to make that meeting if possible. There was recently a very important positive event with the veto announced by Governor Brewer's Office on SB 1322. I know that many of you took the time to write and/or call the Governor and your district representatives on how short sighted and dam-

aging this bill was, focused only on the cities of Phoenix and Tucson forcing the unproductive outsourcing of bids for many sectors of city government. Thank you for doing that for your city.

I asked Rick Naimark (Deputy City Manager), who many of you may remember addressed our membership in March regarding the Pension Reform Task Force, if he would write something for the Chronicle this month since I was unable to attend the Pension Meeting on April 12th. Following are his comments and I thank him for his assistance this month:

"The City's Pension Reform Task Force met again in April, and the process of educating the members on how the pension system works is continuing. Donna Buelow, the City's Retirement Administrator, reviewed for the Task Force prior studies and audits of COPERS and discussed how the COPERS Board has worked to implement the various recommendations of these reports. Ms. Buelow also reviewed data requested by the Task Force on sick leave and vacation payout and service credits. The Task Force also had the opportunity to meet in Executive Session with Susan Hoffman from the Philadelphia Office of Littler Mendelson, the firm retained by the City to advise the Task Force on the legal issues related to the pension system and its potential reform. Ms. Hoffman and the Littler team will continue to advise the Task Force and the Mayor and Council as the pension reform effort progresses.

The City recently received responses to its RFP for an actuarial and consulting firm to assist the Task Force in its efforts and will be making a selection during the month of May. The selected firm will review COPERS plan provisions, provide a comparison to other public and private defined benefit pension plans, conduct an actuarial analysis of the financial impact of changes to various plan provisions, and help identify and assess the impact of alternative plan options. The consultant will also assess the financial impact of recent revisions adopted by the State for the Elected Officials and Public Safety Retirement Plans."

In closing I wanted to remind everyone that the next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for June 1st. I encourage all of you who are interested to continue to check the City website for any schedule changes for this committee which can happen as we move through the year. You will also be able to review the minutes of these committee meetings on the City website as I outlined in last month's Chronicle.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the annual Health and Benefits Meeting on May 19 and also for all of you to have a safe and wonderful summer.

Jack

REVERSE 911 (CONTINUED)

(continued from page 1)

Go to: <http://maricoparegion911.org/cens.htm>

Click on:



Read: Terms and Conditions

Click on: "Yes I agree" and then the continue button.

Complete registration. **Remember your user name and password so that you can update your address if you move.**

If you move or change any of your information and have self registered your Cell or VoIP phones you will have to update your address/information in the same location

(<http://maricoparegion911.org/CENS.htm>) by signing in with your user name and password. You will **not** have to update your land line information serviced by Qwest, Cox or other local phone companies as that information will automatically be updated within the 911 database.

THE EMPLOYEE MORTGAGE PROGRAM[®]

Ready to buy a home?

House-hunt with confidence using PriorityBuyer[®] preapproval

Planning to take advantage of today's historically low interest rates and lower housing prices? You can get homebuying help with The Employee Mortgage Program[®] from Wells Fargo, because you're a retiree of the City of Phoenix.

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1. A *PriorityBuyer* preapproval is based on our preliminary review of credit information only and is not a commitment to lend. We will be able to offer a loan commitment upon verification of application information, satisfying all underwriting requirements and conditions, and providing an acceptable property, appraisal, and title report. Not available on nonconforming products.

2. Available on all qualified purchase transactions. Other terms and conditions apply. See a home mortgage consultant for details.

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COPRA MEMBERSHIP

MARCH 2011 - 2783

MARCH 2010 - 2508

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHRONICLE!!!!

(IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID YOUR 2011 DUES)

If you have not paid your 2011 COPRA membership dues, this will be your last COPRA Chronicle. Members who have not paid their dues will be dropped from membership before the next Chronicle is distributed in September 2011.

Please check the mailing label on this Chronicle for the "Dues Paid Thru:" year. If the "Dues Paid Thru:" year is "2010", you should renew your COPRA membership now!

Members who receive the Chronicle by email and have not paid their 2011 dues will receive a email soon advising them of the need to paid their dues now.

**You should renew your COPRA membership now
so you can continue receiving the Chronicle.**

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

CHANGES TO CITY HEALTHCARE INSURANCE

Find out about the changes to the city healthcare insurance and prescription coverage at the next COPRA meeting on May 19th.

The schedule for the city healthcare insurance will be available at the next COPRA meeting. City representatives will discuss changes and costs that will take affect August 1, 2011. Please plan to attend. If you are unable to attend the schedule will be posted on the website at www.phoenixcopra.com.

As a side note: Laura Ross, Karen Clifford-Anderson, Gary Gross and staff from Human Resources met with representatives from the Area Agency on Aging with regard to Medicare. The Area Agency on Aging is currently working with Parks & Recreation to have staff on site at various Park's Senior Center facilities to assist individuals with Medicare questions and concerns and to assist individuals through the Medicare process if needed. More information will be available in September.

"Membership is Our Strength"

NEW RETIREES

February 2011

Olivia Bates
Louise Blakley
Barbara Bowman
Richard Bursley

Elpidio Gabriel
David Golembeck
John Gorajczyk
Gloria Hurtado

Earl Jacob, Jr.
Edward Karsten
Larry Schone
Gary Shagena

CITY MANAGER'S CORNER

Last month, I highlighted a few results from the latest city of Phoenix Community Attitude Survey.

The survey, which is conducted every other year, provides us with important data on what we're doing well and where we can improve. We use the results in the city's strategic planning process to help align our existing resources with what residents value most.

It's a very important tool, which is why I wanted to expand on it this month.

I am very pleased with the overall results. Despite a weak economy and significant budget cuts, residents still overwhelmingly rate Phoenix a good place to live and give the city high ratings for services.

Behavior Research Center Inc. used random sampling to conduct 700 in-depth interviews with Phoenix residents in December 2010. Since 1985, the city has contracted with an independent research firm to conduct the survey.

The city received an "A" for two of the most important indicators – quality of life and employees treating our customers with professionalism and care.

The survey shows that 91 percent of Phoenix residents say Phoenix is a "good place to live." This important indicator slightly improved from the 2008 survey.

Residents gave the highest ratings ever for how city employees handle contacts with the public, with 95 percent saying employees treated them professionally and courteously. I am extremely proud of our employees for this outstanding rating, especially when you consider their workloads have increased.

The survey also asked questions about 30 different city services. The highest-rated services were emergency medical response and fire protection, Sky Harbor International Airport and garbage/recycling collections.

Other highly-rated areas were libraries; preserving mountains and deserts; collection frequency of "uncontainerized" bulk trash; keeping parks clean; providing residents with Internet access to city information; and police protection.

The survey also indicated areas in need of improvement, including countering gang activities; providing services for the poor and homeless; providing job training for the unemployed; attracting new employers; and retaining and growing existing businesses.

These are important issues, and the mayor, City Council and I are working hard to make improvements in those areas.

A new question asked residents for feedback on the Phoenix Police Department. The survey showed that 87 percent of respondents agree that the Police Department has a difficult job; 79 percent have confidence in the department; 71 percent said Police use appropriate force in performing their duties; 66 percent indicate that Phoenix police officers treat all residents with respect; and 59 percent said that the Police Department treats all residents fairly regardless of race.

In 2010, I formed the Police Community Outreach Task Force with residents, business owners, the faith community and nonprofit organizations to help the Police Department improve and strengthen its relationship with the community. Already, this Task Force – along with the Police Department's leadership – has commenced the hard work of making our officers' strengths even stronger and helping us face the challenges we need to deal with to better protect the community.

To view the 2010 Community Attitude Survey, visit phoenix.gov.



(continued on page 6)

MAKE SURE YOU GET THE LAST SAY

According to Nationwide Retirement Solutions, the administrator of the city's 457 and 401(a) Plans, "Life events" are what retirement plan experts, insurance professionals and lawyers often call acts that can change the course of your life. You had one when you retired, but marriages, divorces, births and deaths are other common examples. Any event that affects the major decisions in your life qualifies. Many people recognize that when a life event occurs, it's time to update their will. But what about beneficiary designations forms on file with the city of Phoenix 457(b) / 401(a) Plans?

Keep in mind that updating your will may not be enough. For example, if your will says everything goes to your daughter, but your 457/401(a) Plans' beneficiary designation form on file with Nationwide designates your-now ex-spouse, your ex-spouse may get your account assets. Remember, beneficiary designation forms cannot be changed after a death occurs, even if "everybody knows" what your wishes really were.

You can help your loved ones transition through your final life event by regularly reviewing your beneficiary designation form on file for the city's 457/401(a) Plans even after retirement. Consider not only your primary beneficiary, but contingent beneficiaries – the person or persons who would receive your assets if your primary beneficiary precedes you in death. Because selecting beneficia-

ries often entails legal questions, it may be wise to consult your attorney before making beneficiary designations. Neither Nationwide nor the city of Phoenix may offer legal or tax advice. Please consult your own counsel for such services.

Consider making a beneficiaries review part of annual events in your life, such as at tax time, over the holidays, or on your birthday. To request a Nationwide 457/401(a) Plans beneficiary designation form:

- Select the Forms tab at the Plans' website, www.phoenixdcp.com.
- Send an e-mail to AskUs@Nationwide.com.
- Call Nationwide at 602-266-2733 or toll-free at 800-891-4PHX (4749).
- Visit the Phoenix Nationwide Retirement Solutions office at 4747 N. 7th Street, Suite 418, Phoenix.

To update your beneficiary(ies) for your city pension, contact the city's Retirement Office at 602-534-4400.

Nationwide Retirement Specialists are Registered Representatives of Nationwide Investment Services Corporation, Member FINRA. In Michigan only, Nationwide Investment Svcs. Corporation.

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CITY MANAGER'S CORNER (CONTINUED)

(continued from page 5)

Finally, I want to bring you up to speed on the 2011-12 budget. As I indicated last month, the city is facing a General Fund deficit of \$59 million for 2011-12. But after additional savings of \$20 million and carefully considered financial transactions of \$35 million, departments are being asked to cut only \$4 million. The good news is none of the proposed budget cuts have any direct impact on services to the community.

I will present a revised proposed budget to the City Council on May 10, and the City Council is expected to make a decision on the budget on May 24. The Mayor and City Council will consider adopting a budget-balancing plan on June 22, and the approved plan will take effect July 1.

Thanks to all of you for your support during the budget process.

If there are any topics you'd like addressed in this column, please send them to me at david.cavazos@phoenix.gov. I look forward to hearing from you.

In Remembrance

Lucille Bowers	03/19/11	Survivor
William Ettinger	03/31/11	
Honor Herring	04/04/11	
Eileen Dawkins	04/08/11	
Edward Moschioni	04/10/11	
Margaret Moreno	04/16/11	Survivor
Robert Atwood	04/18/11	

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

TIDBITS OF INFORMATION

Volunteering with the City of Phoenix

There are lots of ways to volunteer with the city of Phoenix and now the city has a website to prove it. If you are interested in volunteering with the city of Phoenix visit - <http://phoenix.gov/residents/community/volunteer/index.html> for information on the many opportunities to volunteer with the city.

Phoenix Parks and Rec Offering Photos for Desktops or Screensavers

Lovers of the City of Phoenix's preserves, parks and cultural facilities can now download images of some of their favorite park places to create a screen saver slide show or desktop background for their home computers. The Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department has created a photo download page on its webpage at phoenix.gov/parks that features photos of desert preserves and parks, cultural facilities and city parks. The webpage includes detailed instructions on how to download the photos and create screensavers or desktop background in various computer operating systems.

2011 COPRA BOARD

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Past President:	John Burke (ex officio)	(928) 427-9461

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

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MAY COPRA CHRONICLE

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Gold Canyon, AZ 85118

ENJOY YOUR
SUMMER...



MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Washington Adult Center
2240 W. Citrus Way
Phoenix, AZ

*See you at the
May 19th Meeting!*

May 19, 2011 at 1:30 pm - Health and Benefits
October 13, 2011 at 1:30 pm - City Manager
December 1, 2011- Holiday Party (11:30 am) and Annual Meeting
(Mountain Preserve Center)

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