

COPRA CHRONICLE

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

October 2015

MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH

Issue 7

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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 Sheryl Jeremiah, Membership Chair. Sheryl can be reached by telephone at (623) 376-2980, or by mail at: COPRA Chronicle, 19031 N 76th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85303-8303, or by e-mail at sheryljeremiah6@gmail.com

SEEKING COPRA BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEMBERS

We are nearing the time of year when we will be "seeking" new Board of Director members for COPRA.

This year we need to fill some key positions on the board. CO-PRA is an important organization that is always working diligently to develop, promote and carry out activities for the benefit of CO-PRA members and ALL City of Phoenix retirees. Many of the improvements and protections of pensions and other benefits have come through the efforts of COPRA.

If you feel you are the kind of person that can make a difference, consider submitting your name to run as a candidate for the CO-PRA Board! We need COPRA members who are committed to our cause, have special experience in finance (treasury responsibilities), benefits, project management & leadership ability (presidential responsibilities). Just being enthusiastic, an advocate for retirees and being an involved Board member who represents COPRA is just as important too!

There are 12 elected positions on the Board, each serving a twoyear term. Elections are staggered with 6 Board positions coming up for election each year.

Candidate biographies and ballots will be included in the November issue of the COPRA Chronicle with the actual election taking place at the Thursday, December 3, 2015 Holiday Party and Membership Meeting.

If you are interested and would like to discuss becoming a member of the COPRA Board of Directors, please contact Karen Clifford-Anderson at 623-772-7472 or email her at kcliffander@yahoo.com. Please contact Karen no later than October 16, 2014 if you are interested.

(Nominating Committee: Karen Clifford-Anderson – Chair, Dawnell Navarro, Laura Ross, Sue Stites)

President's Message



It should not come as a surprise for any of you reading this message that we are all going to be busy over the next several months in selecting the best possible health insurance to fit our individual needs. The turnout at our COPRA Health Insurance Kick-Off Meeting on September 14 was no surprise with the Washington Adult Center Building filled to capacity with retirees awaiting the first of multiple training session opportunities with Towers Watson. Our City Manager, Ed Zuercher, was kind enough to help us with this kick off meeting along with the senior staff from Human Resources.

Hopefully by the time you read this newsletter you have already attended one of the sessions and received additional insight about the new health insurance program. You perhaps have also scheduled your first consultation with Towers Watson, or at least are in the process of scheduling it. The multiple training schedule sessions were sent to all retirees last month and also appeared in our Chronicle in September as well. You should have also received your introductory packet on how to proceed with your appointment scheduling and the information you need to gather to help the process going forward. If you were out of town or could not make an education meeting, they are being rebroadcast on a "Anytime Webcast" until December 31. Just check for instructions in your packets from the City on how to access this information.

With all that said, I would like to remind everyone that we are all in this together and it will be a different experience than what we have been used to with the City automatically handling the selection of providers and enrollment annually. I say that since I, along with some other board members, have received mostly positive comments about the new direction and potential cost savings from the program, but also a few negative comments as well. As the City Manager has shared in several of his Chronicle articles, the City needed to find better solutions for providing good health insurance for retirees while also keeping overall costs in balance. Those of us who have been actively involved in the initial discussions of options since late spring, the education of potential costs to retirees going forward staying with the current programs, and opportunities for possible alternative solutions all served as a springboard for the City to research these alternative solutions sooner than later. As many of you know, the COPRA Board had also been working with the City for multiple years in trying to find a better direction for health insurance recognizing that the current programs were literally eating away at retiree pensions with no relief in sight.

That was then and this is now. We have the new Private Health Exchange Program going forward and a City Manager and City Council who have given their endorsement for the program for retirees in 2016, but also with the full understanding that the City will not be abandoning retirees and will continue to be supportive for their future needs with the partnership of Towers Watson and every hope that this new program will meet the best expectations for retirees. Time will certainly provide the best measurement on how what looks like a great program at this point will look like in the future.

Also, I would like to remind all COPRA members we are seeking new Board of Director members. COPRA is an important organization that is always working to the benefit of all members and retirees. We are looking for people who want to make a difference! If you are that person, please consider submitting your name to run as a candidate. See the article in this Chronicle for details.

Thank you as always for being supportive of COPRA, and also the work that each and every one of you have done to make the City a better place to live.

Jack

2015 COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND DRIVE City of Phoenix retirees are invited to participate in the August 20 - October 31

With the help of city retirees, the 2014 Community Service Fund Drive (CSFD) raised approximately \$1 million for health and human services and environmental programs. The CSFD Executive Committee hopes we can count on your generous support again.

We are asking you to be part of the city's longstanding tradition of giving back to the community by donating whatever you can to this year's campaign. No amount is too small.

Together, we can help Valley of the Sun United Way stomp out hunger; end homelessness; ensure children and youth succeed; and improve financial stability for families. Working with our other campaign partner—the Environmental Fund for Arizona—we can preserve and protect Arizona's precious environment for future generations.

This year's campaign theme is "Here's the Game Plan, Give Where You Live". The Game Plan to give where you live will be reflected in the campaign's promotional material and events.

For your convenience, we have provided a special retiree pledge form (below) for your cash or check contributions. Your donation will be entered immediately, meaning that it will be part of your 2015 tax year. You may select up to two agencies for your donation. For more information about the campaign contact us by phone (602) 534-6049 or email csfd@phoenix.gov

Your gift goes far – but not far away: All contributions stay in Arizona to address our most critical health and human service needs.

We look forward to your continued support as a valued member of our city family. Please help us reach our \$1 million goal and improve the lives of countless people in our community.

Sincerely.

Gabrielle Kalani **CSFD** Retiree Program Coordinator

RETIRED CITY OF PHOENIX EMPLOYEES **COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND DRIVE PLEDGE FORM**



csfd@phoenix.gov			
_ast Name (please print)		First Name	
Address:			
	Street, City and	Zip Code	
Phone: ()	Email:		
Please make checks payabl		$^{\$}$ v and will count towards the tax ye	ear in which it was submitted.
	_	that would benefit from your donation agencies:	ı. You may consider selecting from
1 Helping Other Phoen	ix Employees (HOPE) Fund (A	gency #9021):	

Iping Other Phoenix Employees (HOPE) Fund (Agency #9021);

- Valley of the Sun United Way for health and human service programs (Agency #9000); or
- 3. Environmental Fund for Arizona for environmental/wildlife/conservation (Agency #EFAZ01)

If you would like to receive a complete list of the 370 qualified nonprofit organizations, please either email csfd@phoenix.gov or call (602) 261-8864 and provide your email address.

Agency:	_Agency#	Amount \$
Agency:	Agencv#	Amount \$

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:

City of Phoenix Human Resources Department •

Attn: CSFD Program ◆ 135 N. 2nd Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85003 Questions? Call (602) 261-8864 ♦ Email csfd@phoenix.gov

NEW RETIREES (MARCH 2015)

NEW RETIREES (JULY 2015)

Ronald Boe **HSD** Parks & Rec **Bonifacio Castro** Patricia Eachus **Public Transit** Darlene Fox Police **Tony Gonzales** Street Trans Edwin Graham Water Services William Higgins Street Trans Michael Greene Public Works Christine Johnson NSD Robert Klein Public Works Roger Lidman Parks & Rec Publ.Works

Israel Lopez II Dianna Manning Public Works Michelle Robison Police Dept George Sandretto Parks & Rec Alice Stallings Aviation Anita Van Boerum **HSD** Maury Walker Planning and Dev Police

Paul Watson Mary Wooten Phoebe Baker Randy Boyle Public Works Mark Cross Public Works Frank Dancil Planning and Dev Robyn Dittmar Planning and Dev Catherine Fifer Planning and Dev Jeffrey Fulcher **Public Works** David Key Water Services Dixie MacDougal Police

Andrew Magdaleno Parks & Rec. Melvin Manning Public Works Jane McNamara Aviation William Pincus Finance Catherine Pompa Water Services

Carmela Ramirez Parks & Rec. Janet Reed PDD Parks & Rec

Martin Sainz Rob Thomson ITS

Elizabeth Traslavina Street Trans Police Rene Turner Parks & Rec Steven Turner Ramona Walton Police Parks & Rec Holly Young



Your Story Deserves To Be Told

You care for older parents, spouses and other loved ones so they can remain in their homes. It's a labor of love, to be sure, and sometimes more than a full time job. Yet, AARP believes that family caregiver stories aren't celebrated nearly enough.

So, share your story and a photo with us — your experiences and memories as a family caregiver. To honor and recognize family caregivers all around the country, AARP will select one caregiver at random from each of the 53 U.S. states and territories to receive a Portrait of Care, an artists' painting of the submitted photo featuring the caregiver and the loved one he or she cares for.

To submit your story go to https://act.aarp.org/iheartcaregivers/stories/submit/

Police

HOLIDAY PARTY

We hope you will join us in making this the best Holiday Party ever! You can look forward to great food, good company, a 50/50 drawing and door prizes.

Caterer: Thursday, December 3, 2015 Atlasta Catering Date: **Ticket Price:** \$20.00

Time: 11:30 am (Doors open at 11:00 am) North Mountain Visitor Center Location:

12950 N 7th St, Phoenix, AZ (.05 miles south of Thunderbird)

To order tickets, send check payable to COPRA before November 29th to the following address:

COPRA

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

Please note: No ticket sales on day of the event and no tickets available by mail after November 29th.



OLLI AT ASU FALL CLASSES ENGAGE 'ENCORE GENERATION' IN LIFELONG LEARNING

For over 10 years, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Arizona State University has brought low-cost educational classes and cultural programs to adults ages 50 and over. This Fall, OLLI is offering over 90 classes in history, art, music, opera, health, creative writing, science, current events, literature, religion, physics, space exploration, Shakespeare and more; there is something for everyone! In fact, two free sessions will be offered – learn how to become a volunteer reading tutor through our partnership with Experience Matters and AARP or improve your hearing health and knowledge by attending Listen Up!

OLLI's Fall class line-up will include several lectures and learning series', including "Meeting Frida Kahlo Up-Close," where students will have the opportunity to study the life and works of Frida Kahlo. OLLI has joined together with the Heard Museum to create an immersive experience, complete with a guided tour from a Heard Museum exhibit curator and a look at Kahlo's photography and personal items.

Throughout the semester, you'll find diverse topics such as DNA Detectives; Atonement, Forgiveness, and Hope: Keys to Resilience; All About Dogs; Salt of the Earth: Lot's Wife; All About Jazz Guitar; World War II: Redefining Asia; Neural Doors to Art Perception; The Films of Jack Nicholson; The Hopi Tribe; Reconstruction: The View from the White House 1861-1881; and Einstein, Life, and Science, to name only a few. OLLI will also be offering "Around the World" Fridays, a chain of lectures focused on awareness of other cultures at the ASU Downtown Phoenix location.

Theatre buffs will have a unique chance to attend a two-part series discussing the history and creation of live acting, dancing and jazz in theatre, followed by admission to a full theatre production of *Chicago* at Phoenix Theatre this semester, giving students a riveting perspective of an iconic American musical.

"The 50-plus generation is now known as the encore generation," says Richard Knopf, director of OLLI at ASU. "Never has there been a greater thirst by seniors to explore, chart new destinies, expand horizons and serve others."

OLLI is part of ASU's Partnership for Community Development in the School of Community Resources and Development, which is in the College of Public Service and Community Solutions. Every Fall, Spring and Summer, OLLI showcases a new slate of classes, all without tests, grades or educational requirements.

Registration is now open for non-credit short courses and lectures that begin in September, October, November and December. Classes are conveniently located in locations throughout the valley: the ASU West and Downtown Phoenix campuses, Tempe Connections at the Tempe Public Library, Friendship Village Tempe and Maravilla Scottsdale.

OLLI at ASU is funded in part by the Bernard Osher Foundation, which supports university-quality educational offerings for mature students interested in learning for the love of learning. ASU is one of several colleges and universities across the United States to have been awarded a permanent Osher Foundation endowment to sustain and support its programs.

The printed schedule is available at most public libraries, senior and community centers, and is now online at <u>lifelonglearning.asu.edu</u>. Class registration is available online. Call (602) 543-6440 for more information.

"Membership is our Strength"

Reminder: Please keep your mailing address up-to-date with the City and with us (COPRA) to assure that you receive important information. If you are a general city retiree (COPERS) please contact COPERS with any address change at (602) 534-4400 and COPRA at sheryljeremiah6@gmail.com

GO PURPLE IN OCTOBER IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Did you know that one in four women and one in seven men have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime?

Please show support for the third annual campaign throughout October with displays of purple, like installing a purple light bulb on your porch, wearing purple on Fridays, tying a purple ribbon on your car antenna, etc.

Also, the city invites everyone to wear purple on Thursday, Oct. 15 and use the hashtag #AZWearPurpleDay on social media.

aint hoenix urple

For more information, visit paintphoenixpurple.org.

If you or someone you know needs help, call the Family Advocacy Center at 602-534-2120 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233.

USPS STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

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IN REMEMBRANCE

Theresa Laforest	07/03/15
Ernest A. Montenegro	07/24/15
Socorro Romero	08/08/15
Julia A. Phillips	08/08/15
Monte D. Donley	08/08/15
Robert D. Jones	08/08/15
Richard Thomas	08/09/15
Kathleen L. Birtciel	08/11/15
Beatrice Flam	08/13/15
Robert W. Henson	08/14/15
Gloria J. Snyder	08/15/15
Travis Fields	08/18/15
Richard J. Scocco	08/19/15
Robert Krebbs	08/22/15
Alice R. Moreno	08/29/15

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 Franklin at (602) 705-8822.

Valuable Travel Tips from America's Friendliest Airport®

Traveling this Fall? Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport wants you to be aware of two helpful services. America's Friendliest Airport® has a handy parking tool where you can check parking availability as well as view recommendations on where to park based on convenience or affordability. Early Bag Check allows travelers flying American, Southwest or United to check their bags before arriving at the terminal at the following locations: East Economy Parking, 44th Street PHX Sky Train® Station or at the Rental Car Center. The service is free, though airline bag fees apply.

For more information, visit skyharbor.com or call the 24-hour parking hotline at 602-273-4545.

2015 COPRA BOARD

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	E-mail <u>lindajoyl</u>	henderson@gmail.com

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ljross50@gmail.com E-mail

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Susan Perkins (602) 861-5914 E-mail siperkins@msn.com

By-laws Review Chair:

Karen Clifford-Anderson (623) 772-7472

E-mail kcliffander@yahoo.com

Member Support and Social Committee Chair:

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COPMEA website	<u>www.copmea.com</u>
City Retirement Systems (COPERS	5)(602) 534-4400
Human Resources - Benefits Section	on(602) 262-4777
COPMEA	(602) 262-6858

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.

OCTOBER COPRA CHRONICLE

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2015 MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW DATE and TIME!

December 3, 2015 at 11:30 am - Annual Holiday Party/Meeting North Mountain Visitor Center 12950 N 7th St, Phoenix, AZ

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