



COPRA CHRONICLE

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

March 2022

MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH

Issue 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	2
News from COPERS	3
What you Should do if you Lose or Damage your Covid Vaccine Card	3
This Month in History	4
Use your Phone as a Magnifying Glass?!	4
Your E-mail is Your Entry	4
In Remembrance	5
Nationwide Retirement Solutions Retiree Webinar	5
Pre-Construction Work Underway for I-17 Improvement Project North of Phoenix	6
New Members	6
My Financial Wellness Planner	6
Help Keep Phoenix Beautiful	7
Check Out the 2022 Bulk Trash Schedule for Phoenix Residents	7
2022 COPRA BOARD	7
Meeting Notices	8

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our Spring General Membership Meeting will be held virtually again this year due to the ongoing pandemic. The meeting will be held on **March 17 from 10:30a.m.-12:30p.m.** We are disappointed to not be able to hold this meeting in person, but hope the pandemic is under control in time for our Fall meeting.

We have invited the City Manager and the Retirement Administrator to provide informative presentations.

We will be hosting the March Membership Meeting on Zoom, a video and audio platform for our members to connect to the meeting. To ensure the meeting is as secure as possible, we are asking members to please pre-register for the meeting by March 10th. If you have a computer and email, please send your request to: coprapresident@gmail.com with "General Membership Meeting Registration" in the subject line. We will follow-up with a link to the meeting. Computer users will be able to choose a video or audio-only connection. If you do not use a computer, please contact COPRA President Rob Sweeney at 480-215-2215 and we will get you an audio-only connection.



"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 Mary Jo Sunder.

Mary Jo can be reached by: telephone at 602-206-5515, or by email at copra.members@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.

2022 COPRA EXECUTIVE BOARD

The COPRA Board members have chosen the Executive Board for 2022. The results are below.

President: Rob Sweeney **Secretary:** To be determined
Vice President: Brian Suggs **Treasurer:** Louis Matamoros

In addition, the following committee/assignments were determined:

COPERS Representative: Tammy Ryan
Health Care Task Force Representative: Tammy Ryan
Membership Chair: Mary Jo Slunder
Chronicle Chair: Andy Terrey
Website Support: Gail Piceno
Events Coordinator: Kathy Wenger
Board Members: Victoria Correll, Anna Dragonetti, Sue Stites

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Rob Sweeney

Please, take a number!

We have all seen the signs. Such an orderly way to be served! I became impatient at Baskin Robbins as a kid when I pulled a 57, not recognizing the, 'Now Serving' number was 55. A number's value is all relative.

I must admit, numbers connect my world. Not so much because I majored in Finance. Or that my Dad counted every penny via double-entry accounting his entire (post-depression) life! Numbers have always made sense to me and made things orderly.

A good friend and roommate of mine in college was the same. At one point he told me, 'Mark my word: you will see the number 1007 in some derivative the rest of you life.' He would often look at the clock and see 10:07 (yes, even before digital!). He was right!

I have seen 1007 in all aspects of live ever since. Filling up my car: 10.07 gallons. Paying for lunch: \$10.07. Quickly look at a football game on TV and see time remaining at 10:07. I've had change given to me at the store of \$10.07, flights scheduled at 10:07 and hotel rooms of 1007. While 1007 makes me smile, the most consequential number in my life is 17, as it hits closer to home.

I am blessed to be part of a large, loving family. My depression-era parents married in the late 1940's and had their first child born on March 17th. Wow, what more could an Irish-Catholic family want! A healthy child upon which could be bestowed a name for all time. Like....Kathleen! Yes, the first born did not have a 'Patrick/Patricia' name. Two more children later, my parents did name their third daughter Patricia. Go figure!

Well, some 17 years later, my parents welcomed me into the world on October 17. I was born 17 years (and a few months) after welcoming their first child. Given this was the mid-1960s, most neighbors thought I was the offspring of my sister Kathy. She was, by the way, dating a guy named Robert Thompson at the time and I was given the name Robert Thomas. But no, I am a product of Marge and Bill!

My sister and I always joked about the three, 17s in our life: birthdays and years in between. Little did we know, 17 would keep popping up. Kathy married a different Robert. Seventeen years later, my wife and I married. Kathy and Bob had three children. My wife and I as well. All three kids are 17 years apart (two girls and a boy).

I cheer for the Olympian in 17th place. I love Stevie Nicks' song, 'Edge of Seventeen.' And if I attend a golf tournament, I will be sitting by the 17th green.

COPRA historically hosts a Spring General Membership meeting in March. As luck would have it, March 17th was open! What better way to share information about the city of Phoenix and the Retirement System than on the 17th of March! The COPRA Board invited the City Manager and Retirement Administrator to share information and engage in a dialogue with COPRA Members. Please locate information in *The Chronicle* about how you can join this virtual meeting. The meeting will be available via Zoom (audio and/or video). So if you don't have computer access, you can still call into the meeting and listen in.

I truly hope this is the last, 'virtual only' meeting of COPRA. Having to be physically apart from friends and colleagues has been challenging and sad. For me, it feels like 17 years!

I wish you good health and happiness – Rob

NEWS FROM COPERS

In case you missed it, the COPERS (City of Phoenix Employee Retirement System) sent a recent email blast to retirees with some valuable information. Included in that email was the following.

Benefit Entitlement Affidavits – Coming February 2022

“COPERS and the City of Phoenix take protecting the delivery of your monthly benefit and your personal information seriously. Confirming that we can reach you to deliver and protect your benefits and personal information takes many forms. One form that many retirees recognize is COPERS’ yearly review of pensioners. All members receive a Benefits Entitlement Affidavit once every three years based on an alphabetical designation. This document must be notarized and returned to COPERS to avoid interruption to your monthly payments. If your last name starts with G - M, you will be receiving a letter this year.

2021 – Last names beginning A – F

2022 – Last names beginning G – M

2023 – Last names beginning N - Z

COPERS asks that you please review the information, complete the form, and return it to the COPERS office in the enclosed self-addressed envelope as quickly as possible. Did you know COPERS offers free notary services to all retirees? An appointment is required. Simply call our office at (602) 534-4400 to schedule an appointment. Notary attestations are also available through many providers such as financial institutions and private vendors. The Arizona Secretary of State has a referral website to find a notary in your service area: AZSOS Notary Search.”

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU LOSE OR DAMAGE YOUR COVID VACCINE CARD

As Covid-19 vaccine requirements remaining in certain cities and travel destinations, individuals may be concerned about keeping their vaccination record in a safe location. If you lose or damage your COVID vaccine card, here is what you need to do.

CDC: While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention logo is on the COVID vaccination cards, they do not have the information available to print off new ones for patients. Those looking to obtain a new COVID vaccine card should contact their state health departments or direct health providers. This is the first step to be taken to obtain a new card.

Health Care Providers: If you need to obtain a new COVID vaccine card because your original card is lost or damaged, the first step to take is to contact your health care provider that administered the shot. Whether it be your doctor, clinic or drug store, companies, including CVS and Walgreen’s, will keep records of those vaccinations and will be able to help individuals get new cards.

State Information Systems: If you have difficulty obtaining a new card from your provider, the next step is to contact your state health department. They should have the resources to guide you through their immunization information system. By law, vaccination providers are required to report COVID-19 vaccinations. To contact the Arizona Department of Health Services, go to www.azdhs.gov/index.php.

Add your vaccine card to your phone: Having a digital copy of your COVID vaccination record can prevent a lost vaccine card and can provide easier use. Apple and Android have ways to access digital proof of vaccination as an added way to avoid losing the physical vaccination card. For more information on how to add your vaccine card to your mobile device, go to <https://www.cnet.com/health/how-to-put-your-covid-19-vaccine-record-on-your-phone/>.

Source: <https://www.allaboutarizonanews.com/>, accessed 2/17/2022

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

March 1, 1781: Formal ratification of the Articles of Confederation was announced by Congress. Under the Articles, Congress was the sole governing body of the new American national government, consisting of the original 13 states. The Articles remained in effect through the Revolutionary War until 1789, when the current U.S. Constitution was ratified.

March 6, 1836: Fort Alamo fell to Mexican troops led by General Santa Anna. The Mexicans had begun the siege of the Texas fort on February 23rd, ending it with the killing of the last defender. "Remember the Alamo" became a rallying cry for Texans who went on to defeat Santa Anna in the Battle of San Jacinto in April.

March 10, 1862: The first issue of U.S. government paper money occurred as \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills began circulation.

March 12, 1888: The Great Blizzard of '88 struck the northeastern U.S. The storm lasted 36 hours with snowfall totaling over 40 inches in New York City where over 400 persons died from the surprise storm.

March 22, 1972: The Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed by the U.S. Senate and then sent to the states for ratification. The ERA, as it became known, prohibited discrimination on the basis of gender, stating, "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex," and that "the Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article." Although 22 of the required 38 states quickly ratified the Amendment, opposition arose over concerns that women would be subject to the draft and combat duty, along with other legal concerns. The ERA eventually failed (by 3 states) to achieve ratification despite an extension of the deadline to June 1982.

Source: www.historyplace.com

USE YOUR PHONE AS A MAGNIFYING GLASS?!

Do you ever have a hard time reading the tiny print on labels, instructions, and other items? Turn to your phone's magnifier tool. This is the way it works.

On an iPhone: Open Settings and go to Accessibility. Tap Magnifier and turn it on. A Magnifier app will be added to your phone's screen. Open it and aim the camera lens at an item. Move the slider to the right to zoom in closer.

On an Android phone: Open Settings and go to Accessibility. Tap Magnification (or Visibility Enhancements and then Magnification). Turn on the switch. A small icon that looks like a person will appear in the lower-right corner of the screen. Aim your phone's camera at an item. Tap the person icon. Touch the screen with your thumb and forefinger; spread them apart to zoom in.

Source: AARP *The Magazine*, October/November 2021

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 March winner is **Sheila Levine. CONGRATULATIONS Sheila!**

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 Mary Jo Sunder at copra.members@gmail.com. She can also be reached by phone at 602-206-5515.

Sign up now!

IN REMEMBRANCE

Name	Department	Date of Death
Colleen Kirchoff (Terence)		08/01/2021
David M. Nicholson	Fire	11/10/2021
Virgilene M. Houseman (David)		11/29/2021
Clarence J. Badgley	Building and Housing Safety	12/01/2021
Dorothy Richie	City Clerk	12/18/2021
Clephus Washington		12/22/2021
Anthony Duran	Police	12/26/2021
Marcia Kirkland (James)		12/26/2021
Reginald Reed	Aviation	01/01/2022
Sherry Perry (Earl E. Stowers, Jr.)		01/01/2022
Rachel P. Frausto (Tony)		01/11/2022
Carlota Acuna (Adam)		01/12/2022
Ruby Porter (Claud)		01/17/2022
Cecil Chandler	Water	01/19/2022
Mike A. Bohr	Aviation	01/20/2022
Larry Hinkley (Linda)		01/20/2022
Yolanda Quintero (Robert)		01/20/2022
Kenneth L. Campbell	Aviation	01/22/2022
Beverley Schmidt	Parks, Recreation and Library	01/22/2022
Lorenzo Contreras	Street Transportation	01/22/2022
David Allen Laird	Finance	01/24/2022
Amelia Mendez (Ralph E.)		01/24/2022
Dean Jager	Public Works	01/26/2022
Charlotte Waddle	Water Services	01/28/2022
Gary Smith	Water Services	01/31/2022
Ellen Judson	Water Services	02/02/2022
Robert M. Lachance (Shirley)		02/03/2022
Regina M. Perez	Public Works	02/06/2022
Kurt L. Malott	Public Works	02/08/2022
Dennis M. Mareiro	Public Works	02/08/2022
Jo A. Adams (Samuel)		02/08/2022
Lillian Fitzpatrick	Police	02/09/2022
Alice J. Felix (Marcelino)		02/10/2022
Dora L. Cortez	Phoenix Convention Center	02/10/2022
Ruben T. Fierros	Parks, Recreation and Library	02/12/2022
Georgina DeLaCruz		02/16/2022

(Those on the list who are surviving spouses will have the retiree's name in parentheses after the deceased's name.)

NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOLUTIONS RETIREE WEBINAR

The second of this year's Nationwide Retirement Solutions webinars for retirees in 2022 will be held on March 24th. All retirees are invited. **Contact Christina Lessard at Lessac1@Nationwide.com to sign up.** Topics in March will include Required Minimum Distributions, Roth 457s, and Roth Conversions.

The next Webinar will be on May 19th. Topics in May will include financial planning services, withdrawal strategies, advantages of staying in the plan, investment strategies, and new 457 loan features for retirees.

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."

— Charles Dickens

PRE-CONSTRUCTION WORK UNDERWAY FOR I-17 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NORTH OF PHOENIX

Heading North anytime soon? Things are starting to look a bit different along 23 miles of Interstate 17 north of Phoenix as the Department of Transportation prepares to begin the long-awaited improvement project between Anthem Way and Sunset Point.

While ADOT (Arizona Department of Transportation) has not officially begun construction on the project, nighttime lane closures, daytime shoulder closures, and speed limit reductions will be necessary to carry out pre-construction activities.

Overhead message boards will let drivers know to expect helicopters flying overhead during the daytime hours as they haul workers and equipment to areas that are difficult to access for geological work. Motorists need to pay attention to driving and focus on the road.

Actual physical construction will begin later this year and is expected to take approximately three years to complete. The project includes 15 miles of widening from Anthem Way to Black Canyon City and construction of approximately eight miles of flex lanes from Black Canyon City to Sunset Point. Drivers can expect the entire 23 miles to be under construction at once and should plan their trips accordingly.

Interstate 17 between Anthem Way and Sunset Point is a major stretch of highway that sees more than one million travelers every year. Because much of that travel and congestion occur on weekends, lane closures will be limited to weeknights from 7 p.m. until 6 a.m.

All motorists need to be cautious and alert in the construction zone, which will be active seven days a week through 2025.

More information about the I-17 Improvement Project can be found on the newly launched project website: www.improvingi17.com. Drivers can also sign up for traffic alerts via the website and learn more about the project from the frequently asked questions page. A hotline number is also available for anyone with questions or comments: 877-476-1717.

Source: www.allaboutarizonanews.com, accessed 2/13/2022

NEW MEMBERS

Terry Wimberly

Public Transit

Sally Huber-Eid

Human Services

MY FINANCIAL WELLNESS PLANNER



“The City of Phoenix Retirement Office and Nationwide Retirement Solutions have partnered up to introduce My Financial Wellness Planner, a simple goal-setting tool that’s designed to hold you accountable in your financial wellness journey.

The 90-day pilot program is meant to assist you in creating small, actionable steps to help you stay the course without feeling confused or overwhelmed, meanwhile relieving stress and making your progress visible. My Financial Wellness Planner may be a great resource for you. Take advantage of this free tool by logging into your dashboard [your Nationwide account at phoenixdcp.com] to get started.”

Source: COPERS

HELP KEEP PHOENIX BEAUTIFUL

The next City of Phoenix recycling event will be held at the Happy Valley Town Center (2501 W. Happy Valley Rd.) on **March 26th**.

Bring your unwanted electronics, bikes, household items, school supplies, food and hygiene products, and document for shredding! *Hazardous materials, such as CRT monitors, CRT televisions, prescription drugs, oil, paint, and chemicals are not accepted.*

For more information about items accepted and directions to the event, visit phoenixrecycles.org or email info@keepphxbeautiful.org.

Source: *PHX At Your Service*, Jan. 2022

CHECK OUT THE 2022 BULK TRASH SCHEDULE FOR PHOENIX RESIDENTS

Check out and print a copy of the 2022 Bulk Trash Pick-up schedule on the City's website at Phoenix.gov/PublicWorks/BulkTrash. Reminders about bulk trash pick-up:

- Clean area after collection, if needed
- Bag/box all grass, leaves, weeds, twigs, and hedge clippings
- Cut tree trimmings to less than 12" in diameter and 4' in length
- Place broken-down cardboard in your recycle container
- Please do not place more than 20 cubic yards in your pile, which is like the size of a SUV.

Source: *PHX At Your Service*, Jan. 2022

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

2022 COPRA BOARD

President:

Rob Sweeney 480-215-2215
E-mail coprapresident@gmail.com

Vice President:

Brian Suggs 602-639-0840
E-mail bjuggs@msn.com

Treasurer:

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

Secretary:

Victoria Correll 602-550-4390
E-mail vscorrell@gmail.com

Board Members:

Anna Marie Dragonetti 602-992-0362
E-mail amdragonetti@cox.net

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

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

Chronicle Chair:

Andy Terrey 602-653-5460
E-mail at.copra@gmail.com

COPERS Rep/Benefits & Health Care Committee Chair:

Tammy Ryan 602-430-5965
E-mail tlgryan1822@gmail.com

Membership Chair:

Mary Jo Slunder 602-206-5515
E-mail copra.members@gmail.com

Activity Coordinator:

Kathy Wenger 602-550-4390
E-mail kjw7833@msn.com

Website Support:

Gail Piceno 602-509-1908
E-mail gpiceno0808@gmail.com

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

MARCH 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 paid at Avondale AZ and
additional mailing offices

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



2022 MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 17, 2022 from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Meetings held virtually until further notice

City Manager and the Retirement Administrator

See article on page 1 for instructions and deadlines

Board meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Thursday of the Month
Except for June, July and August.