



The Historic Auto Club Building in Downtown Los Angeles is aglow with holiday lights in this Kodachrome image from 1961. See page 5 for the Westways story, "Kodachrome Nights," which features this photograph.

**Rumble Sheet** newsletter | Published for Auto Club retirees & members of the Auto Club Alumni Association | 4th Quarter 2023

# News

ACE United Way fund-raising campaign hits record numbers

RSVP for the January 2024 Luncheon at the Knott's Berry Farm Hotel

RSVP for the April 2024 Luncheon at the Los Coyotes Country Club

Welcome New Retirees

Tune in to our Travel Podcasts for some great vacation ideas

... and more!

## Making a Difference for Our Communities

### 2023 United Way Campaign

For decades, Auto Club Enterprises (ACE) has united as an organization for our annual United Way campaign. This initiative aims to raise funds for United Way and its numerous nonprofit partner organizations dedicated to assisting individuals in our communities.

The 2023 "United We Can" campaign unfolded throughout the month of October. This year, ACE not only surpassed our initial target of \$770,000 but also set a "Bold Goal," challenging all employees to collectively raise \$1 million.

In response to this unprecedented challenge, our employees, departments, and Business Units rallied together. Individual employees enrolled in payroll donations, some increasing their contribution amounts. Our Business Units, Business Resource Groups, and various work units organized bake sales, opportunity drawings, and other imaginative events (like the hot dogs, nachos, and chili event in the AO Atrium shown above), channeling the proceeds towards United Way. Even our cafeterias joined the effort with special United Way meal offerings and a round-up-your-change program. Contributions from our retirees, including pension donations, also played a crucial role.



The collective impact was truly significant. Did we make our Bold Goal? YES, WE DID!

[continued on next page](#)

### United We DID IT!

At left, this year's executive campaign chair, Anwar Othman, Vice President of Sales & Service, gives two thumbs up, and with good reason.



## making a difference, continued

In total, we raised an incredible and record-shattering **\$1,001,918**.

What makes this fund-raising feat even more exciting is that with our company match, **we will invest two million dollars back into our communities!** These valuable funds will help create positive change by mobilizing the best resources for our communities in the areas of health, education, and financial stability.

## Season of Giving

### The holiday spirit marches on with a toy drive and volunteering opportunities

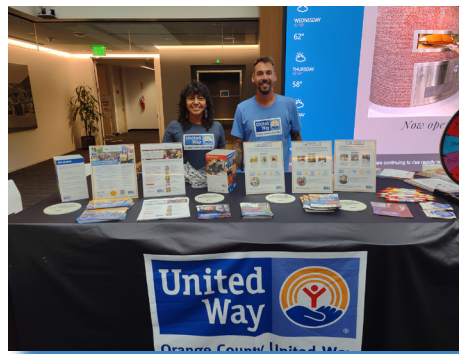
We continued our commitment to community through our annual Season of Giving initiative.

Between November 27 and December 8, we encouraged our employees to make meaningful contributions to the community by dedicating their time and resources. By visiting our new MyClubCares website, employees were able to find volunteer opportunities with nearby non-profit organizations, provide financial support to holiday fund-raisers, and even participate in our virtual toy drive supporting the national Marines Toys for Tots® program. Additionally, donation barrels for Toys for Tots were placed at our corporate headquarters in Costa Mesa, CA, Coppell, TX, St. Louis, MO, and Pittsburgh, PA. These donations helped ensure that children in our ACE communities receive toys from Santa.

By Jill Rawlinson-Baker,  
ACE Community Impact  
Program Manager.



*Holiday cheer is evident in the Costa Mesa AO Atrium, where an extra large trimmed tree has become a popular spot for employee photos.*



*Representatives from United Way Orange County were on hand for several fund-raising events at the AO in Costa Mesa, CA.*



*Marines Toys for Tots donation barrels were stuffed full of toys for needy kids. Employees could also donate toys virtually on the Toys for Tots site.*



## Plan with our Podcast

**Are you planning a trip, or just thinking about one? Check out our Traveling with AAA podcasts**

AAA has always been a source for travel information, with our *Westways* and *AAA Explorer* member magazines serving up great tips from expert travel writers on places to stay, food, and more. Add podcasts to the lineup! Our *Traveling with AAA* podcasts regularly bring new guests and fresh perspectives on travel and adventures far and near. Curious? Tune in to these episodes below:



### **Episode 45: Finding Paradise in Puerto Rico with Jessica van Dop DeJesús**

Hear why a weekend away in Puerto Rico is much closer than you think, and why this often-overlooked Caribbean locale is experiencing a well-deserved boost in popularity.

[www.ace.aaa.com/travel/information/traveling-with-aaa-podcast/episode-45-finding-paradise-in-puerto-rico.html](http://www.ace.aaa.com/travel/information/traveling-with-aaa-podcast/episode-45-finding-paradise-in-puerto-rico.html)

### **Episode 46: What to Eat in Puerto Rico with Jessica van Dop DeJesús**

Find out about Puerto Rican food culture and where to find the most mouthwatering dishes.

[www.ace.aaa.com/travel/information/traveling-with-aaa-podcast/episode-46-what-to-eat-in-puerto-rico.html](http://www.ace.aaa.com/travel/information/traveling-with-aaa-podcast/episode-46-what-to-eat-in-puerto-rico.html)



*Traveling With AAA is a podcast that inspires listeners to discover the joy and transformational value of travel. Tune in by visiting [www.ace.aaa.com/travel/information/traveling-with-aaa-podcast](http://www.ace.aaa.com/travel/information/traveling-with-aaa-podcast).*

# WELCOME New Retirees

Carl Almquist, Automotive Services Specialist, Approved Auto Repair, CA. 12 years of service.

Jane Anderson, Administrative Assistant II, MSC, CA. 37 years of service.

Marj Beane, Travel Advisor Senior, Overland Park Travel Agency, ACOMO. 25 years of service.

Amber Bragdon, Insurance Agency Sales Agent, P&C Agency Sales, TX. 14 years of service.

Kathy Bustos, Claims Automotive Team Manager, Mobile Claims Unit, CA. 33 years of service.

Bob Chico, Mailroom Associate II, Mail Disbursement, CA. 40 years of service.

Christina Cochran, Sr. Travel Advisor Senior, Rancho Cucamonga, CA. 13 years of service.

Patricia Connelly, Insurance Specialist II, Long Beach, CA. 24 years of service.

Rachel Cosby, Sr. Travel Advisor, Houston – Fort Bend, TX. 28 years of service.

Cheryl Day, Sr. Paralegal, Claims Legal – Subrogation Auto. Administrative Offices, CA. 14 years of service.

Laura Devito, Operations Administrator, ERS R&D Management, Burbank, CA. 35 years of service.

Anna Escobar, Litigation Secretary II, Claims Legal – Subrogation Auto, Administrative Offices, CA. 35 years of service.

Roger Eskew, Mailroom Associate III, Mail Disbursement, Administrative Offices, CA. 37 years of service.

Isabel Gee, Insurance Specialist II, Torrance, CA. 24 years of service.

Darlene Grant Barksdale, Litigation Secretary II, Claims Legal – Subrogation Auto, Administrative Offices, CA. 42 years of service.

Robert Hammond, Insurance Sales Agent, Lees Summit, MO. 11 years of service.

Debbie Harrell, Insurance Sales Agent, P&C Agency Sales–Underwriting, Coppell, TX. 16 years of service.

Toni Hudson, Claims Service Representative III, Claims – ER, Riverside, CA. 43 years of service.

Vicky Jacobs, Claims Service Representative III, Claims – ER, San Diego, CA. 15 years of service.

Lori Kawleski, Claims Service Representative IV, Casualty Claims, Diamond Bar, CA. 27 years of service.

Laura Komai, IS Dev Ops Associate Engineer, Insurance Systems Development, Administrative Offices, CA. 25 years of service.

Carleen Lopez, Sr. Trainer, Education, Training & Development, Coppell, TX. 21 years of service.

Ron Minton, Automotive Services Specialist, Approved Auto Repair, Coppell, TX. 22 years of service.

Laura Pena, Life Insurance Sales Agent, Region 1 Life Sales, Administrative Offices, CA. 15 years of service.

Diana Yan Pozon, Litigation Secretary II, Operations Staff, Los Angeles Headquarters, CA. 42 years of service.

Char Riley, Travel Area Manager, ACOMO Branch Operations, St. Louis, MO. 19 years of service.

Barry Sang, Applications Manager, Insurance Product Teams Management, Administrative Offices, CA. 25 years of service.

Joanne Suhajda, Call Center Escalations Specialist, ERS MRR, Administrative Offices, CA. 25 years of service.

Hilario Trejo, Sr. Trainer, Education, Training & Development, Administrative Offices, CA. 38 years of service.

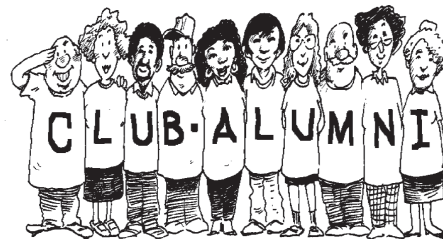
Carol Ward, Member Specialist II, Garland, TX. 18 years of service.

Stephanie Warren, Branch Member Specialist, Eastvale, CA. 31 years of service.

Janie White, Insurance Specialist II, Culver City, CA. 13 years of service.

## Join the ACAA!

Use the enrollment form below to sign up for or renew your ACAA membership. Your active membership lets you attend ACAA events, which are only open to ACAA members and their guests. Be sure to include your email address.



## Stay in touch with the ACAA website

The site features an Events page, Calendar, downloadable clip-and-mail RSVP forms, and more. Visit it today by going to <https://acalumni.net/>

## Auto Club Alumni Association Enrollment

Use this form to sign up for or renew your ACAA membership.

Clip and mail with check to ROD CHEW, ACAA TREASURER, 13 AGATE, IRVINE CA 92614

Retiree Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

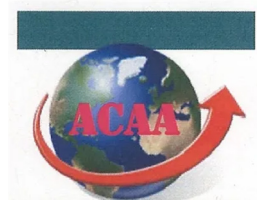
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

2024 ACAA Annual Membership Dues enclosed (\$10 per retiree, per year)

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make your checks payable to AUTO CLUB ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
To check your membership status, contact ACAA at [ACAlumni@yahoo.com](mailto:ACAlumni@yahoo.com)*



# Auto Club Alumni Association Luncheon Invitation

## Thursday, January 25, 2024

### 11am - Social Hour

**Knott's Berry Farm Hotel**

**7675 Crescent Ave Buena Park, CA 90620**

**Ph:714-995-1111**

**www.knotts.com/knotts-berry-farm-hotel**



The park began as a 10 acre farm planted with berries in 1920. Here Walter Knott saved the boysenberry from extinction. Mrs. Knott used her culinary magic to make jams, jellies and pies.

**Lunch menu:**

All meals will come with Fresh Garden Green Salad and Boysenberry Pie for dessert. Your choices are:

- Knott's Famous Fried Chicken with whipped potatoes and country gravy or
- Salmon with Cipollini Onion Sauce or
- Vegetable Bundle — Grilled vegetables wrapped in Lasagna noodles topped with marinara and parmesan cheese

**Email Comments/Questions: [Acalumni@yahoo.com](mailto:Acalumni@yahoo.com)**

**Kevin Weir, ACAA President**

**Auto Club Alumni Luncheon Thursday January 25, 2024 at Knott's Berry Farm Hotel**

**RSVP: Reservation, payment and entrée' selection must be received by Friday January 5, 2024**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

ACAA Member Entrée Selection: Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20 ea.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Entrée Selection: Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20 ea.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Member Extra Guest Entrée Selection: Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_ (\$40 ea.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2024 ACAA Member Annual Dues (\$10 per year) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Check payable to Auto Club Alumni Association**

**Clip and mail to Rod Chew 13 Agate, Irvine CA 92614**

**ACAA Knott's Berry Farm Luncheon Thursday January 25, 2024 Total Payment Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**



## Kodachrome Nights

BY MORGAN P. YATES

**H**oliday lights appear ready to engulf the Auto Club headquarters building in this striking nighttime Kodachrome image from 1961. The exterior was repainted earlier that year, and the large neon Auto Club logo that graced the corner facade for 25 years was removed and not replaced. But even without the neon, the building's occupant remained clearly identified thanks to the lighted Auto Club signs flanking the building in this festive scene.

Rudimentary forms of colorized photography appeared in the mid-19th century. Most were hand-colored, which proved popular but still fell short of capturing natural color. The first commercially successful color film, Eastman Kodak's Kodachrome color process, arrived in 1936, as did the German company Agfa's multilayer color film. Despite these advances, by the 1960s color photography was still uncommon. The film was expensive to buy and develop, and color's lengthy and complex processing relative to black-and-white film didn't lend it to widespread use. It wasn't until the late 1970s that color photography predominated in the pages of *Westways*.

Back to our scene, a 1959 Chevrolet Impala waits at the light, perhaps having just fueled up at the gas station on the corner at left. The 29.9 cents per gallon price is equal to about \$3.10 in today's dollars. Traditionally, the Auto Club turned on its holiday lights at headquarters every year on December 13th, the club's official birthday. These days, the exterior light show is scaled back to just the Moreton Bay fig tree that still overlooks the courtyard entrance, just like it did in 1961.

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Westways is celebrating the centennial of the Auto Club's historic Los Angeles office by featuring it in each Off-Ramp of 2023.

# Auto Club Alumni Association Luncheon Invite

## Thursday, April 25, 2024

### 11am - 2pm



#### Los Coyotes Country Club

8888 Los Coyotes Dr.

Buena Park, CA, 90621

(714) 994-7788

Optional Valet Parking \$5



Los Coyotes Country Club was founded in 1957 by a group of local businessmen and golf enthusiasts who were looking for a place to play golf and socialize in the Buena Park area. They purchased 400 acres of land that had been used for farming and ranching and began construction on the golf course and clubhouse.

Lunch options are:

- Roasted Chicken Breast with roasted garlic thyme demi glace and salad OR
  - Atlantic Salmon with roasted vegetables and salad OR
  - Vegan/Gluten Free roasted vegetables and ancient grains with balsamic drizzle and salad
- Dessert will be served with each meal

Email Comments/Questions to [Acalumni@yahoo.com](mailto:Acalumni@yahoo.com)

Kevin Weir, ACAA President

**RSVP: Reservation, payment and entrée selection must be received by Friday April 5, 2024**

**Optional Valet Parking \$5**

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**ACAA Los Coyotes Country Club Luncheon Thursday, April 25, 2024**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

ACAA Member Entrée Selection: Roasted Chicken \_\_\_ Atlantic Salmon \_\_\_ Vegan \_\_\_ (\$30 ea.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Entrée Selection: Roasted Chicken \_\_\_ Atlantic Salmon \_\_\_ Vegan \_\_\_ (\$30 ea.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Member Extra Guest: Roasted Chicken \_\_\_ Atlantic Salmon \_\_\_ Vegan \_\_\_ (\$60 ea.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2024 ACAA Member Annual Dues per member (if not paid for 2024) (\$10 per year) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks payable to Auto Club Alumni Association**

**Clip and mail to Rod Chew 13 Agate, Irvine CA 92614**

**Total Payment Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**RSVP: Reservation, payment and entrée selection must be received by Friday April 5, 2024**

# Obituaries

Mike Apodaca, Application Developer, Production Assurance, Administrative Offices, CA. Retired February 1, 2018, with 23 years of service. October 11, 2023.

Marlene Balian, Branch Member Specialist, Century City, CA. Retired July 1, 2005, with 41 years of service. September 6, 2023.

Nancy Behrendt-Lang, Data Entry Operations Senior Rep, Administrative Offices, CA. Retired September 1, 1999, with 10 years of service. September 29, 2023.

David Borup, Auto Claims Team Manager, Valencia, CA. Retired January 1, 2008, with 38 years of service. September 2, 2023.

Margrethe Capuano, District Office Representative, Branch Operations, CA. Retired April 19, 1993, with 32 years of service. May 30, 2023.

John Carrell, OMR Supervisor, IT Client Services, Administrative Offices, CA. Retired March 1, 2015, with 32 years of service. October 30, 2023.

Helen Consalvi, Rating Reserve Supervisor, Property Claims Procedure, Insurance Claims, CA. Retired December 1, 1984, with 37 years of service. October 23, 2023.

Patricia Culver, Cashier-Bookkeeper, Anaheim, CA. Retired October 1, 1989, with 28 years of service. September 16, 2023.

Jacqueline Deam, Casualty Claims Service Representative II, Mobile Claims Operation, CA. Retired January 1, 2005, with 31 years of service. August 15, 2023.

Merrita Hawkins, Field Claims Secretary, Field Claims, CA. Retired May 1, 2004, with 29 years of service. July 25, 2023.

Thomas Hibbard, Claims Service Representative III, Long Beach, CA. Retired February 1, 2011, with 11 years of service. August 27, 2023.

Audrey Hooks, Processing Specialist II, Imaging Operations, Administrative Offices, CA. Retired August 1, 2018, with 13 years of service. August 14, 2023.

Robert Iwasaki, Supervisor, Emergency Road Services, Administrative Offices, CA. Retired June 1, 1995, with 20 years of service. August 25, 2023.

Rosemary Johnson, Program Analyst, IS Corporate Systems Development, Administrative Offices CA. Retired April 1, 2005, with 20 years of service. September 5, 2023.

Sally Lasater, Membership Customer Service Representative, MSC Membership, Costa Mesa, CA. Retired January 22, 2013, with 11 years of service. August 3, 2023.

Arthur Maher, Auto Service Specialist, Approved Auto Repair, CA. Retired August 1, 2001, with 11 years of service. August 30, 2023.

Deborah Mueller, Travel Advisor, South County Travel Agency, MO. Retired April 1, 2021, with 19 years of service. October 19, 2023.

Sylvia Munoz, Casualty Claims Representative II, Diamond Bar, CA. Retired March 1, 2018, with 36 years of service. September 1, 2023.

Jerry Pappas, Assistant Manager, Redlands, CA. Retired September 1, 2004, with 30 years of service. September 21, 2023.

Paul Pope, Senior Construction Technician, Facilities Construction, CA. Retired January 1, 2003, with 36 years of service. October 24, 2023.

Candy Riddle, Manager, Claims Auto Team, Casualty Claims, Long Beach, CA. Retired September 1, 2010, with 11 years of service. September 1, 2023.

Carolyn Taylor, Agency Sales Assistant, Field Sales Unit, Poplar Bluff, MO. Retired May 1, 2014, with 13 years of service. August 19, 2023.

Jeanne Whalen, Legal Secretary I, Quality Assurance, CA. Retired June 1, 1996, with 20 years of service. October 13, 2023.

Yvette White, Retail Service Specialist, Torrance, CA. Retired September 1, 2009, with 19 years of service. May 9, 2023.

Kris Williams, Processing Specialist II, CA Insurance Questionnaire, Processing, CA. Retired January 1, 2018, with 45 years of service. September 24, 2023.

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## Calendar

### Dates and events in 2024:

#### January 25

ACAA Luncheon at the Knott's Berry Farm Hotel, Buena Park, CA.

#### April 25

ACAA Luncheon at the Los Coyotes Country Club, Buena Park, CA.

#### July Luncheon TBA

#### October Dinner TBA

Visit the Auto Club Alumni Association website for updated information about upcoming events, as well as RSVP forms, and more.

Go to <https://www.acalumni.net/>



Automobile Club of Southern California  
Retirement Plans & Services  
P.O. Box 25001  
Santa Ana, CA 92799-5001

## Update your information

### If you:

- Moved or got a new email address
- Changed your name

Contact the **People Service Center** at  
**866-842-4222**

### If you:

- Changed your name or marital status
- Had changes to your covered spouse/  
domestic partner or covered dependents

Contact the **Benefits Service Center** at  
**888-488-2582**

### If you:

- Are age 65 and over or are  
Medicare-eligible

Contact **Via Benefits** at  
**888-264-0638**

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Kathy Klute-Nelson

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RetirementServices@ace.aaa.com

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13 Agate, Irvine, CA 92614  
ACAlumni@yahoo.com  
Website: ACAlumni.net

