



COPRA CHRONICLE

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

October 2022

MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH

Issue 7

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"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.

SEEKING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS

With the current steep rise in the cost of living, now more than ever retirees need a strong voice through COPRA to ensure our pension and healthcare benefits are maintained. If you are the kind of person who likes to make a difference, consider submitting your name to run for the COPRA Board of Directors.

There are twelve elected positions on the Board, each serving a two-year term. Seven Board positions are up for election this year. Candidate biographies, and ballots, will be included in the November issue of the COPRA Chronicle, with the election taking place at the General Membership Meeting and Holiday Party on December 2, 2022.

At the first Board meeting of the new year in January, the complete Board will discuss and vote on who will comprise the Executive Board, which includes the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The other members serve at-large in capacities like producing the COPRA Chronicle and organizing the Holiday Party.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the COPRA Board, please contact Mary Jo Slunder at copra.members@gmail.com by no later than October 18, 2022.

(Nominating Committee: Mary Jo Slunder, Victoria Correll, Sue Stites, and Andy Terrey)

COPRA MEMBER SURVEY COMING SOON

How well does the COPRA Board communicate with our members? What are your favorite COPRA-sponsored activities? Do you have ideas for new services or events we could offer? You can answer all these questions by responding to the COPRA Member Survey, coming soon to your mailbox (whether it's e-mail or U.S. mail). This brief survey will help the board plan for the future, and your opinion counts!

Please take the time to complete and return the survey.

POSTCARD FROM THE PAST - SKY HARBOR TERMINAL 2



Those who have traveled through Sky Harbor Airport's Terminal 2 may remember a large mural called, "The Phoenix" in the main lobby. It is believed to be the first piece of city-commissioned art chosen through a public process. Artists from across the US were invited to submit mural concepts for the new terminal, which were then put on display at the Phoenix Public Library. Residents voted for their favorite design and picked the concept by Arizona artist Paul Coze. The mural debuted when Terminal 2 opened in 1962.

The mural is 75 feet long and consists of three panels. It is more of a mosaic than a painting, in that 52 different materials were incorporated into the work. According to the description on the back of the postcard, the center panel "Water and Fire" shows the Phoenix Bird aflame as it sits on a date tree, burning himself to be reborn from the ashes. Smoke turns into rain clouds and water is collected by Roosevelt Dam.

When Terminal 2 was closed and demolished in 2020, the mural was relocated to the Sky Harbor Rental Car Center, where it can be seen today.

Source: <https://www.skyharbor.com/Museum/ArtCollection/PaulCozeMural>

IN REMEMBRANCE

Name	Date of Death	Department
Elroy J. Sullivan	6/30/2022	
Martha Hart (Sylvester)	7/17/2022	
Avorald L. Baird	7/21/2022	Street Transportation
Judith F. Kennedy	8/2/2022	Library
Billie J. Hill (Harley R.)	8/3/2022	
Jeffrey O. Love	8/4/2022	Aviation
Jennifer L. Baker	8/8/2022	Police
Carol Gross	8/8/2022	Fire
Sandra F. Lopez (Steve J.)	8/11/2022	
Roberta L. Drozanowski	8/14/2022	Police
Harold W. Lively	8/24/2022	Human Services
Mickeline Koyrkoymelis	8/25/2022	Municipal Court
Howard E. Lindsay	8/25/2022	Aviation
Alice S. Torres (Arthur B.)	8/26/2022	
David W. Quinn (Jean)	8/27/2022	
Janice Constantine	9/4/2022	
Brenda O'Neil	9/5/2022	Municipal Court
Ramon R. Mendoza	9/14/2022	Parks & Recreation

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

THE 2023 RETIREE BENEFITS OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD IS OCTOBER 17 - NOVEMBER 14

The open enrollment period for making changes to your 2023 retiree benefits is Monday, October 17 through Monday, November 14, 2022, no later than 11:59 PM. You do not have to re-enroll in benefits unless you are making changes to your current benefit elections, adding or dropping dependents, or opting out of coverage.

For Plan Year 2023 the City will continue to offer two dental plan options, Vision, Legal, and Pet Insurance, and a choice between four Non-Medicare Retiree medical plans that include an HMO, PPO, HSA, and Catastrophic Plan.

The link to the Retiree Open Enrollment website is: www.Phoenix.gov/benefitsretiree. There you can review and access the 2023 Retiree Benefit Guide, Open Enrollment information, and other important information relevant to your retiree benefits.

Due to the persistent risk of Covid-19 for retirees, the City is only offering Live Virtual Information Sessions. The Benefits Office in partnership with United Healthcare will be available during each virtual event to address any benefit plan option-related questions you may have. Follow this link to register for one of the sessions:

<https://www.phoenix.gov/hrsite/Documents/Benefits/2022%20OE%20Info%20Sessions%20Flyer.pdf>

It is especially important to keep your contact information up to date. If you have moved or made any changes to your phone number or email, call the City's Benefits Office at (602) 262-4777 or send an email to benefits.questions@phoenix.gov.

SPOOKY FACTS ABOUT HALLOWEEN

Halloween is believed to trace its history back to the Celtic festival of Samhain, which was originally celebrated on November 1st. On Samhain eve (October 31), spirits of the dead were thought to mingle with the living. To ward off restless souls, people donned costumes and carved frightening faces into root vegetables such as beets, potatoes, and turnips.

Here are some interesting facts about the holiday:

- In Alabama, it is illegal to wear a nun or priest costume for Halloween.
- The world's heaviest pumpkin tipped the scales at 2,702 lb, 13.9 oz (1,226 kg).
- Finding a spider on Halloween night is considered good luck.

(Continued on page 5)

NEW MEMBERS

Veronica Aguilar	Municipal Court	Esther Gerken	Phx Convention Center
Robin Anderson	Neighborhood Services	Gerald Griffith	Water Services
Marianne Bayardi	Municipal Court	Hans Harambasic	Planning & Development
Alice Bimrose	Aviation	Robert A. Harper	Police
Kathy Bird	Human Resources	Rudy Huizar	Parks & Recreation
Johnmark Bradley	Finance	Byron Joyner	Police
Leigh Brown	Library	Umihana Kapic-Jusic	Library
Michael Campos	Phx Convention Center	Mark Klenner	Public Works
Georgia Chavez	Human Services	David M. Nieto, Jr.	Street Transportation
Annamarie Collins	Human Services	Rodney Saubel	Communications Office
Mindy Davis	Housing	Timothy Sterne	Human Resources
Michelle Dodds	Planning & Development	Robert L. Swadley	Public Works
Deborah Doss	Water Services	Robert Ward	Public Works
Michael A. Friske	Water Services	Melvin Washington	Planning & Development
Robert Gallegos	Parks & Recreation	Robert E. Whitaker, Sr.	Aviation

City of Phoenix retirees are invited to participate.

The City is once again partnering with Valley of the Sun United Way in its annual campaign, where City employees and retirees give back to the community—supporting organizations that give back to families and individuals.

With the help of City retirees, the Community Service Fund Drive (CSFD) has raised almost \$25 million for health and human services programs since its inception in 1998. The CSFD Executive Committee is counting on your generous support again, and thanks you for your continued generosity.

No matter where you give, your gift goes far, but not far away. All contributions stay in Arizona to address our most critical health and human service needs. You may consider choosing Agency #9000 to help the Valley of the Sun United Way stomp out hunger, end homelessness, ensure children and youth succeed, and improve financial stability for families. Or consider helping fellow City employees through a donation to Agency #9201, Helping Other Phoenix Employees (HOPE) Fund. This fund is designed to lessen an employee’s financial burden caused by an unexpected event. Or consider donating to an agency that is also eligible for a tax credit.

Additionally, you are all welcome to participate in volunteer opportunities and can find more information at <https://volunteer.vsuw.org/need/>. When registering, list the City of Phoenix as your employer and “Retiree” as your Job title. Volunteer hours logged contribute \$28.00/hour toward the CSFD goal!

For a full list of eligible agencies or for any other questions, please contact us at csfd@phoenix.gov or at (602) 534-2202.

Contributing to the fund drive is easy and convenient: you can use eCHRIS, submit a paper pledge form, or even donate using a credit card. For your convenience, a special retiree pledge form is attached below for your cash or check contribution. We look forward to your continued support as a valued member of our City family.

Sincerely,
The CSFD Retiree Committee

**RETIRED CITY OF PHOENIX EMPLOYEES
COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND DRIVE
PLEDGE FORM**
csfd@phoenix.gov

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:
City of Phoenix Human Resources Department
Attn: CSFD Program Coordinator/Yolie Briseño
251 W. Washington Street, 7th FL, Phoenix, AZ 85003

Last Name (please print) _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Address: _____
Street, City, and Zip Code

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

DONATION: _____

I would like to make a one-time cash or check contribution of \$ _____.

Please make checks payable to CSFD.

All cash & check donations will be deposited and will count towards the tax year in which it was submitted.

CONTRIBUTION DESIGNATION

There are many worthwhile organizations on our agency list that would benefit from your donation. You may consider selecting from these popular agencies, or request a full agency list to make your selection.

1. Helping Other Phoenix Employees (HOPE) Fund (Agency #9201)
2. Valley of the Sun United Way for health and human services programs (Agency #9000)

Agency: _____ Agency # _____ Amount \$ _____

Agency: _____ Agency # _____ Amount \$ _____

PURCHASE SERIES I BONDS TO HEDGE AGAINST INFLATION

Need a safe hedge against inflation? Consider purchasing Series I Savings Bonds, also known as I Bonds.

I Bonds are a US government security that earns interest at a fixed rate, adjusted twice a year based on inflation. The current interest rate for I Bonds purchased through the end of October is 9.62 percent. That rate will be applied to the 6 months after the purchase is made. For example, if you buy an I Bond on October 15, 2022, the 9.62% rate would be applied through April 15, 2023. A new rate is set every six months based on the bond's fixed rate (0.00 percent) and on inflation. Interest is compounded semi-annually.

To purchase I Bonds, you must first establish an account through TreasuryDirect. The maximum purchase for electronic I Bonds is \$10,000 per calendar year. Paper bonds are also available, but they must be bought with your tax refund and the maximum annual purchase \$5,000. The interest-earning period is 30 years or until you cash them. Minimum term of ownership is one year. If they are redeemed before 5 years, interest from the previous 3 months will be forfeited. There is no penalty after that. For more information on how to purchase I Bonds, go to the TreasuryDirect website at:

<https://www.treasurydirect.gov/indiv/myaccount/myaccount.htm#TreasuryDirect>.

Source: <https://www.treasurydirect.gov/tdhome.htm> 13 September 2022

SPOOKY FACTS ABOUT HALLOWEEN (CONT.)

(Continued from page 3)

- In the movie *Halloween*, Michael Myers' mask was a Captain Kirk Star Trek mask painted white.
- Fear of Halloween is called Samhainophobia.
- The term "jack-o'-lantern" dates back to a 18th-century Irish folktale of Stingy Jack, a blacksmith who had a fondness for mischief and booze. As the story goes, Stingy Jack tricked the devil twice. When Jack died, he found himself barred from heaven -- and from hell. But the devil took some pity on Jack, giving him an ember of coal to light his turnip lantern as he wandered between both places for eternity.
- The word *witch* comes from the Old English word "Wicce" - a wise woman or a female healer.
- Halloween is the second highest-grossing commercial holiday after Christmas. In 2021, Americans spent \$10.1 billion on Halloween, nearly double what was spent in 2005.
- An estimated 172 million

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COPRA Holiday Party

\$20 per person

Friday, December 2, 2022

11:30 am (Doors open at 11:15 am)

**Washington Activity Center
2240 W. Citrus Way, Phoenix, AZ**

To order tickets, pay via PayPal to phoenixcopra@gmail.com (use friends and family) or send a check payable to COPRA before November 17 to the following address:

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

COPRA will be collecting toys at our Holiday Party to be delivered to a local toy drive for disadvantaged children.



NEW RETIREES (AUGUST)

Sylvia Aguilar	Public Works	John Gilbert	Public Works
Anthony Alvidrez	Water Services	Tanya Gray	Municipal Court
Alison Arendsee	Aviation	Christopher Harmon	Water Services
Alice Bimrose	Aviation	Janis Haug	Law
Mary Black	Law	Diana Hinz	Law
Richard Carlson	Aviation	Claudia Hubbard	Phx Convention Center
Jonathan Daly	Police	George Chin Ku	Parks & Recreation
Eric Davis	Fire	Vicki Leswick	Police
Deborah Doss	Water Services	David Moore	Police
Joyce Dreyer	Street Transportation	Cynthia Parker	Aviation
Gloria Encinas	Human Services	Edwin Rodriguez	Aviation
Dianna Evans	Public Transit	Nira Rupal	Parks & Recreation
Sean Faux	Police	Thomas Solis	Parks & Recreation
Benny Federico	Street Transportation	Teresa Trimmer	Fire
John Flores	Planning & Dev.	Warren Wilfong	Water Services
Paula Frost	Public Works		

FROM THE DESK OF THE PHOENIX LIBRARIAN

Today, your public library offers so much more than books and having a Phoenix Public Library Card offers you access to a significant range of information, resources, and things to do. Explore our top 5 reasons to get your Phoenix Public Library Card:

- 5. The Reading.** Because reading changes everything, at every age. Reading stimulates every readers' mind, reduces stress and improves memory and imagination.
- 4. The Simplicity.** Because you can reduce the amount of "stuff" you keep. Borrow our "stuff", (we have over 2 million items available for checkout) as often as you want!
- 3. The Choice.** Because if you're local, you can come in to any one of our 17 locations and check out a beloved book, use a computer, access free WiFi, attend a class or book club. **Or** from the comfort of your home visit www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org and download ebooks, stream movies/music/television, read magazines and newspapers, research a database or take an online class. 24/7 access!
- 2. The Experts.** Because having information matters and having the right information matters more. With Phoenix Public Library you have access to experts that are highly trained in finding exactly what you are looking for through personalized and hands-on assistance!
- 1. The Savings.** Because with a Phoenix Public Library card, everything you will find at Phoenix Public Library is **free**. *A Phoenix Public Library Account is available to Maricopa County residents at no cost. Residents outside of Maricopa County are eligible to apply for borrowing privileges to include an annual \$40 fee.

SPOOKY FACTS ABOUT HALLOWEEN (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 5)

- people celebrated Halloween in 2019. Twenty-nine million people said they planned to dress their pets in costume.
- Americans will buy 600 million pounds of candy for Halloween. That's equivalent to 1.8 pounds per person in the US.
 - Harry Houdini died on Halloween 1926.

(Continued on page 7)

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 May winner is **Stuart Casey**.
CONGRATULATIONS Stuart!

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!

SPOOKY FACTS (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 6)

- Illinois, the Land of Lincoln, is also the nation's largest pumpkin producer, harvesting three to five times more pumpkins than any other state.



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

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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

OCTOBER COPRA CHRONICLE

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PO Box 2464
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340



2022 MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Washington Activity Center
2240 W. Citrus Way
Phoenix, AZ

December 2, 2022 at 11:30 am - Holiday Party and Annual Meeting

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