



COPRA CHRONICLE

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

April 2023

MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH

Issue 4

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KEEP THE BENEFICIARIES OF YOUR RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS UP-TO-DATE

Even in retirement, our lives can be a swirl of marriages, divorces, births, and deaths; in short, change. As quoted by Greek philosopher Heraclitus, "The Only Constant in Life is Change." According to Nationwide Retirement Solutions, the administrator of the City's 457 and 401(a) Plans, problems can arise for your loved ones should you pass away without having accounted for change in your life.

The beneficiary designation(s) for your 457/401(a) Plans and IRA accounts is legally binding and takes precedence over your will or trust. That means your retirement account assets will go to the person(s) you named on the beneficiary designation form on file for your account, no matter what has changed since you submitted the form. If you're not sure if you have a beneficiary designation on file or if you haven't reviewed your beneficiary designation(s) since retirement, now is the time to check.

Nationwide recommends that you check your beneficiary designation(s) *at least once a year* and update as needed. That information is included on the quarterly account statements you receive from Nationwide, on your online account at www.phoenixdcp.com, or you can call them at 1-800-891-4749.

Source: "Remember Your Beneficiaries." March 2010. Nationwide Retirement Solutions.



"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

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.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SENIOR DISCOUNTS

One benefit of growing older is that some things actually get cheaper... if you take advantage of senior discounts. These deals start to become available at age 50 and typically offer around 10% off, which can add up to significant of extra cash in your wallet over time.

Senior discounts aren't always advertised, so the best thing to do is ask about senior deals wherever you shop or dine. There is no shame in calling ahead or asking in person: you've earned it! When booking travel or shopping online, try querying, "senior discounts," if the website has a search engine.

(Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Rob Sweeney

State 48! That is where I was born, raised and have lived my entire life. I love Arizona and the beauty it contains. But I don't believe I have experienced all it has to offer.

My parents moved to Phoenix in 1956 from the Midwest. I was yet to be a twinkle in their eye when they drove across Route 66 to the dry, majestic Southwest. They loved exploring the state. It wasn't rows of corn or soybeans next to a highway or skyscrapers in Chicago. There was so much diversity and wonder to absorb that you would need a lifetime to take it all in.

I have seen a good deal of Arizona. My mom and dad would pack-up us kids and take us on the road to explore the wild Southwest. It could be a short, 'Sunday drive' to the Hassayampa River or Saguaro Lake. Or a longer trip and stay in the White Mountains or Tucson to visit other family making the trek to Arizona. Each time traveling was finding new things to explore and recalling

history of the land to ensure the kids would appreciate those who came before us.

My parents did become a bit complacent though. Once they found a location they enjoyed, we seemed to go back time and time again. Like Hawley Lake, Pinetop and the lower Salt River. I can't blame them. These are special places. I guess they were not as interested in finding new places to explore while trying to raise child number seven!

My parents knew I loved fishing. They observed me going to Yucca Library by Christown to checkout any and all books about fishing. From about the age of 11, I would recommend to my father a place to go fishing in Arizona. He was game and did the driving in the 1969 Dodge Dart. Alamo Lake on the Bill Williams River; Arivaca Lake; Patagonia Lake; Woods Canyon Lake; Tonto Creek; Christopher Creek. These trips helped shape my geographic mind and love of the state. Like knowing the Central Arizona Project Canal starts its journey towards Phoenix at the confluence of the Bill Williams and Colorado Rivers. Or that you pass by the San Xavier del Bac Mission on I-19 returning from the southern Arizona lakes. Or that Tonto and Christopher Creeks are on the downslope from the Mogollon Rim, upon which Woods Canyon Lake resides and provides the winter storage for a good deal of Phoenix' water supply.

I went to college at Northern Arizona University. A driving force behind my decision to attend NAU was to find another area of Arizona to explore. I would camp during the week at Mormon Lake or drive the long way to Winslow through Happy Jack. When I got married, my wife and I would continue my journey by camping on the edge of Lake Powell or Big Lake. Having children of my own provided me another avenue to explore the state when their school sought out chaperones for field trips. These included Kartchner Caverns, Tombstone, Queen Mine in Bisbee, and one of my favorites, the Sonoran Desert Museum in Tucson.

I believed I experienced a good deal of the state during my lifetime. I was mistaken. Since I retired from the city of Phoenix, I have been working as an interim executive for local jurisdictions. I have been able to see parts of the state I had not visited before.

In Lake Havasu City, I was able to experience etched names of WWII Allied soldiers on the London Bridge. I also hiked Haulapai Peak outside Kingman and was amazed at the greenery and wildlife so close to the high desert. Clarkdale is a wonderful community full of rich history and hospitality. Safford opened my eyes to the beauty of Mt. Graham giving way to the sweeping Gila River valley used as a pathway for sandhill cranes on their way to Willcox.

Soon I hope to get to Portal and soak in the Chiricahuas. Then perhaps Canyon de Chelly and someday Fossil Creek. There is much beauty in the state that I have yet to experience. I hope you find an opportunity to venture out within the state and share in its grandeur. If not, pull out old photos of your time here to once again take in all the beauty this state has to offer.

Happy Trails – Rob

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SENIOR DISCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

Here is a list of senior discounts, grouped by service type, to help you on your quest for savings. It was compiled from several website articles with current information on the subject and is by no means an endorsement of any of these businesses. Likewise, this is not a complete list. Check out the hyperlinks below for more information on the wide variety of discounts available to seniors.

Dining		
Store	Discount	Eligibility
Applebee's	10% - 15% (varies by location)	60+
Arby's	10% (varies by location)	55+
Ben & Jerry's	10%	60+
Burger King	10%	60+
Chick-Fil-A	10% (or free small drink)	55+
Chili's	10%	55+
Denny's	Discounted seniors' menu or 15% off with AARP membership	55+
Dunkin' Donuts	10% or free coffee	55+
Einstein's Bagels	10% off a baker's dozen	60+
IHOP	10%	55+
KFC	5% - 10% (varies by location)	55+
Krispy Kreme	10%	55+
Sonic	10%	60+
Subway	10%	60+
Sweet Tomatoes	10%	62+
TCBY	10%	55+
Taco Bell	5%	65+
Wendy's	10%	55+
Village Inn	10%	60+
Waffle House	10% every Monday	60+

Retail & Apparel

Store	Discount	Eligibility
Banana Republic	10% (at participating locations)	55+
Clark's	10%	62+
Goodwill	Varies by location	55+
Hallmark	10% (one day a week, varies by location)	55+
Kohl's	10% (on Wednesdays)	60+
Chili's	10%	55+
Rite Aid	20% (first Wednesday of the month with Rite Aid card)	65+
Ross Stores	10% (every Tuesday)	55+
TJ Maxx	10% (at participating locations)	55+
Walgreens	20% (first Tuesday of each month)	55+

Grocery

Store	Discount	Eligibility
Albertson's	10% (1 st Wednesday of each month)	55+
Fry's Supermarket	10% (1 st Wednesday of each month)	55+
Safeway	10% (1 st Wednesday of each month)	55+

Telecommunications

Business	Discount	Eligibility
AT&T	Discounted \$60 Unlimited Plan \$10 off per line and 15% off accessories for AARP members	55+
Consumer Cellular	5% Requires AARP Membership	60+
T-Mobile	Discounted Unlimited plans starting at \$55 for two lines	55+

(Continued on page 4)

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SENIOR DISCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 3)

Travel		
Company	Discount	Eligibility
American Airlines	Discount fares, typically 10%	65+
Amtrak	10% off most fares	65+
Avis	Up to 30%, free upgrades Requires AARP membership	50+
Best Western	Up to 15%	55+
British Airways	Up to \$200 off fares (depending on class) Requires AARP membership	55+
Budget	Up to 30%, free upgrades Requires AARP membership	50+
Delta	Discounted fares on select flights Only available by phone	65+
Dollar Rent-a-Car	10%	50+
Hertz	20%	50+
Hilton Hotels & Resorts	Up to 10%, Requires AARP membership	50+
IHG Hotels	Discounts vary	62+
Marriot Hotels	Discounts vary	62+
Motel 6	8%	60+
Payless Car Rental	5%, Requires AARP membership	60+
Red Roof	10%	59+
Royal Caribbean	Discounts on select cruises	55+
United Airlines	Discounts vary	65+
Wyndham Hotels & Resorts	Up to 10% Requires AARP Membership or 60+	50+ (Continued on page 6)

POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST



Park Central Shopping City (aka Park Central Mall) opened in 1957 as one of the earliest outdoor shopping centers in the country. The back of this postcard reads:

“The Park Central Shopping City, in the heart of Phoenix, serves the entire Valley of the Sun. It offers 5,000 car free parking on a 47-acre plot, with 500,00 square feet of shopping area. There are department stores, restaurants, specialty shops, a drug store, and a nursery for the convenience of shoppers.”

In its early days, Park Central Mall was a bustling hub of activity, with a variety of popular stores and restaurants, including Goldwater’s (as seen in the photo),

Montgomery Ward, and Smuggler’s Inn. The mall also featured a large outdoor fountain and seating areas, making it a popular spot for people to gather and socialize.

Over the years, Park Central Mall continued to evolve and grow. In the 1970s and 1980s, the mall underwent a series of renovations and expansions, adding new stores, restaurants, and entertainment options, including a movie theater and even an ice rink.

Park Central Mall began to face competition from newer, larger shopping centers in the 1990s and 2000s. In 2016, the mall was sold to a new owner and is currently in the midst of a major redevelopment project, which is transforming the property into a modern, mixed-use development with office space, retail shops, restaurants, and residential units.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Name	Date of Death	Department
Kathi N. Perez (Gabe)	07/16/2022	
Nancy Arrington	10/20/2022	Finance
Fern L. Thompson (David W.)	01/04/2023	
Andrew Tang	01/06/2023	
Rodolfo Telles	01/06/2023	Parks & Recreation
Abe Gonzales	01/07/2023	Housing
Beverly Moody	01/25/2023	Planning & Development
Albert Valdivia, Jr.	01/27/2023	
Eleanor S. Canisales (John P.)	02/05/2023	
John N. Montano	02/09/2023	Street Transportation
John Y. Cleveland	02/12/2023	Public Transit
Sally T. Renteria (Librado)	02/14/2023	
Frank L. Clark	02/15/2023	Street Transportation
Julie Harmon (Harvey)	02/16/2023	
Valeta Fife (Calvin B.)	02/17/2023	
James Sparks	02/20/2023	Street Transportation
Linda Sing (Lee)	02/23/2023	
Charles J. Beuerlein	02/24/2023	Street Transportation

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

NEW MEMBERS

Brian Fayle	Water Services Department	Scott Overby	Public Works Department
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APRIL EVENTS

Maricopa County Fair – April 12-16

The Maricopa County Fair is held annually at the Arizona State Fairgrounds. The Fair features the largest county fair carnival in Phoenix with over 35 rides. Foodies will appreciate the wide selection of fair food. Food offerings include unique items like Steve's Flaming Hot Turkey Legs, Deep Fried Coffee, the Mac Doggie Dog and so much more. Like to shop? The shopping pavilion is filled with over 60 vendors plus there are over 25 more vendors outside. Agriculture and livestock are a part of the fairs history and tradition and is a mainstay. For more information and go purchase tickets, go to <https://maricopacountyfair.org/>.

Celebrate Mesa – April 15, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Celebrate Mesa is a free family festival that will feature Earth Day activities, live entertainment, free bounce houses and kids games, visits from superheroes, a petting zoo, carnival rides, food trucks and much more! Held at [Mesa Pioneer Park](#).

eARTh Night – April 22, 6-8PM

This event is a culmination of a year-long series of exhibitions and programs celebrating fire, water, earth, and sky. Join the Gallery at the Tempe Center for the Arts to celebrate Earth Day, because you just can't spell earth without "art." This one-night program will include eco-friendly art making booths with Valley artists Laura Spalding Best and Yuko Yabuki, live music and happy hour drinks at the bar. For more information, go to:

<https://www.tempe.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/74281/>



PHOENIX PUBLIC LIBRARY

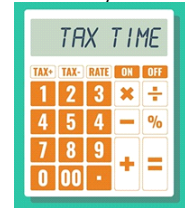


National Library Week is in April (4/23 - 4/29), a week to highlight the role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in strengthening our communities. Visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org in the weeks and month to come to find a great reading

suggestion from each month's "Just Read" feature, explore a library resource to discover a unique voice in honor of each month's "Voices" spotlight. Or go more in depth and explore just a few of the resources you have at your fingertips with your Phoenix Public Library card:

- It's Tax Time? Are you ready?

Visit Phoenix Public Library's Tax Time page for the resources you need to have a smooth and informed tax preparation process this year. Find links and resources to Arizona forms, Federal forms, Free tax prep help and other resources. Or plan a visit to a Phoenix Public Library location that is offering the City of Phoenix's annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). Visit [VITA-Volunteer Income Tax Assistance](#) in Phoenix Public Library's online calendar for details, including available appointments with a VITA tax volunteer at Phoenix Public Library locations began last week. For those making less than \$58,000 per year, they can visit "Free Tax Services – 3 Ways" page on phoenix.gov to learn more and schedule an appointment. To learn more about VITA offered at Phoenix Public Library locations, visit our calendar of events on phoenixpubliclibrary.org.



- Discover a new online favorite! Did you know that Phoenix Public Library customers checked out almost 2.3 million items from the Greater Phoenix Digital Library (Overdrive) in 2022? Give the Greater Phoenix Digital Library a try today, especially the "Always Available" section. "Always Available" includes a wide range of popular titles, including magazines books and audiobooks, with no waiting! All you need is your Phoenix Public Library card to get started. If you don't already have one, visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org to sign up for your eCard.

Greater Phoenix Digital Library

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SENIOR DISCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 4)

Activities & Entertainment		
Business	Discount	Eligibility
AMC Theaters	30%	55+
Harkins Theaters	\$1-3 off regular ticket price	60+
Ticketmaster	2-for-1 for select shows	50+
	Requires AARP Membership	
U.S. National Parks	\$20 annual pass; \$80 lifetime pass	62+

Sources:

Matasci, Matt. 75 of the Best Senior Discounts for Food, Entertainment, Travel and More. The Penny Hoarder. 7 March 2023. <https://www.thepennyhoarder.com/save-money/best-senior-discounts/>

Harper, Elizabeth. The 78 Best Senior Discounts to Use in 2023. Dealnews. 24 February 2023. <https://www.dealnews.com/features/discounts/senior-discounts/>

Clark, Chris. Biggest List of Senior Discounts in 2023. The Senior List. 8 March 2023. <https://www.theseniorlist.com/senior-discounts/>

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 **Bertha Figueroa**.
CONGRATULATIONS Bertha!

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. She can also be reached by phone at 602-206-5515.

Sign up now!

*"It is spring again.
The earth is like a
child that knows
poems by heart."*

— Rainer Maria Rilke



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

2023 COPRA BOARD

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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

APRIL COPRA CHRONICLE

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Litchfield Park, AZ 85340



MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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