



COPRA CHRONICLE

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

November 2022

MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH

Issue 8

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	2
COPRA Member Survey	2
New Retirees (September)	3
New Members	3
In Remembrance	4
Statement of Ownership	4
Holiday Toy Drive Update	5
COPRA Holiday Party	5
Postcard from the Past	6
Reminder Retiree Benefits Open Enrollment Ends November 14	6
Your E-mail is Your Entry	7
2022 COPRA BOARD	7
Meeting Notices	8



"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.

COPRA BOARD ELECTION

It is time once again to elect members to serve on the COPRA Board of Directors. There are twelve elected positions on the Board, each serving a two-year term. This year, seven positions need to be filled. Five members, all incumbents, have applied to serve on the Board for the term covering 2023-2024. In accordance with the COPRA By-Laws, if there are no more than six candidates seeking office, a formalized ballot process is not required. Voting will be conducted by a "voice vote" at the December 2, 2022 COPRA Annual Meeting and Holiday Party.

Anna Marie Dragonetti

Anna worked for the City of Phoenix for 31 years, starting with the City Clerk Department as a Word Processing Lead and then promoting to the Finance Department as a Clerical Supervisor. She then progressed to Administrative Assistant in the Aviation Department before becoming a Budget Analyst for Phoenix Convention Center. Anna has a bachelor's degree in business from Ottawa University. She currently volunteers at the Phoenix Zoo, Desert Botanical Garden, and Phoenix Art Museum. Anna is looking forward to volunteering for COPRA to contribute her personal life and work skills to assist fellow retirees, who she had the pleasure of working with for over 31 years.

Brian Suggs

Brian retired from the City in 2011 after 28 years of service. During that time, he worked in a number of areas, including the Development Services Department, Public Information Office, Budget and Research Department, City Manager's Office and the Housing Department. He was involved in administrative duties in each of these assignments. As a result, he worked with people throughout the City organization and came to understand that the City's greatest resource was its employees. "It would be an honor to help represent the City retiree community as part of the COPRA board." Brian has appreciated the work of the board for a number of years but was unable to participate because of full-time employment after retiring from the City. Having finished with that employment, he now has time available to spend working on the board. Brian works well with others and looks forward to being part

(Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Rob Sweeney

Music plays a big role in my life. As the last of seven children, we often found ways to entertain ourselves with the gift of music. My Mom played the organ, and we would all sing along. The nuns at the parochial school we attended made sure we could sing!

I recall my Mom's Mom, Grandma Spitz to me, would often make-up songs. She would rhyme words with our name and continue on like a present-day rapper: 'Robby, not slobby met me in the lobby; Robby good golly, what's your favorite hobby?...' I always smiled and laughed with her personal renditions. My brothers, sisters and I continue the Grandma Spitz tradition today.

My three adult children now roll their eyes when I make up songs. I will hear a song and often take it in another direction. Like when one of the kids asked for more food at the table, I would start singing, 'Food, Glorious Food' from *Oliver* or sing, "...she wants more, more more..." in my best (worst) Billy Idol voice making fun of 'Rebel Yell'. I would sing sincerely to each of my kids when putting them to bed as young ones. It was always a trio of James Taylor songs, one which I recorded and used for the father/daughter dance at my oldest daughter's wedding.

Hearing a song can take one back in time to a particular moment of joy or sorrow. I laugh every time I hear the first few piano notes from Hall and Oats', 'Kiss on My List.' A radio station in Flagstaff played that song for over 2 hours straight in response to criticism they were not paying a variety. So, every 4 minutes and 25 seconds you heard, 'Flagstaff's variety hit's station...' and the song would begin again! The added sarcasm was lost on many, as the song was released 4+ years earlier!

I tear up when I hear any song by the Glenn Miller Orchestra, one of my Mom and Dad's favorite bands. Big Band music filled the home quite often. As did Broadway Musical scores. Not music from *Rent* of recent times, but *The King and I*, *South Pacific*, *Oklahoma*. All bring me right back to the humble house on Rovey just north of Christown Mall.

The other day, my collection of musical genres on Spotify landed me on 'Cherish' by The Association (Yes, I am the LAST of seven children and their love of music genres carried over to me!). "Cherish is the word I use to describe all the feeling I have inside for you..." That song got me thinking: could the 'you' of the song be anything?

I do cherish my time with family and friends. I cherish every moment I get to spend with my 96 year-old Father. I cherish each moment to be physically present with our New Zealand-based family. I cherish the memories of challenging hikes and exhilarating roller coaster rides. I cherish health and happiness. I cherish making people smile. I cherish my right to vote and be free (thank you Veterans!). I cherish good food and laughter. I cherish the gift of music.

As you approach the many milestones on the November calendar, find what you cherish about each day. It could be what's upcoming or what has already occurred. I know I will cherish the ability to fly the US flag on November 11 and celebrate Thanksgiving Day with family. And you can be rest assured that I have a musical playlist in Spotify for each celebration.

May you have a safe and memory-filled Thanksgiving. I hope to see many of you at COPRA's Holiday Luncheon/General Membership Meeting in December!

Rob

COPRA MEMBER SURVEY

The Member Survey is now being distributed by e-mail or U.S. Mail to all members. If you have not received your copy, you may access it at: <https://s.surveypal.com/25s7ia4z>. **All surveys must be completed by Nov. 15.** By taking 5-10 minutes to respond, you can let the COPRA Board know which current member services are of value and suggest new services we might offer in the future.

COPRA BOARD ELECTION (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

of a team. If elected to the board, he would be glad to hear the concerns of the City retiree community and help represent them to City management.

Andy Terrey

Andy retired in 2017 after 29 years of service. During his career with Water Services, he was responsible for developing and overseeing a wide range of department initiatives, including water conservation, water reuse, water loss control, water quality optimization, and energy management. Andy believes it is important for retirees to have a strong, unified voice through COPRA on policies affecting City retirees.

Rob Sweeney

Rob is a native Phoenician who lives in the Ahwatukee-Foothills neighborhood of Phoenix. Rob worked for the City of Phoenix for almost 29 years, retiring in December 2017 as Assistant Chief Information Officer/Assistant Finance Director, and is currently serving as COPRA President. Rob held numerous positions while at the City, working in Finance, City Auditor, and Information Technology Services. Rob worked on many city task forces, including the Innovation and Efficiency Task Force, Task Force on Technology Advancement, and the Association/Management Committee, using an interest-based negotiation approach for ASPTEA and management to resolve issues. Rob earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Northern Arizona University and a Master's in Business Administration from Arizona State University. Rob is married to his wife Kecia (KEY-sha). Together they have three grown children. Rob is interested in continuing his support of City initiatives and its retirement community by serving on the COPRA Board.

Kathy Wenger

Kathy started her career with the City in 1994 as a Budget Analyst II in Water Services and was promoted to Department Budget Supervisor in 1995. In 2000, she joined Engineering and Architectural Services as the Administrative Assistant III, responsible for budget and fiscal, personnel and payroll, IT and Central records. She subsequently joined the Phoenix Convention Center as Deputy Director, retiring in 2016. While there, she was responsible for budget, procurement, contracts, event accounting, IT, and Ticketing. Kathy currently serves as the activity coordinator on the board and would like to continue to serve. She believes the COPRA Board ensures that Phoenix Retirees present a united voice to the city and that COPRA is critical to ensure that pension payments, MERP payments, and healthcare benefits are protected and continue to meet the needs of retirees.

We are still short two Board members. If you are interested in volunteering to temporarily serve on the Board, please contact Mary Jo Slunder at copra.members@gmail.com.

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

NEW RETIREES (SEPTEMBER)

Amy Barko	Development Services	Paul Ollarsaba	Water Services
Salvatore Chiovari	Parks & Recreation	John Padilla	Street Transportation
Elizabeth Delacruz	Fire	Terry Peabody	Neighborhood Services
Jay Dupont	Aviation: Sky Harbor	Sharon Robinson	Police
Debbie Fallis	Phoenix Convention Center	Francisco Ruiz	Municipal Court
Gilbert Garcia	Public Works: Facilities	Maria Ruiz	Phoenix Convention Center
Greg Gruman	Public Works: Property Mgt.	Anne Shadle	Public Works
Eddie Mahoney	Parks & Recreation	Richard Surratt	Planning & Development
Luis Oliveros	Public Works		

NEW MEMBERS

Carlos Leon	Public Works	Joel Waggener	Aviation Department
Denise Olson	Finance Department	Melvin Washington	Planning & Development

IN REMEMBRANCE

Name	Date of Death	Department
Dixie L. MacDougal	8/10/2022	Police
Dorothy Lunde	8/22/2022	Human Services
Rey G. Gonzalez	8/29/2022	Parks & Recreation
Loretta J. Brown	8/31/2022	
Frances L. Smith (William B.)	8/31/2022	
Dale M. Russell	9/4/2022	Water Services
Carl Boss	9/10/2022	Fire
Albert Valencia	9/10/2022	Public Works
George T. Kechanin	9/17/2022	Human Services
Bertha Jessen	9/19/2022	
John I. Workley	9/20/2022	Finance
Esequiel Estrada	9/21/2022	Water Services
Betty R. Hibma (Donald E.)	9/21/2022	
Howard L. Johnson	9/22/2022	Parks & Recreation
Isaac Worley (Loretta)	9/26/2022	
Fermin Salcido	9/27/2022	Water Services
Marquita D. Beene	9/28/2022	Equal Opportunity
Barbara Buttram	10/5/2022	Water Services
Donald C. ("Fuzzy") Dumler	10/5/2022	Public Works

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

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title COPRA Chronicle	2. Publication Number 1521-4431	3. Filing Date 10/01/2022
4. Issue Frequency Monthly except June, July, August	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 9	6. Annual Subscription Price 12.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) 6208 E. Desert Cove, Scottsdale, Az 85254		Contact Person Mary Jo Franklin Telephone (Include area code)
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) 11523 W. Cyprus Dr. Avondale, Az 85392		
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) City of Phoenix Retirees Association (COPRA) 11523 W. Cyprus Dr. Avondale, Az 85392 Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Mary Dyingser Franklin 6208 E. Desert Cove Scottsdale, Az 85254 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Mary Jo Slunder P.O. Box 2464 Litchfield Park, Az 85340		
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.) Full Name City of Phoenix Retirees Association (COPRA) Complete Mailing Address 1523 W. Cyprus Dr. Avondale, Az 85392		
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None Full Name Complete Mailing Address		
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)		

PS Form 3526, July 2014 [Page 1 of 4 (see instructions page 4)] PSN: 7530-01-000-9931 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com.

13. Publication Title COPRA Chronicle	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 10/01/2022	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	100	100
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	400	400
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®		
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)		
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	500	500
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541		
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541		
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)		
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))	0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	500	500
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))	95	95
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)	595	595
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	100	100
* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.		
16. Electronic Copy Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	694	700
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	1194	1200
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	1194	1200
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)	100	100
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.		
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 11/1/22 issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.		
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner <i>Louis Matamoros</i>		Date 09/19/2022

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE UPDATE

This year's holiday toy drive will benefit the **City of Phoenix Head Start Program**. Phoenix Head Start has over 2,200 enrolled families, all who live in the City of Phoenix. Their caseworkers match toys received with the children and families they serve, and while Head Start serves children from birth through age five, they ensure that EVERY child in the family receives a present. In addition to toys, Head Start will also accept gift cards to Fry's grocery store or Walmart for amounts between \$10 and \$25. These cards help families buy laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, and diapers. Sorry, they cannot accept cash.

Remember to bring your **unwrapped toys** and **low dollar gift cards** to the Holiday Party on Dec 2nd! Everyone who brings a toy or card will receive a ticket for a special gift card drawing.



COPRA Holiday Party

\$20 per person

Friday, December 2, 2022

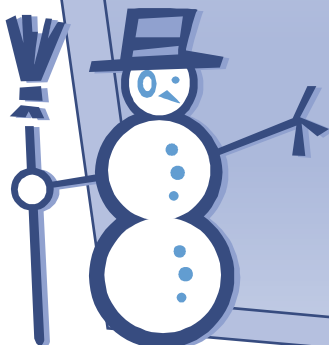
11:30 am (Doors open at 11:15 am)

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.*



POSTCARD FROM THE PAST



Before the construction of the interstate highway system, Van Buren Street served as a main thoroughfare for travelers passing through Phoenix on US Highways 60, 70, 80, 89, and 93. The Tropics Motor Hotel at 1902 E. Van Buren was an icon of that bygone era. Opened in December 1957, it featured 55 guest rooms, a coffee shop and dining room, and heated pool.

Tropics Motor Hotel was designed by Al Beadle, one of Arizona's most respected mid-century architects working in the modern and international style. Though it has been demolished, hundreds of residential and commercial properties designed by Beadle still exist in Phoenix, including the Stewart Title Building (now Amerischools) on Camelback Road and 13th Avenue, First Federal Bank (Now Federal Pizza) on Central Avenue north of Camelback Road, and the Burton Barr Residence near the Arizona Biltmore Resort.

Source:

Wagner, Grant, 12 May 2016, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), *Road Trip: Arizona's piece of US, and original transcontinental highway*, 11 October 2022, <https://azdot.gov/adot-blog/road-trip-arizona%E2%80%99s-piece-us-60-original-transcontinental-highway>

Smith, Jordon, 12 October 2016, Cardboard America, *Tropics Motor Hotel – Phoenix Arizona*, 10 October 2016, <https://cardboardamerica.org/2016/10/12/tropics-motor-hotel-phoenix-arizona/>

King, Alison, Modern Phoenix, *Beadle Archive*, 10 October 2022 <https://modernphoenix.net/beadlearchive/index.htm>

REMINDER - RETIREE BENEFITS OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS NOVEMBER 14TH

You should have received a letter from Human Resources Department clarifying that you DO NOT need to submit an Open Enrollment form if you are not making any changes to your benefits. If you are making changes, use the new form found on page 5 of the 2023 Retiree Benefits Guide. You can also complete this form electronically by visiting phoenix.gov/benefitsretiree. If you need assistance completing this form, contact the Benefits Office at (602) 262-4777.

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 November winner is **John L. Jackson. CONGRATULATIONS John!**

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!

"Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving"

— W. T. Purkiser

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 602-369-0840
E-mail bsuggs@msn.com

Treasurer:

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

Secretary:

Victoria Correll 602-995-8916
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 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

NOVEMBER 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

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.