



COPRA CHRONICLE

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

November 2012

MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH

Issue 4

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COPRA BOARD ELECTIONS

It is election time once again for the COPRA Board of Directors. In the October issue of the Chronicle, we asked if any members were interested in becoming a candidate for a Board position. The only individuals interested in running are the five incumbents seeking re-election. Their biographies have been included in this newsletter. (See page 4)

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. There are only five members seeking election this year for the 2013-2014 term of office.

In accordance with the COPRA By-Laws, if there are no more than 5 candidates seeking office, a formalized ballot process is not required. Voting will be conducted by a "voice vote" at the December 6th COPRA Annual Meeting and Holiday Party.

A special thanks to all who participated in the process:

Robert Salemi, Nominating Committee Chair; Cathy Gleason, Barbara Kellogg, Marvin Roelse, & Jack Thomas.



MEMBERSHIP

Have you changed your address, email address or phone number? For address, email 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

ELECTRONIC 1099R

New for Year End 2012

The City of Phoenix Finance Department – Central Payroll is proud to announce the roll out of the electronic 1099R program in eChris. You will now be able to opt in to a program to receive your 1099R online instead of waiting for your paper copy in the mail.

Here are 4 reasons you should give your consent to view your 1099R online:

1. You will be able to access your 1099R information earlier online by opting into this program. Your 1099R will be available for viewing in late January. If you do not give your consent, your paper 1099R will be mailed during the last week of January.
2. Go Green –You will have access to your 1099R for tax purposes online.

(Continued on page 4)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hi everyone:

Thanks to all of you who attended the October 18th COPRA Meeting. We hope to see you at the December 6th Holiday Luncheon and Annual meeting where we will also elect our officers for 2013.

The October 18th meeting provided an excellent overview by the City Manager, David Cavazos, on the "State of the City" and various activities that have and will continue to take place to keep the City moving forward. It was reassuring to hear all of the efforts being made to keep the City fiscally sound while also continuing to provide the best possible services for its citizens. David also allowed time for those in attendance to ask questions. This provided him a good opportunity to be apprised of the issues and concerns of our retirees. One of the retirees asked a question regarding the 13th Check and our pensions and why David could not provide an increase similar to what the City is doing for current employees through salary adjustments this year.

This allowed an opportunity to once again try to provide some clarity regarding the COPERS System from which we all receive our pensions. COPERS is not under the control of the City Manager; it is run by a separate Board of Directors which includes elected and appointed City employees along with a retiree and citizen participation. Our COPRA board member, Cathy Gleason, serves on the COPERS Board as the retiree member. The guidelines by which COPERS is governed is set by law through the City Charter. Only the citizens of Phoenix can affect Charter changes. I outlined in last month's Chronicle that Phoenix citizens will have an opportunity to vote on Charter changes next March regarding new employees.

Adjustments to our pensions and the 13th Check are strictly governed within COPERS. They can only happen when the fund growth averages 8 percent or higher over a five year period allowing money to be set aside in a reserve fund for current retirees. It has been several years since a 13th Check has been issued because that reserve fund has not grown. Continued fund growth will be required in order for the reserve fund to be built up again. I anticipate that this will happen as the economy and markets continue to prosper, but, unfortunately, not this year.

In closing, I would like to wish all of you a healthy and happy Thanksgiving and I hope to see you at the Holiday Luncheon and Annual Meeting on December 6th. You are certainly welcome to attend just the Annual Meeting if you aren't able to attend the luncheon. However, we hope to see you at both events. Ticket sales continue to grow, so please refer to the information in this month's Chronicle about this upcoming event.

See you then.....Jack

RENEW YOUR COPRA MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2013

Please check the mailing label on this Chronicle for the "Dues Paid Thru:" year. If the "Dues Paid Thru:" year is "2012", you need to renew your COPRA membership!

If you receive the COPRA Chronicle by email which doesn't have a mailing label, you will receive 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 on the front page of the Chronicle says, "Membership is Our Strength."

COPRA membership dues are \$10.00 for all members. 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

PHOENIX ICONS: THE ART OF OUR HISTORIC LANDMARKS EXHIBITION

"Phoenix Icons: The Art of Our Historic Landmarks," featuring photographs of more than 30 historic Phoenix landmarks, by Patrick Madigan and Michael Lundgren, will open to the public from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5, at Phoenix City Hall, The Gallery @ City Hall, 200 W. Washington St., First Floor.

The exhibit is the second in a series of rotating exhibitions from the city's historic Municipal Art Collection of 1,000 artworks. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. The exhibit, on display through March 29, is free to the public.

The works in "Phoenix Icons" were commissioned by the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture Public Art Program. They include once private homes that have been transformed into public venues and once revered schools reborn as new places to learn. An old department store now houses a restaurant and a former auto showroom emerges as the face of a vibrant downtown park.

The Phoenix Arts and Culture Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission have partnered in this exhibition of photographs that feature views of Phoenix' first century historic landmarks and portraits of our mid-century marvels, the distinctive architecture created after World War II.

The gallery is supported by private contributions from businesses and residents throughout the city and region and operated by volunteers. Gallery volunteers must be at least 18 years old and undergo a background check. Selected volunteers will participate in a three-hour training program to learn about the gallery exhibit and the Phoenix Municipal Art Collection. To apply online, visit www.myvolunteerphoenix.org/opportunities/1845 or call 602-262-4637. For more information, visit phoenix.gov/arts. Follow us on Twitter @phxartsculture.

HOLIDAY PARTY

COPRA'S Annual Holiday Party and Annual Meeting Thursday, December 6, 2012

at

The Mountain Preserve Reception Center
1431 East Dunlap, Phoenix, AZ
Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

The Board has kept the same member cost as last year at only \$18 per person

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

Send your check by **November 14, 2012**, made payable to COPRA to

Barbara Kellogg
1465 E Rosemonte Dr
Phoenix, AZ 85024-2962

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

*Menu - Pork Loin & Teriyaki Chicken, Mixed Green Salad w/ Ranch & Italian Dressings;
Mixed Greens & Pasta Salad; Parsley Red Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine; assorted Rolls.
Desserts - 25% Sugar free - Assorted Cakes and Pies*

Limited handicapped parking will be available.

TOY DRIVE

"Once again, COPRA will be collecting toys at our Holiday Party to be delivered to a local toy drive. Past Holiday Party attendees have been extremely generous with their donations. If you would like to donate, please bring a **new unwrapped toy** to assist us in making the season a little brighter for those who are less fortunate. See you on December 6th!"

BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

KAREN CLIFFORD-ANDERSON (incumbent)

Retired from the City Clerk Department in 2007 as Deputy City Clerk after 24 years with the City. Karen has been a COPRA member since retiring and has served on the Board the last four years. She works closely with the Benefits Committee Chair and most recently assisted with the update of the COPRA By-Laws. "I would like to continue to share my experience with COPRA and help the organization be responsive to the current and future interests of retirees."

LAURA ROSS (incumbent)

Retired from the Street Transportation Department in 2005 as a Management Services Administrator after 30 years with the City. Laura has been a COPRA member since retiring and is currently serving as Vice President as well as COPRA's representative to the City of Phoenix Health Care Task Force. "I want to use my knowledge to ensure that retirees continue to receive the best benefits available for a reasonable price."

DAWNELL NAVARRO (Incumbent)

Retired from the City Manager's Office in June 2010 as Secretary to the City Manager after 30+ years of service. Dawnell has served on the COPRA Board since January 2011 as Secretary. "By serving on the COPRA Board, I am able to stay informed about changing policies and practices which not only affect the retiree population but active employees as well. I enjoy assisting a segment of individuals who served the City of Phoenix for many years and deserve the highest degree of representation."

SUE STITES (incumbent)

Retired from the Law Department in 2005 as a Management Services Administrator after 33 years with the City of Phoenix that included work in Police, Municipal Court and Public Works. Sue has been a COPRA member since retiring. "I want to utilize my experience to assist in the ongoing exchange of information with the retiree population through the identification of helpful resources, programs and an enhanced interactive web site."

YVONNE WARREN (incumbent)

Retired from the Personnel Department in 2008 after 32 1/2 years of city service in the Public Works and Personnel Departments. "I have served as a COPRA board member for the past 2 years. I am committed to advancing the needs of our retiree community through the advocacy of our board and our continued relationship with the City and outside resources."

ELECTRONIC 1099R (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

3. Less Exposure to Identity Theft – Your worries about lost or stolen tax information are over. You can now get your 1099R information from the security of your home and print your form only if you choose to.
4. It's Easy! Just sign into eChris and from the Main Menu, go to the Self Service tab, then Payroll and Compensation. Now you'll see a "1099R Consent" option. Click on the **Consent** box and **Submit** your information.

Your **2011** 1099R is available for you to view now in eChris. Opt in today! The deadline to opt in to this program for 2012 1099R's is January 7th.

If you have any questions, please contact Retirement at [602-534-4400](tel:602-534-4400).

NEW RETIREES (AUGUST 2012)

Janet Adams	Human Resources
Robert Bergmann	Aviation
Anne Callaghan	Law
Alexandra Crayton	Budget and Research
Rick Fevela	Water
John Gomez	Public Works
Kurt Gregory	Water
John Hsueh	Police
Edward H. Miller	Parks & Rec
David Sanchez	Water
Gerald Waehner	Parks & Rec

"Membership is our Strength"

CITY MANAGER'S CORNER

Like us at [facebook.com/cityofphoenix](https://www.facebook.com/cityofphoenix)

Have you ever wanted to give back to your community, but weren't sure how? While many COPRA members have so generously donated their time for great causes, I would like to share a story with you and hope that it will inspire others to volunteer their time for a good cause.

Recently, I was driving around town and saw a man painting on the side of the road. I was curious as to what he was doing, and why. After looking into it, I discovered that the man's name is Dan Cronin. He's married with two daughters and three grandsons, yet spends his Saturday mornings painting over graffiti as a Blight Buster Volunteer for the City of Phoenix.



David Cavazos

"I was tired of seeing graffiti and thought, why not do something about it" said Cronin.

I recently met with Mr. Cronin personally to thank him for giving his time to make Phoenix more beautiful as well as save the taxpayers money. There are thousands of people just like Mr. Cronin who have become invaluable assets to our community. In fact, last fiscal year nearly 30,000 people volunteered their time, generating an estimated savings of \$12.7 million dollars for the City of Phoenix. Volunteers allow us to fill the void left by employees who have retired or left the city. They improve the quality of life for the entire community and in the process, learn how the city operates. I am proud of our COPRA and community volunteers and would like to say thank you for your dedication.

If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit www.myvolunteerphoenix.org

VOLUNTEER ELECTION MONITORING OVERSEAS

Are you interested in both a rewarding experience and an expenses paid European trip?

To be considered for a parliamentary election process volunteer opportunity, visit www.pae-react.com. This consultant group works for the U.S. State Department and selects Americans to travel to Europe to join about 200 others in monitoring European elections. To qualify:

1. You must have traveled previously outside of the United States (so that they know you can adjust to some hardship).
2. You have some election experience (have worked on a polling board, have voted in elections, or just have a general interest in the election process).
3. You have a valid passport and are in fairly good health, (PAE provides health insurance while volunteering in that country).

After completing the application form, you become part of a pool of about 800 Americans who want to volunteer. PAE only allows you to monitor one election per year unless more people are needed than have applied. The web site provides a list of elections that are being monitored. All elections are held on Sundays to allow working people to vote.

PAE provides the volunteers with:

(Continued on page 6)

TWO FREE COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

Two free community presentations that highlight Phoenix's development as a city and the preservation of its historic landmarks and architecture will be offered from 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14, and Thursday, Dec. 6, at Burton Barr Central Library, Pulliam Auditorium, 1221 N. Central Ave.

The lectures will feature leading experts on the history of the city, its landscapes, landmarks and buildings. The free series of public talks coincides with the exhibition "Phoenix Icons: The Art of Our Historic Landmarks," on display at the Gallery @ City Hall, 200 W. Washington St., first floor. The show includes 33 photographs of historic Phoenix landmarks and buildings by artists Patrick Madigan and Michael Lundgren.

Robert Graham, principal architect of Motley Design Group, will discuss how historic buildings and sites are interpreted and preserved on Wednesday, Nov. 14. From the perspective of a historical architect for 24 years, Graham will show how those interpretations often shape our view of architecture and history.

Graham has been responsible for many restoration designs in Arizona, include Manistee Ranch, Temple Beth Israel and the Silver King Hotel. He serves as vice chair of the Phoenix Central City Village Planning Committee and president of the Grand Avenue Rail Project.

Philip VanderMeer, associate professor of History at Arizona State University, will present an overview on the "Rise, Fall and Rise of Downtown Phoenix," on Thursday, Dec. 6. The lecture will cover the changing shape and focus of downtown Phoenix in relation to larger national changes. VanderMeer will discuss how urban changes reflect an upsurge in ideas and energy.

VanderMeer teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in community history and Southwestern urban history. He is an author of various essays, a book on postwar Phoenix, "Phoenix Rising" and a recently published study, "Desert Visions and the Making of Phoenix, 1860-2009."

Future presentations will discuss Mid-Century Modern Architecture, the canal landscape that once defined Phoenix and the whimsy of homemade yard art in the city. The lecture series is supported with funds from the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

"Phoenix Icons: The Art of Our Historic Landmarks" is the second in a series of rotating exhibitions featuring the city's historic Municipal Art Collection of 1,000 artworks. The Gallery @ City Hall is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. The exhibit, on display through March 29, is free to the public. The works were commissioned by the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture Public Art Program. The Phoenix Arts and Culture Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission have partnered in the exhibition. The gallery is supported by private contributions from businesses and residents throughout the city and region and operated by volunteers.

For more information, visit phoenix.gov/arts or call 602-262-4637. Follow us on Twitter @phxartsculture.

VOLUNTEER ELECTION MONITORING OVERSEAS (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 5)

1. A plane ticket from your home to the selected country.
2. A per diem of \$1600.00 (which equates to approximately 125 Euros per day) which is deposited into your bank account before you depart.

For most short term assignments, departure is on the Tuesday before the Sunday election with your return scheduled for the following Tuesday.

All visa, airport fees, transportation, and staff to whisk you through customs in these countries are provided by the Europeans. The hotel accommodations are usually single rooms which you pay for from your per diem. A driver and an interpreter are provided and another international is paired with you after completing two days of briefing in the capital city. You then move out to the countryside to conduct your poll watching.

Election monitoring can be very exciting and rewarding. I recently finished my 15th election monitoring assignment. I have met people from 35 European countries. We now have friends that we can stay with all over the continent. Anyone with further questions can contact me by e-mail: Nordie23@aol.com.

Submitted by Norris Nordvold

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ruben Parra	09/06/12
Armando Arias Jr	09/25/12
Ethel Lewis	09/27/12
Lawrence Mattheisen	09/30/12
Mary Lort	10/01/12 Survivor
Peggy Sue Scholtzhauer	10/03/12
James Manuel	10/09/12
Antonio T Ramirez	10/11/12
Emilio Z. Quinones	10/11/12
Robert Coughlin	10/12/12
Carol Ewing	10/14/12
Ruth J Wilson	10/15/12 Survivor
Richard Sinay	10/15/12
Richard Hinds	10/21/12
Ronald Jensen	10/23/12

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.

WOMEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE

A United States Bowling Congress (USBC) sanctioned women's bowling league that meets on Mondays at 6 pm from September through April (33 weeks) at AMF Christown Lanes is looking for you. Join as a team of 4 or as an individual and they will find you a team. The cost is \$15 a week plus the annual USBC \$20 fee. For more information contact Christown Lanes at 602-249-1715 or Debra DeVault at 602-750-9231.



THANKSGIVING WISDOM

Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

~Melody Beattie

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.

~ William Arthur Ward

If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one.

~Mother Teresa

2012 COPRA BOARD

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	E-mail	kcliffander@yahoo.com
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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

Disclaimer

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



NOVEMBER COPRA CHRONICLE

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POSTMASTER

Please send address corrections to:
COPRA Chronicle, %Marvin Roelse
10701 East Peralta Canyon Dr.
Gold Canyon, AZ 85118



Happy Thanksgiving!

2012 MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Don't forget to purchase
your Holiday Party Tickets*

December 6 at 11:30 am - Holiday Party

**Mountain Preserve Reception Center
1431 E Dunlap
Phoenix, AZ**

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