



# COPRA CHRONICLE

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

January 2023

**MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH**

Issue 1

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## 2023 COPRA BOARD MARY JO SUNDER

The following incumbent candidates were elected to the COPRA Board on December 2, 2022 at our General Membership meeting and Holiday Luncheon. Their bios were previously published in the November 2022 *COPRA Chronicle*.

Anna Marie Dragonetti  
Rob Sweeney  
Kathy Wenger

Brian Suggs  
Andy Terrey

All of these elected Board members will be serving a two-year term beginning in January to provide support and assistance to the City retiree community.

Also at this meeting, our Board President, Rob Sweeney, asked again for members to volunteer to complete terms being vacated mid-term. There were no volunteers that came forward, so we are still looking for someone to fill a 2-year term and a 1-year term. These vacancies will be filled by appointment as soon as possible.

Please consider assisting the Board and City retirees by volunteering. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, you can contact Mary Jo Slunder, Nominating Committee Chair, at [mj.copra@gmail.com](mailto:mj.copra@gmail.com).

Thanks to the Nominating Committee for their work in making this election run smoothly:

Victoria Correll  
Linda Henderson

Louis Matamoros  
Gail Piceno

Tammy Ryan



### *"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 Slunder.

Mary Jo can be reached by: telephone at 602-206-5515, or by email at [copra.members@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:phoenixcopra@gmail.com) from your account.

## HOLIDAY PARTY AND TOY DRIVE KATHY WENGER

The COPRA 2022 Holiday Party and Toy Drive was a big success. Nearly 80 members registered to attend and it seemed like everyone brought toys for the Head Start children. It was great to see so many familiar faces after three years and everyone enjoyed catching up and getting reacquainted. Patricia Kirkland, Deputy Human Services Director for Head

*(Continued on page 2)*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Rob Sweeney

Happy New Year! We all made it around the sun one more time. 2022 seemed to go by a lot faster than 2020 and 2021, combined! Ah, life on the down slope of a global pandemic.

I hope 2022 treated you all well. I have much to be thankful for during the past year: health; happiness; a new grandchild; my son married his love and I have a daughter-in-law; the pension check is deposited every month; my Dad turned 96 and acts like he is 80; attending live concerts; homemade guacamole and salsa; celebrating with other COPRA Members once again at our annual holiday luncheon/general membership meeting.

I also loved the many major events 2022 brought us. I am a fan of soccer (football for the purists) and followed the FIFA Men's World Cup with great joy. If only the late Jim McKay from ABC's *The Wide World of Sports* were calling the last penalty kick as Argentina beat France to win the tournament: "The thrill of victory...and the agony of defeat!" Perfect! I am also a political junkie, whereby the late Jim McKay could have been calling election races this past November!

The new year brings us a 'new' COPRA Board of Directors. I thank my fellow colleagues for seeking to serve another term. I also want to give a special, 'thank you' to Linda Henderson, who is stepping down from the Board to finally RETIRE. She gave us Board Members and all of COPRA one more year to help transition her knowledge and skills to the next generation of volunteers. Her dedication to COPRA is greatly appreciated.

As I have mentioned in past articles, I am not much of a New Year's resolution guy. One should be able to plan (resolve) to do things at any point of the year. Don't stress about making a list of things you may not get to. But perhaps you can make a list of things to look forward to experiencing/understanding in 2023, like:

- The FIFA Women's World Cup co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand.
- India is expected to surpass China as the most populated country in the world.
- Walt Disney (and its studios) will celebrate 100 years in business.
- Croatia will say goodbye to the Kuna and hello to the Euro as its national currency.
- The UK will celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.
- NASA will make multiple trips to the moon delivering payloads for future lunar missions.
- The Year of the Rabbit will be upon us.
- The City of Phoenix will celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council Chambers and the Municipal Building; the latter now known as the Calvin C. Goode Municipal Building.

It is always good to have a plan and goals to accomplish. But the plan/goals can be dynamic and pliable and not something to cause you grief. Listen to your heart. Trust your gut. I want you to experience the thrill of victory and not the agony of defeat!

I wish you all a warm, happy and healthy new year - Rob

## HOLIDAY PARTY AND TOY DRIVE (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 1)*

Start was thrilled with the toys and gift cards everyone brought in. Our members filled 2 tables with wonderful toys for the children. A big THANK YOU to everyone for making this toy drive a huge success. Next month, we'll have a report from Patricia on the families and children who received them.

Sharko's Catering was also a big hit with everyone. They served a delicious Italian menu and the Sharko's staff was very friendly and helpful. Mark your calendars now for Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> for the 2023 Holiday Party!

# MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

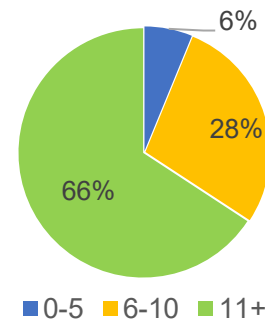
Thanks to everyone who responded to our Member Survey! We received nearly 600 completed surveys of which 316 were electronic responses and 280 were sent back through the U.S. mail.

The results from the first eight questions are presented below. We also received many helpful comments and suggestions regarding activities and services COPRA could offer to its members. The Board will review these suggestions over the next several months.

## Question 1: How many years have you been a member of COPRA?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Electronic Response</u>	<u>U.S. Mail Response</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
0-5	31	6	37	6.2%
6-10	97	70	167	28.0%
11+	188	204	392	65.8%

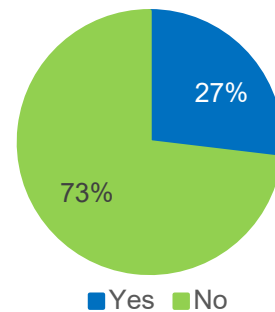
A large majority of respondents have been members for 11+ years, particularly the ones who mailed back surveys.



## Question 2: In the last five years, have you participated in any COPRA-sponsored events, either in-person or online?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Electronic Response</u>	<u>U.S. Mail Response</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	106	54	160	26.9%
No	210	225	435	73.1%

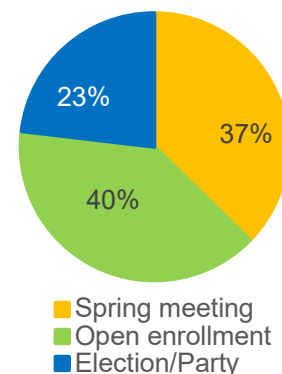
About one-quarter of our members have attended a meeting or event in the past five years. The percentage of members participating in meetings/events was significantly higher among the cohort who completed the survey electronically.



## Question 3: If you answered yes to the above question, which events have been most valuable to you?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Electronic Response</u>	<u>U.S. Mail Response</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Spring meeting	73	27	100	37.3%
Open enrollment	72	34	106	39.6%
Election/Party	42	20	62	23.1%

The Fall Meeting that covers changes to retiree health benefits was deemed most valuable, followed closely by the Spring meeting covering the new City budget and reports from the City Manager and Retirement Administrator.



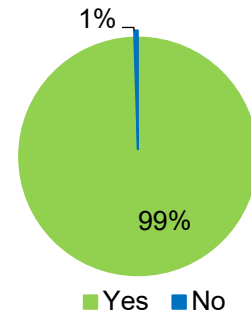
(Continued on page 4)

# MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 3)

**Question 4: Do you regularly read the COPRA Chronicle, published nine times per year and distributed by e-mail or U.S. Mail?**

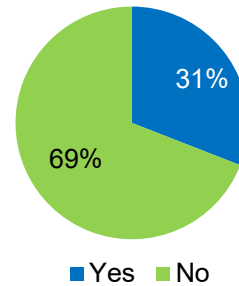
<u>Answer</u>	<u>Electronic Response</u>	<u>U.S. Mail Response</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	314	279	593	99.5%
No	2	1	3	0.5%



All but three of those responding regularly read the COPRA Chronicle, including a blind retiree who says her husband reads it to her.

**Question 5: During the past 12 months, have you visited the COPRA website (phoenixcopra.com)?**

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Electronic Response</u>	<u>U.S. Mail Response</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	132	52	184	30.9%
No	184	227	411	69.1%



Nearly one-third of those responding have visited the COPRA website in the past year. That figure is higher (42%) among those who responded electronically.

(Continued on page 6)

## POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST



Time always brings change. Both photos are of Central Avenue looking north from Washington Street. The postcard on the left dates back to the early 1950's. The picture on the right is the current "Street View" from Google Maps.

If you look closely at the postcard, you will spot the old 1000-watt broadcast tower for KTAR radio on top of the Heard Building. In 1940, KTAR moved to the corner of 36th Street and Thomas Road, becoming a 5,000-watt station with two antennas. The tower on top of the Heard Building is long gone, but one tower at Thomas Road location still remains as a landmark for those visiting Walmart and The Home Depot.

Sources:

KTAR.com. 21 June 2022. *Here's a timeline of KTAR as the station celebrates 100 years on the air.* <https://ktar.com/story/5108086/heres-a-timeline-of-ktar-as-the-station-celebrates-100-years-on-the-air/#:~:text=KTAR%20first%20hit%20the%20airwaves,in%20the%20southwestern%20United%20States.>  
 Wikipedia. 20 September 2022. *Heard Building.* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heard\\_Building](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heard_Building)

## IN REMEMBRANCE

Name	Date of Death	Department
Paul U. Sharkey	01/03/2022	Phoenix Fire
John W. Humphries	10/28/2022	Water Services
Vivian Bisesto (Anthony)	11/17/2022	
Claud A. Derby	11/18/2022	Public Works
Elva Y. Gronosky	11/20/2022	Phoenix Fire
Michael J. Fulghum	11/21/2022	Parks & Recreation
Jackie B. Walker	11/21/2022	Development Services
Nancy Van Pelt	11/23/2022	Human Resources
Mary Escalante (Arnold R.)	11/28/2022	
Kenneth Reid	12/03/2022	Street Transportation
Steven D. Walker	12/03/2022	Public Works
Kathleen M. Baker	12/07/2022	Phoenix Police
Mark A. Entzminger	12/13/2022	Parks & Recreation
Feliciano P. Montoya	12/13/2022	

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

## NEW RETIREES (NOVEMBER)

Michael Adams	Public Works	Lynda Lee	Neighborhood Serv
Jennifer Banales	Police	Cheryl Loreda	Human Services
Diane Bauer	Neighborhood Services	Randy Loukota	Aviation
Patricia Boland	Law	Lorraine Macias	Police
Christinia Brown	Finance	Margarita Madrid Martinez	Convention Center
Kimberly Brown	Fire	Cris Meyer	Law
Jane Bruner	Human Resources	Jessica Miley-Luevano	Human Services
Soledad Collins	Neighborhood Services	David Miller	Planning & Dev
Norma Dubois	Police	Christopher Mitchell	Water Services
Carl Edwards	Planning & Development	Michael Moses	Planning & Dev
Raul Escoto	Finance	Scott Overby	Public Works
Arturo Estrella	Library	Lisa Pera	Police
Mark Glock	Street Transportation	Amos Reed	Planning & Dev
Suzanne Glock	Street Transportation	Thomas Remes	Street Transportation
Raymond Green	Neighborhood Services	Ann Richards	Water Services
Joseph Harding	Public Works	Rosa Robeson	Finance
Shishinday Hart	Finance	Tina Rockyvich	Fire
Paul Hassinger	Aviation	Josephine Romero	Retirement Board
Elvira Hidalgo	Human Services	Maricela Ruiz	Water Services
Chris Johnson	Water Services	Seth Scott	City Clerk
Melanie Johnson	Finance	Pamala Smith	Police
Debra Jones	Water Services	Janie Stegall	Water Services
Wayne Kastensmith	Planning & Development	Barbara Trollope	Retirement Board
Jackie Keller	Planning & Development	Vicki Waddell	Police
Kenneth Kessler	Public Transit	Felissa Washington Smith	Public Works
Jeffrey Kovac	Public Works	Corey Williams	City Manager

## NEW MEMBERS

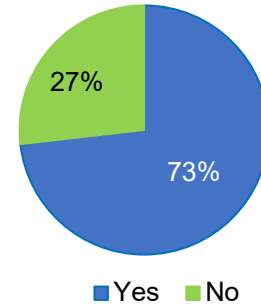
Marsha Butler	Public Works Dept	Jerry Lucus	Water Services Dept
Bertha Figueroa	City Clerk Dept	Louie Martinez	Parks & Recreation Dept
Leslie Finkel	Phoenix Police Dept	David Vanderwall	Aviation Dept
Becky Kivioja	Finance Dept		

# MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 4)

**Question 6: Did you know that COPRA has a Member on the City’s Health Care Task Force and one on the City of Phoenix Employees’ Retirement System (COPERS) board? These representatives are responsible to advocate for the concerns of our members.**

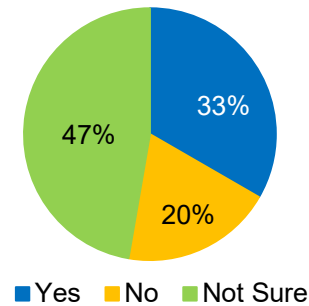
<u>Answer</u>	<u>Electronic Response</u>	<u>U.S. Mail Response</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	255	179	434	73.2%
No	61	98	159	26.8%



Nearly 75% of all respondents were aware of COPRA representation on the City's Retirement Board and the Health Care Task Force.

**Question 7: The COPRA membership fee is currently \$12 per year or \$50 for five years. Would you support changing the fee to a one-time payment that would cover a lifetime membership?**

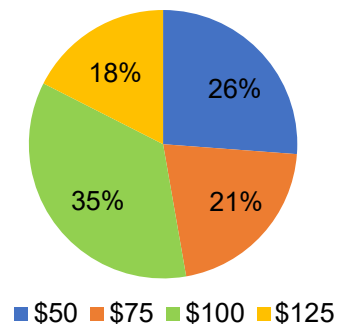
<u>Answer</u>	<u>Electronic Response</u>	<u>U.S. Mail Response</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	99	90	189	33.3%
No	54	56	110	19.4%
Not Sure	163	105	268	47.3%



Nearly half of those responding were not sure of their opinion regarding implementation of a one-time, lifetime membership fee. Among those who selected Yes or No, Yes had 33% and No had 19%.

**Question 8: If the current membership fee (see #7 above) was replaced by a one-time fee for a lifetime membership, what amount should that new fee be? \*Note: it is likely that current Members would have the new, higher fee prorated to reflect the fact they have already been paying dues.**

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Electronic Response</u>	<u>U.S. Mail Response</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
\$50	77	56	133	26.2%
\$75	68	39	107	21.1%
\$100	118	61	179	35.2%
\$125	53	36	89	17.5%



Although the responses to this question were fairly well split, a \$100 fee received the highest percentage of votes.

## 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 January winner is **Robyn Dittmar**.  
**CONGRATULATIONS Robyn!**

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 Slunder at [copra.members@gmail.com](mailto:copra.members@gmail.com). She can also be reached by phone at 602-206-5515.

**Sign up now!**

“

A worthy New Year's resolution, perhaps, is to take no hatred into the New Year without requiring it to restate its purpose.

ROBERT BRAULT

### 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.

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COPMEA website.....	<a href="http://www.copmea.com">www.copmea.com</a>
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Human Resources - Benefits Section .....	(602) 262-4777
COPMEA.....	(602) 262-6858

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### Chronicle Article Deadline

Please be advised that the deadline for submitting articles for the Chronicle is the **20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:COPRAnewsletter@gmail.com)

Or mail to: Mary Dysinger Franklin, 6208 E Desert Cove Ave, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

# JANUARY COPRA CHRONICLE

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Litchfield Park, AZ 85340



**2023 MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
Washington Activity Center  
2240 W. Citrus Way  
Phoenix, AZ

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