



COPRA CHRONICLE

DEC 2025 | ISSUE 9

Issued by and for:
**City of Phoenix
Retirees Association,**
your advocate in pension
and insurance matters.

MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH

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SAVE THE DATE

See you at the Holiday Luncheon, Toy Drive & Board Elections on Friday December 5, at the Washington Activity Center Auditorium!



Spring General Membership Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 2026 | 10am- Noon
(More details will follow)

MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues for COPRA:

\$12 per year or \$50 for 5 years or \$100 for lifetime

If you have changed your address or phone number, or have any questions about membership due payments, please contact Anna Dragonetti at 602-992-0362 or copra.members@gmail.com

Mail payments to:

COPRA
PO Box 2464
Litchfield Park, Az 85340

Or PayPal to:

phoenixcopra@gmail.com



Photo: Norm Lane

Board meetings are held monthly on the 2nd Thursday of the month, except June, July and August.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Colorful lights twinkling in the night, sparkling trees in every window, festive displays indoors and out, gift ideas everywhere you look, and holiday music filling the car starting November 1st... It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas- basically since Halloween! And sometimes it even turns into a friendly competition. Have you seen Christmas with the Kranks or Jingle All the Way?

But amid all the glitter and excitement, it's worth remembering the heart of the holiday season. How do we share its joy with our family and friends? A warm cup of cheer, a kiss under the mistletoe, or inviting someone to our table who might otherwise celebrate alone. That's what my parents did, what we continue to do, what our grown children carry on, and- hopefully- what our grandchildren will one day cherish too.

Just as Thanksgiving reminds us to appreciate the abundance in our lives, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa remind us of the love that connects us all. Instead of striving to have the biggest tree or the brightest yard, let's strive to have the warmest hearts and the fullest tables. Let us be the ones volunteering at soup kitchens, sharing a hot meal with someone in need. Let us be the ones giving toys and small gifts to children whose families may be struggling during the holidays.

Let us be the spirit of this holiday season.

And on behalf of your COPRA Board of Directors, may you all enjoy a joyful, generous, and truly heartwarming holiday!

THE 13TH CHECK

There will be no 13th check in 2025.

The “13th Check” is one of the Pension Equalization Program established on October 1, 1991, when voters of the City of Phoenix approved an amendment to Chapter 24 of the City Charter, allowing pension adjustments to be paid to eligible retirees.



CRITERIA:

- Funds must be available in the Pension Equalization Reserve Fund to cover the 13th check for all eligible retirees.

Over the decade, the number of retirees has increased by nearly 56%. from about 5,000 in 2010 to over 8,000 in 2025.

The Pension Equalization Reserve is funded at the end of each calendar year only when COPERS' five-year average investment performance exceeds 8%.

The exacting criteria and rate evaluation required by the City Charter are meant to safeguard COPERS' plan assets and ultimately your pension.

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RATE (minimum of 1%) the lesser of:

- ½ of Consumer Price Index
- Excess investment return rate
- 3% maximum



SITREP

By Louis Matamoros

Welcome to SITREP, which stands for situation report. This section of your Chronicle covers various military topics every month. If you have any specific questions or issues you'd like to be explored, please send an email to: copratreasurer@yahoo.com.

December 7, 1941, marks the 81st anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. This was a pivotal moment in history. The Japanese launched a surprise air attack with over 350 planes, targeting U.S. naval ships and military bases. The assault started at 7:55 AM and lasted about 75 minutes.

The attack caused the death of over 2,400 Americans and caused major damage to the Pacific Fleet, including the destruction of battleships and aircraft. It shocked the nation and boosted public support for joining the war, marking a key turning point in both American society and global military actions.

The devastation at Pearl Harbor not only crippled the Pacific Fleet but also united the American people in a way few events had before. In the aftermath, there was a surge of enlistments as citizens rallied to support the war effort. President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed the nation the following day, famously declaring December 7th "a date which will live in infamy," and Congress responded by declaring war on Japan.



In response to the attack, American military installations across the country were immediately placed on high alert, and efforts to mobilize additional forces were rapidly initiated. The events of that day galvanized not only the armed services but also civilians, as communities organized blood drives and collected supplies to support those affected in Hawaii.

Tensions between the United States and Japan had been escalating for several years before the attack on Pearl Harbor. This growing strain was primarily the result of Japan's aggressive expansion across Asia, including military campaigns and territorial acquisitions. In response to these actions, the United States imposed a series of economic sanctions on Japan, aiming to curb its expansionist ambitions and pressure the Japanese government to change its course.

The first shots of WWII were fired by the USS Ward, an American ship, which sank a Japanese midget submarine just before the main attack began.

This act of early resistance highlighted the readiness and vigilance of some American forces, even amid the overall surprise of the attack. The USS Ward's action, though initially overshadowed by the larger events that followed, has since become an essential detail in the narrative of the attack on Pearl Harbor, demonstrating the complexity and chaos of that fateful morning.

These facts underscore the significance of Pearl Harbor in shaping U.S. history and military strategy during World War II. The event continues to hold a prominent place in American collective memory and is commemorated each year.

Should you happen to travel to Oahu, HI don't miss the opportunity to visit the Pearl Harbor National Memorial, which is made up of several historic sites and memorials. It is one of Hawaii's most visited attractions and one of the country's most significant WWII memorial sites.

**You are
not alone.**

Confidential crisis support
is available 24/7.

 **Veterans
Crisis Line**
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

Chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat
Text 838255

LIBRARY SHELF

Did you know that you Phoenix Public Library has a variety of book clubs, book discussions and author visits?

Check your Phoenix Public Library at www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org and see the numerous programs and events offered.

Your Library also hosts many other in-person events like musical performances, knitting classes, painting, writing, movie showings, and much more.

Your Library is a great place to get involved in your community as well. Volunteer or work at your local branch and have fun!



phoenixpubliclibrary.org



COPERS OCTOBER 2025 RETIREES

Michell M. Alvidrez	Phoenix Police Department	Patricia M. O'Leary Kennedy	Water Services Department
Heather L. Ard	Phoenix Police Department	Kevin A. Kleinpeter	Phoenix Police Department
Gilbert Armas	Street Transportation Dept.	John E. Knell	Phoenix Police Department
Michael Aro	Parks and Recreation Dept.	James D. Koenig	Public Works Department
Alonso Avitia	Parks and Recreation Dept.	James A. Kruse	Planning and Development Dept.
Michael P. Balian	Water Services Department	Ruth Anna La Coss	Human Resources Department
Christina M. Blake	Neighborhood Services Dept.	Charles L'Heureux	Water Services Department
Jason D. Blakley	Planning and Development Dept.	Michael E. Liggins	Parks and Recreation Dept.
Laura A. Borson	Parks and Recreation Dept.	Elaine F. Lopez	Law Department
Emmett R. Boyd	Parks and Recreation Dept.	Richard N. Lopez	Parks and Recreation Dept.
Betsy Ann Cable	Neighborhood Services Dept.	Frances A. Lubidesi	Human Services Dept.
Freddy Castro	Parks and Recreation Dept.	Christine Mackay	Community and Economic Development Dept.
John M. Chan	City Manager's Office	Albert S. Marinez	Street Transportation Dept.
Debra Chard	Water Services Department	Dennis L. Martin	Planning and Development Dept.
Roberta E. Chavez	Human Resources Dept.	Jesse Martinez	Parks and Recreation Dept.
Ray A. Corona	Parks and Recreation Dept.	George Thomas Mathis	Phoenix Police Dept.
Donald Lee Councilor	Planning and Development Dept.	Jessica M. Matthews	Public Works Department
Joe Daugherty	Phoenix Fire Department	David Mendoza	Public Works Department
John Dee	Street Transportation Dept.	Stephen Edward Miller	Municipal Court
Peter J. DeMassari	Water Services Department	Johnny A. Montoya	Planning and Development Dept.
Paul Alexander Duarte	Phoenix Fire Department	Amy L. Moore	Phoenix Police Department
Claudina R. Echeveste	Aviation Department	Sylvia V. Morales	Human Resources Dept.
Robert R. Edgin	Public Works Department	Benny Moreno	Phoenix Police Department
Inger L. Erickson	City Manager's Office	Raghu H. Nandan	Water Services Department
Fernando B. Espericueta	Neighborhood Services Dept.	Charlene D. Null	Phoenix Fire Department
Jaime M. Figueroa	Street Transportation Dept.	Amy Offenberg	Law Department
Sharon J. Fontenot	Aviation Department	Daviel Ontiveros	Public Works Department
Richard T. Fornefeld	Planning and Development Dept.	Albert Allen Pete	Aviation Department
Wei Gao	Information Technology Dept.	Boyko P. Petrov	Aviation Department
Frank M. Garcia	Public Works Department	Debbie C. Primeau	Aviation Department
Josie L. Garcia	Human Services Department	Polly S. Rapp	Law Department
Valerie S. Garcia	Human Resources Department	Sarah Rea	Phoenix Police Department
Mario J. Garibaldi	Water Services Department	Andrea Rendon	Public Works Department
Patricia A. George	Municipal Court	Duane E. Rendon	Phoenix Police Department
Dorothy A. Goeman	Human Services Department	John R. Ritchie	Street Transportation Dept.
George L. Gonzales	Public Works Department	Kevin F. Ross	Parks and Recreation Dept.
Denise S. Gregory	Phoenix Fire Department	Dora A. Salazar	Public Transit Department
Francisco R. Gutierrez	Phoenix Convention Center	Johnny R. Sandoval	Public Works Department
Jason E. Hall	Public Works Department	Conrad M. Santa Cruz	Public Works Department
Angelique M. Hechler	Phoenix Police Department	Glenn A. Schmidt	Parks and Recreation Dept.
Darlene J. Helm	Water Services Department	Greg Smith	Public Works Department
Adolfo G. Hernandez	Public Works Department	Isaac Soto Campos	Parks and Recreation Dept.
Jerry Hicks	Water Services Department	Jody D. Springer	Aviation Department
Benjamin F. Hill	Water Services Department	Paul A. Tocco	Housing Department
Michael W. Huff	Housing Department	Debra L. Turner	Aviation Department
Sandra E. Hunter	Law Department	Les Steven Tuskai	Law Department
Frank J. Ipharr	Public Works Department	Silvia I. Valadez Barba	Equal Opportunity Dept.
Juanita G. Jackson	Phoenix Fire Department	Veronica A. Vasquez	Phoenix Police Department
Richard R. Jaramillo	Water Services Department	Roxanne K. Williams	Phoenix Convention Center
Teresa L. Keeley	Municipal Court	Ray A. Yocopis	Neighborhood Services Dept.
Jian P. Keil	Aviation Department		

NEW MEMBERS

2025 COPRA Board

Emmett Boyd Parks and Recreation Department
Nicoleta Greenberger Aviation Department

Board of Directors:

President:

Rob Sweeney | 480-215-2215
 coprapresident@gmail.com

Vice President:

Donna May | 602-513-1069
 dmay.copra@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Louis Matamoros | 623-734-6624
 copratreasurer@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Mary Jo Slunder | 602-206-5515
 mj.copra@gmail.com

Board Members

Chronicle Committee:

Regina Ficken | 623-521-0052
 rfcoprachronicle@gmail.com

Retirement Board Committee:

Rob Sweeney | 480-215-2215
 coprapresident@gmail.com

Membership Committee:

Anna Marie Dragonetti
 602-992-0362
 copra.members@gmail.com

Programs Committee:

Kathy Wenger | 602-550-4390
 kjw7833@msn.com

Website and Social Media Taskforce:

Gail Piceno | 602-509-1908
 Gpiceno0808@gmail.com

Health Care Committee:

Ron Ramirez | 623-640-3934
 Jman2345@cox.net

Other Communications Support:

VACANT

Board Member:

VACANT

COPRA website: www.phoenixcopra.com

City Retirement Systems (COPERS):
 602-534-4400 | www.phoenix.gov/copers

COPMEA: 602-262-6858 | copmea.com

COP Human Resources – Benefits
 602-262-4777

IN REMEMBRANCE

Nancy Washburn	4/20/2025	Parks and Recreation Dept.
Nelda Graham (Gary)	7/05/2025	
Robert McFadden	7/27/2025	Street Transportation Dept.
Richard Kowalski	8/07/2025	Public Works Department (Equipment Mgt)
Merlinda Iverson (Carl)	8/20/2025	
Steven M. Riley	9/08/2025	
Phyllis J. Hollister-Springer (Charles)	9/10/2025	
Armando Cordova	9/12/2025	Street Transportation Dept.
Henry R. Dean	9/13/2025	Street Transportation Dept.
Leslie Thomas (Barbara)	9/15/2025	Engineering and Architecture Dept.
Erlinda S. Alvarez	9/16/2025	City Clerk Department
Elvetta Boat (Robert)	9/24/2025	
Cecilia C. Gardner (Fredie)	9/24/2025	
Babette Leasure (Robert)	9/24/2025	
William Chipman	9/25/2025	Human Services Department
Melvin Manning	9/27/2025	Public Works Department
Oscar McCoy	9/29/2025	Municipal Court
Jerome S. Moore	9/30/2025	Phoenix Police Department
Ramon Figueroa	10/04/2025	Parks and Recreation Dept.
Virginia Leipprandt (Victor)	10/06/2025	
Alice Quaid (Bernard)	10/06/2025	
Michael Guillen	10/07/2025	Water Services Department
Anne Callaghan	10/08/2025	Law Department
James Dykstra	10/08/2025	Aviation Department
Wayne M. Scott	10/09/2025	Municipal Court
Janice Forni (Joseph)	10/10/2025	
Maureen K. Centerleaf (Edward)	10/12/2025	
Linda Randles	10/14/2025	Phoenix Public Library Dept.
Michelle Gardea	10/17/2025	Community Development Dept.
Betty T. Nelson	10/23/2025	Parks and Recreation Dept.
Bill Nickleberry	10/23/2025	Finance Department
Richard Mason	10/24/2025	Public Works Department
Reynaldo M. Armenta	10/30/2025	Street Transportation Dept.
Leonard Pinuelas	10/31/2025	
Peggy J. Whitmore (John)	11/05/2025	
Cynthia McArthur	11/16/2025	Information Technology Dept.

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

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COPRA Monthly winner	Chronicle Articles Deadline
<p>By receiving the COPRA Chronicle via email significantly defrays the printing and postage costs for your 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 the news to you in a timely fashion.</p> <p>In order to encourage our COPRA members to receive the Chronicle via 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).</p> <p>The December winner is Margaret Arce!</p> <p>CONGRATULATIONS, Margaret! 🎉🎉🎉</p> <p><i>If we already have your email address, you are automatically entered!</i></p> <p>If you do not receive the Chronicle by email, start NOW!</p> <p>Request the change from paper copy to email version by providing your email address to Anna Dragonetti at copra.members@gmail.com</p> <p>She can also be reached by phone at 602-992-0362.</p>	<p>This is YOUR newsletter, and we want to hear from you!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">★ <i>How did you start your career with The City of Phoenix?</i>★ <i>Tell us about yourself, good memories from work, a trip you've taken or an interesting hobby you have.</i>★ <i>Suggest or request a subject that might be of your interest and your fellow retirees.</i> <p>Submission Deadline: 15th day of the month before you want the article to appear.</p> <p>Any member may submit material for publication, the Chronicle Chair and the Editor will determine what will appear in the issue of the month based on suitability and available space.</p> <p>Submissions: coprachronicle@gmail.com</p>

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