



COPRA CHRONICLE

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

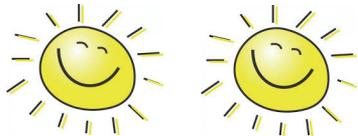
September 2017

MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH

Issue 6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

	Page
President's Message.....	2
Burton Barr Central Library Closed.	2
City Manager's Column	3
Annual Financial Expo.....	3
New Retirees.....	4
Community Service Fund Drive.....	5
In Remembrance.....	6
COPRA Holiday Party.....	6
ECHRIS Update.....	7
Free Equipment.....	7
Call for Volunteers.....	7
New COPRA Members.....	7
COPRA Board.....	7
Meeting Dates.....	8



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 e-mail at 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 from your account.

NON-MEDICARE RETIREE MEDICAL COVERAGE

Non-Medicare retiree medical coverage continues to be provided by the City of Phoenix for its retirees and for non-Medicare dependents of Medicare-eligible retirees. Medical plans remain the same: Cigna HMO, BCBS PPO and BCBS Savers Choice Plan. Deductibles, coinsurance, co-pays and coverage do not change in 2018. Provider networks remain the same.

Actuaries determined that the premium increase for 2018 should be 23.4% based on plan utilization and experience. This is an improvement from the 2017 actuarially determined increase, but higher than retirees can afford. For that reason, the Retiree Rate Stabilization Fund will reduce this increase by 11.5% and the Health Care Benefits Trust will reduce it by an additional 3.5% to result in a **rate increase to retirees of 8.4% in 2018**.

After the Retiree Rate Stabilization Fund is reduced by this 11.5%, a balance of \$7 million remains in the Fund for future City-sponsored medical plan rate adjustments as needed and approved by the Health Care Benefits Trust Board.

Retiree utilization and experience is trending more positively so far in 2017. Alternatives for medical coverage continue to be reviewed for non-Medicare retirees and dependents as we begin thinking about retiree coverage in 2019 and beyond.

Non-Medicare retirees are encouraged to attend the next General Membership Meeting that is scheduled for September 21 at 1:30 pm at the Washington Activity Center located at 2240 W. Citrus Way, Phoenix, AZ.

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, your COPRA Board started a new program! 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).

May's winner is **TRACY DOWDLE. CONGRATULATIONS, Tracy!**

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. She can also be reached by phone at (623) 693-9955.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Laura Ross

It seems that every year that passes, time goes faster. Here it is September and we are on the downside of our summer. I'm not trying to kid anyone that we don't still have another month of hot weather, but other things are changing. We are back to our regular year schedule. Our summer hiatus is behind us.

With business as usual starting again, we will finish the calendar year with our meeting on Health Care, scheduled on September 21st and our Holiday & Annual Meeting on December 8th. As a reminder, the City will be providing a Health Care option in 2018 for ONLY the pre-Medicare retirees and their dependents. Our efforts to join with the State with an option for all City Retirees could not be accomplished for 2018. We will again attempt to bring this about for 2019.

Throughout the summer, we worked with the City to set 2018 rates for the continuation of health care benefits for pre-Medicare retirees. Medical plans remain the same with Cigna HMO, BCBS PPO, and the BCBS Savers Choice Plan as options. Deductibles, coinsurance, co-pays and coverage do not change. The current networks continue to be the same. What does change, of course, is the cost of coverage. Actuaries for the City determined that the increase, based on utilization should be 23.4%. By negotiations through the Health Care Task Force with approval by the Health Care Benefits Trust Board, the increase was reduced to 8.4%. This was accomplished by using the Rate Stabilization Fund to reduce the increase by 11.5%. Additionally, we utilized the Health Care Benefits Trust to reduce it by another 3.5%, for a total rate reduction of 15%.

Those not eligible for the City pre-Medicare Retiree health insurance will need to continue to utilize other sources for another year. Any changes in rates or plan design can be addressed directly with your insurance provider, broker, or Willis Towers Watson's One Exchange. Those pre-Medicare Retirees, who have chosen to get their healthcare from other sources in the past, will again have the choice to take part in the City healthcare option during open enrollment or continue with other market options. Look for your City of Phoenix Benefits Guide that will be coming to you in the mail. Read it and keep it as a resource throughout the year. It will answer all your questions. **It is an invaluable resource so do not throw it away!**

The City will continue to offer a Dental Plan for Retirees. As this is being written, the plan design and rates have not yet been finalized. More information about it will be available at the upcoming General Meeting and in the Benefits Guide that you will be receiving.

If you would like to hear more details about health and dental care and have all your questions answered, plan to attend our COPRA General Meeting, 1:30 at the Washington Adult Center, 2240 W Citrus Way on Thursday, September 21, 2017. See you there!

Laura

BURTON BARR CENTRAL LIBRARY CLOSED

Due to storm damage and a water leak, Burton Barr Central Library will be closed indefinitely. Visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org to see which events and meetings are being rescheduled at other library locations and which events may be canceled. While the main library is undergoing repairs, the city's other 16 public library locations are open for business. The library's website will continue to offer digital services, including a new "restoration blog" that tracks the progress of the library's repairs.

Phoenix Public Library is grateful for the outpouring of support from its customers and the community, the quick response of the Phoenix Fire Department and fellow city departments, as well as city leadership and Mayor and Council. Thank you!

Source: PHX AT YOUR SERVICE, August 2017

CITY MANAGER COLUMN

ED ZUERCHER, City Manager

In May of this year, Phoenix was named the top overall performing city in the first-ever Equipt to Innovate Survey. This was a new initiative spearheaded by Governing, a magazine that covers local and state politics, and Living Cities, a collection of leading foundations and banks with a mission of collective philanthropy. The survey was launched by Governing and Living Cities to define and measure high-performing governments, to establish a basis for growth among local governments, and to encourage localities to think innovatively. Many of you worked for the city 25 years ago when we won the Bertelsmann Award for best-run city in the world.



Ed Zuercher

Approximately 60 cities were involved in the study which measured the competence of cities by seven elements:

- Dynamically Planned
- Broadly Partnered
- Resident-Involved
- Race Informed
- Smartly Resourced
- Employee-Engaged
- Data-Driven

Phoenix was specifically recognized as a leader in partnerships, particularly in cross-sector initiatives, and the city was also ranked highly in the race-informed category for taking steps to improve diversity and training employees on racial injustice. This is a great recognition of the work we do well, and with that said, we cannot relax our efforts. It is important we continue providing great service by working smarter, saving money, and being kind to our customers.

The heat of the summer is slowly passing and I hope you have been able to stay cool. We are moving to our cooler season and will be able to once again enjoy outside activities. As you have read in past articles, Phoenix has hosted a number of national mega events, elevating the city's profile and economic activity. In the last three years, we have hosted the Super Bowl, the College Football Championship, and earlier this year, the Final Four Championship.

This fall, we are hosting another big event, the Lost Lake Festival, a three-day music and culinary experience event featuring more than 40 artists and a number of local culinary offerings. From October 20-22, Steele Indian School Park will be transformed for this event, bringing in folks from different parts of the country to take part in this music festival. You can read additional information about the event at lostlakefestival.com. There will be more information to come regarding street closures, parking, and planning your route during the weekend festivities.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL EXPO

The City of Phoenix Annual Financial Expo is coming up in early October!

Retirement is life's biggest adventure – you learned that the day you retired! You are invited to the City of Phoenix 2-Day Financial Expo, held October 5th from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. and October 6th from 8 a.m. – noon in Phoenix City Hall Atrium, presented by the City of Phoenix Benefits Division. Attend a workshop on subjects ranging from Social Security to Growing Your Money. Meet with Nationwide representatives to review your current investments and update your beneficiaries. Representatives from Benefits and COPERS will be on hand, as will ARAG Legal Insurance. Free parking at the 305 Garage when you present a Certificate of Attendance! Keep an eye out for emails with more information coming soon, or visit phoenixdcp.com to learn more.

NEW RETIREES (APRIL 2017)

Steven Brown	Public Transit	Katrina Malone	Water Services
Placido Carrillo	Aviation	David McCarthy	Planning and Dev Dept
John Cummings	Water Services	James Montello	Street Transportation
Beverly Dolfini	Public Works	Arthur Munoz	Parks & Rec.
Behrouz Fathali	Water Services	Jimmy Quijada	Street Transportation
Duke French	Public Works	Franklin Sanders	Neighborhood Services
Phillip Gonzales	Water Services	John Trujillo	Public Works
Patrick Madison	Water Services		

NEW RETIREES (MAY 2017)

Fidel Alvarez	Parks & Rec.	Ed Fresquez	Public Works
Randi Benes	Police Dept.	Dougall Kennedy	PPD: InforTechnology
Steven Bratt	Water Services	Michael Lagunas	Street Transportation
Michael Brewer	Convention Center	Marlene Matsuno	Water Services
Hollis Brown	Water Services	Dolores O'Dell	Equal Opportunity Dept.
Cecil Conrad	Public Works	Ruth Osuna	City Manager's Office
Lewis Delgado	Parks & Rec.	Paublita Rios	Aviation
Melvin Finch	Public Works	Meganne Wolfe	BB Central Customer
Deborah Foshee	Convention Center		

NEW RETIREES (JUNE 2017)

Randi Benes	Police Dept.	John Knihnisky	Public Works
Valerie Brown	Public Transit	Anthony Longo	Public Works
Regina Ford	Phx Conv. Center:	Margaret Mackey	Parks & Rec.
Roberto Franco	Phx Comm Dev	Jimmy Quijada	Street Transportation
Yolanda Gallagher	Neighborhood Services	Tracey Rivas	Aviation
Ramon Garcia	Public Works	Rosalind Rivera	City Courts
Dwight Havens	Fire Dept:	Joan Sloss	Housing:
Joseph Jimenez	Water Services	Raelene Smith	Police Dept.

NEW RETIREES (JULY 2017)

Timothy Ahumada	Fire Dept.	Monica Ortega-Guerin	Water Services
Francisco Badilla	Street Transportation	Manuel Penunuri	Aviation
Kathleen Bey	Housing	Esther Pratt	Aviation
Paul Blue	City Manager's Office	Sheila Ray	City Courtsl
Jacqueline Diaz	City Courts	Debra Robinson	Information Tech. Services
Robert Doyle	Police Dept.	Vincent Rodriguez	Aviation
Janice Enas	Fire Dept.	Mark Shore	Police Dept.
Samuel Gonzales	Aviation	Karen Short	Fire Dept.
Patricia Jordan-Nicasio	Housing	Mike Simpson	Aviation
Ruben Joya	Parks & Rec.	Robyn Skramstad	Public Works
Bernard Kankiewicz	Finance Dept.	Albert Suniga	Phx Convention Center
Warren Land	Public Works	Larry Tellez	Water Services
Suzanne Leung	Finance Dept.	Gloria Valenzuela	Fire Dept.
Marvin Martinez	Street Transportation	Fred Wallace	Parks & Rec.
Patricia McGrevey	PoliceDept.	John Wedemeyer	City Courts
Beatrice Miller	Information Tech. Services	David Westcott	Library
George Nieto	Neighborhood Services		

"Membership is our Strength"

IN REMEMBRANCE

Patricia E. Riach	10/19/2012	Robert L. Brown	06/04/2017
Mabel Trujillo	10/29/2013	David M. Bair	06/04/2017
Barbara J. Bingham	11/11/2013	Josie Escoto	06/04/2017
John W. Anderson *	02/25/2017	Carole S. Ball	06/06/2017
Marlene Herman	04/05/2017	Harvey McCracken	06/06/2017
Evelyn Blackwell	04/06/2017	Janice Boss	06/09/2017
Darlene Crenshaw	04/11/2017	Laverne Boykins	06/09/2017
Mary Ann Cerny	04/12/2017	Lela Ray	06/09/2017
Ora Dates	04/15/2017	Karen Poe	06/11/2017
Marilyn J. Cervantez	04/17/2017	Edward Rocco	06/13/2017
Marilyn F. Breshears	04/20/2017	James Winningham	06/15/2017
Patricia Bjorn	04/20/2017	Myrtle Gulley	06/17/2017
Dennis Elarton	04/20/2017	Maggie McGrail	06/26/2017
Augustine Sandoval	04/23/2017	Joseph Bellamy Jr.	06/26/2017
Jack P. Smith	04/24/2017	Joe Varela Jr.	06/26/2017
Carol Jean Dippold	04/27/2017	Elaine Olson Morra	06/28/2017
Gordon Henry Buchert	04/28/2017	Jerald D. Sramek	07/05/2017
Barbara Garcia	04.25.2017	Catherine Swogger	07/05/2017
Juan Venegas	04/28/2017	Charlszene Robinson	07/07/2017
William Zevan	05/02/2017	Sherwood Rodgers	07/08/2017
Dorothy Shedlock	05/03/2017	Guillermo Jiron	07/11/2017
Domingo Olea	05/03/2017	Michael W. Wieseman	07/20/2017
Marian Rizzo	05/04/2017	Bob K. Ito	07/20/2017
Leonard Craig	05/13/2017	Michael Wieseman	07/20/2017
Jean O'Leary	05/14/2017	Carl G. Spangenberg	07/21/2017
Robert W. Miller Jr.	05/14/2017	Jacoba Keizer	07/23/2017
Shari Rodriguez	05/16/2017	Ruth Shaver	07/25/2017
David W. Porter	05/17/2017	Janice Hummell	07/27/2017
Norman McKeown	05/17/2017	Gerald N. Driesens	07/30/2017
David Najera	05/18/2017	James Lindstrom	07/31/2017
Margaret Mendivil	05/19/2017	Nancy Hawthorne	08/04/2017
Joel Goldenberg	05/20/2017	Virginia Cherry	08/04/2017
Mary Clark	05/21/2017	Stanley Newman	08/07/2017
Francis C. Arnold	05/21/2017	Ruth Myers	08/13/2017
Connie Kleinman	05/24/2017		
Richard S. Hyde	05/27/2017		
Jesus Razo	05/28/2017		
Johnny B. Merrill	05/28/2017		
Lydia Munoz	05/29/2017		
Robert Zismann	05/31/2017		

*John Anderson that worked for the Library Dept.

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.

COPRA HOLIDAY PARTY

Just a reminder that the COPRA Holiday Party will be held on Friday, December 8, 2017. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** Doors will open at 11:00 am. and festivities will begin at 11:30 am at the Washington Activity Center located at 2240 W. Citrus Way, Phoenix, AZ. Cost is \$20 per person. To order tickets, pay via PayPal to phoenixcopra@gmail.com (use friends and family) or send a check payable to COPRA before November 22 to the following address:

COPRA % Louis Matamoros
P.O. Box 2464
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340

You can also pay for your Holiday Party tickets at the **September 21 General Membership Meeting**. As in the past, COPRA will be collecting toys at our Holiday Party to be delivered to a local toy drive for disadvantaged children.

eCHRIS UPDATE

Coming soon, the eCHRIS system will be upgraded and will allow users to navigate within the application with more ease. Effective September 5, the application login page and the initial homepage for employees will look different. The homepage will include Employee Self-Service functions and users will see tiles representing some of the more commonly used features, including viewing their paycheck, viewing their PMGs, and submitting leave requests.

The new version is mobile friendly and will allow employees to access eCHRIS functions on their phone or tablet **without an app** to install. Employees will be able to manage leave requests and view paychecks from their mobile device. More cool features are soon to come, including accident reporting, employee onboarding, and online organizational charts.

On September 5, you can access the enhanced eCHRIS system at hcmprod.phoenix.gov or by the same way as you always have, at [InsidePHX](#) and through the [HR Connection website](#).

Please note the eCHRIS system will be unavailable during the upgrade process which is occurring over Labor Day weekend.

FREE EQUIPMENT

Did you know the city of Phoenix will loan you paint sprayers to keep your neighborhood graffiti free? Just complete a free workshop to get access to a warehouse of tools and supplies to use. The next training is 8-10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 9 at 3325 W. Flower St. To register, call **602-534-4444**.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The city is looking for volunteers, age 50 and above, to support reading and math tutoring for students in first through third grades. No prior teaching or tutoring experience required. The city of Phoenix Age Friendly initiative is in partnership with AARP Experience Corps. If this opportunity sounds right for you, contact the Volunteer Phoenix office at ecphx@phoenix.gov or **602-256-4388**. Everyone is encouraged to volunteer with our Gallery @ City Hall Connectors programs. If interested: volunteer@phoenix.gov or **602-495-0313**.

Source: PHX AT YOUR SERVICE, August 2017

NEW COPRA MEMBERS

Cathy Patton	HSD
Beverly Burke	NSD
David McCarthy	PPD
Richard Morice	Water
Ruby Mendez	Public Works

COPRA website.....	www.phoenixcopra.com
COPERS website.....	www.phoenix.gov/phxcopers
COPMEA website.....	www.copmea.com
City Retirement Systems (COPERS).....	(602) 534-4400
Human Resources - Benefits Section.....	(602) 262-4777
COPMEA.....	(602) 262-6858

2017 COPRA BOARD

President/Benefits Chair:

Laura Ross (623) 878-3334
E-mail ljross50@gmail.com

Vice President/Chronicle Chair:

Karen Clifford-Anderson (623) 772-7472
E-mail kcliffander@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Louis Matamoros (623) 734-6624
E-mail biglou6415@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Dawnell Navarro (623) 412-0854
E-mail navarro2@cox.net

Board Members:

Greg Binder (602) 469-2540
E-mail gbinder69@q.com

Jack Thomas (623) 825-6999
E-mail jtnt@cox.net

Membership Chair:

Linda Henderson (623) 693-9955
E-mail lindajoyhenderson@gmail.com

Events Coordinator:

Dawnell Navarro (623) 412-0854
E-mail navarro2@cox.net

COPERS Representative:

Susan Perkins (602) 448-4511
E-mail sjperkins@msn.com

Website Support:

Sue Stites (602) 819-7106
E-mail [sstites@cox.net](mailto:ssstites@cox.net)

Chronicle Editor:

Mary Dysinger-Franklin (602) 705-8822
E-mail copranewsletter@gmail.com

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.

SEPTEMBER COPRA CHRONICLE

Annual dues includes \$5.00 for the COPRA Chronicle
Dues are \$12.00 per year or \$50 for 5 years
COPRA Chronicle (**USPS No. 0016-924**) is published
Monthly, except June, July and August
By City of Phoenix Retirees Association
PO Box 2464, Litchfield Park, AZ 85340
Periodicals Postage Paid at Phoenix, AZ

POSTMASTER

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



Goodbye Summer

2017 MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hope to see you
here!

Membership meetings held at the
Washington Activity Center
2240 W Citrus Way, Phoenix, AZ

Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 1:30 pm – Healthcare
Friday, December 8, 2017 – Holiday Party

Other meeting dates to be announced

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