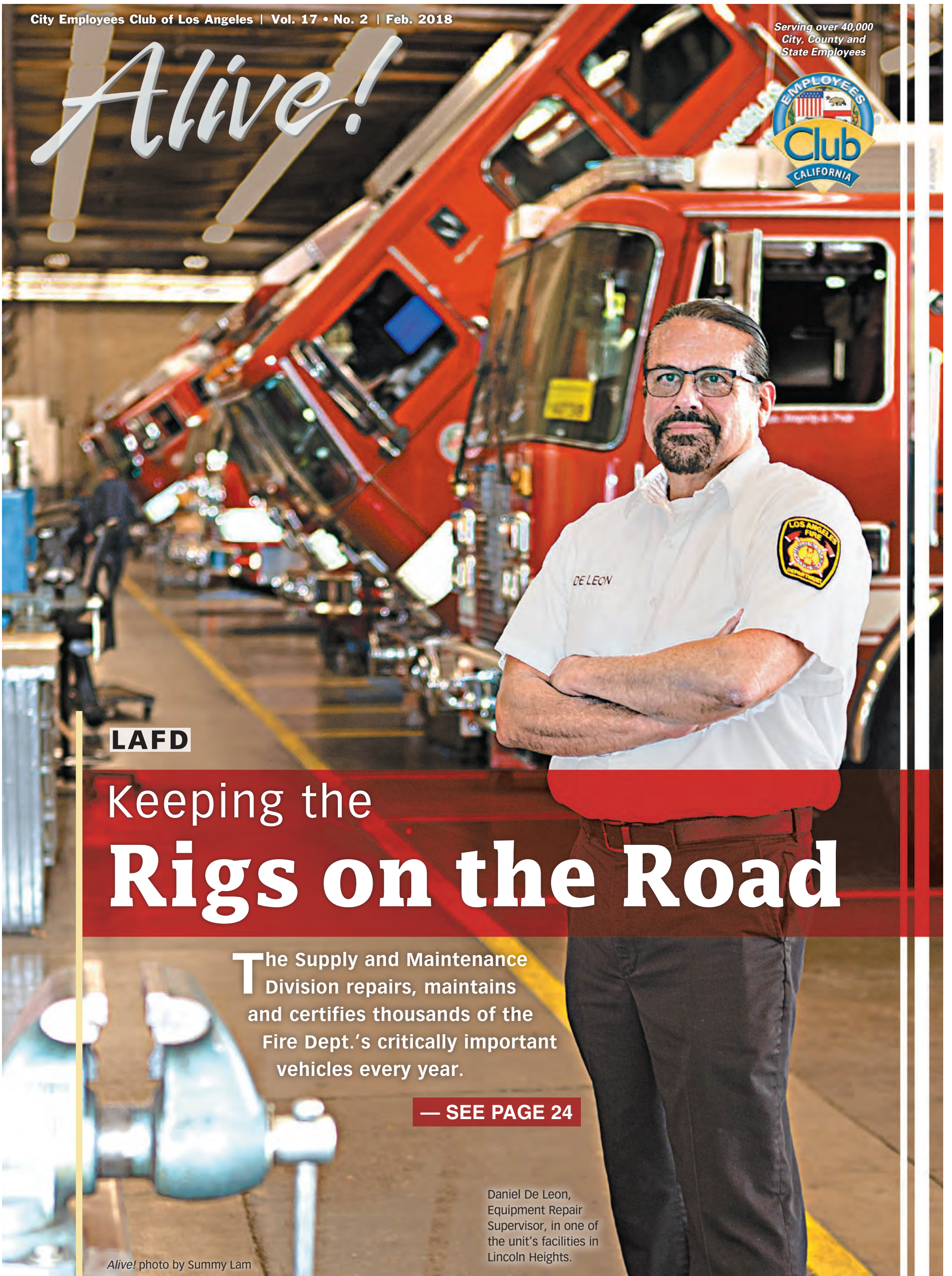




# Alive!



**LAFD**

## Keeping the **Rigs on the Road**

The Supply and Maintenance Division repairs, maintains and certifies thousands of the Fire Dept.'s critically important vehicles every year.

— SEE PAGE 24

Daniel De Leon,  
Equipment Repair  
Supervisor, in one of  
the unit's facilities in  
Lincoln Heights.

Alive! photo by Summy Lam

**Cheap Tickets. Insane Service. Affordable Insurance.**



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*The most important of all!*

**2**

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**3**

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**4**

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**A Message From the CEO**

# Heroes on the Road, in the Yard

by John Hawkins,  
President and CEO, The Club

It wasn't long into our awesome tour of a very impressive City facility – the LAFD Supply and Maintenance yard in Lincoln Heights in this month's feature – that I realized something: Of course the City's Firefighters and First Responders are classic heroes. But so are the men and women who keep them in the field, saving the City.

By that I mean the mechanics profiled in this month's feature, the people who keep the LAFD rigs on the road. Bravery goes a long way with me, but if the rigs and gurneys and air tanks and ladders and pumps and hoses aren't working, the City is in trouble. Luckily they all work, and we're the better for it.



**Stephen Baldwin**, Mechanical Helper, 23 years of City service, explains a large wrench (custom made by John Kitos, Machinist) to Club CEO John Hawkins.

I never thought about how much of a coordinated effort it takes to keep the rigs running smoothly. The LAFD fleet numbers in the many hundreds, and probably more than that. And these aren't Matchbox cars (wow, that dates me). These are incredibly complex (and expensive: the newest aerial trucks cost more than \$1 million each) vehicles. Forget the shade tree image of fixing cars; the frame straightener in the body shop is the most gigantic one I have ever seen. It must be 50 feet or more! And watching **John Kitos**, Machinist, making pretty much anything the Fire Dept. needs from him is really amazing.

The great takeaway for me from this month's feature is the expansion of my definition of hero. The next time I see our bravest fighting wildfires or rescuing trapped hikers or, well, really, anything, I now have two groups of people to thank: the First Responders, and the men and women who make sure to get them there.



From April 2017: **Alex Garcia**, Elevator Mechanic, General Services, 17 years of City service, inspects a lift at the Lincoln Heights LAFD Supply and Maintenance facility.

I've worked for the Club for more than two decades, yet I wasn't that familiar with the amazing place. We've had Club Counselors make several visits there, of course, and to the Valley facility, too; but I first learned about it when Director of Marketing **Summy Lam** and editor **John Burnes** took some photos there as part of our April 2017 cover story on General Services' elevator crew. We met **Daniel De Leon** that day, and we told him we'd be back. And we were true to our word. Thanks to Daniel; **Guy Patenaude**, Sr. Automotive Supervisor; **Derrick Tinsley**, Equipment Repair Supervisor; and **Tony Mastrolia**, Equipment Repair Supervisor in the Valley, for welcoming us, showing us all the shops and answering our questions.

Moving on ... ah, Club Valentines! You love sending them in, and we love printing them. Love is, um, *Alive!* and well! ... welcome back, **Everett Bennett**; it's great to have the Car Club back periodically ... and congratulations to **Ralph Morones**, longtime City employee (45 years) and great Club Member; we all wish you the very best in retirement. It's well deserved.

As the snow piles up, there's never a better time to enjoy the great Club discounts on skiing that **Mariana Guevara** has arranged for us. Take advantage!

Talk to you again next month.

**JOHN**

[jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com)

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Zebit

## Behind the Scenes



Daniel De Leon, Equipment Repair Supervisor, is photographed in the LAFD's aerial repair shop by Summy Lam, Club Director of Marketing.

*Alive!* Cover

## IMPORTANT Telephone Numbers

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| <b>The Club's Main Phone Number</b>    | <b>(800) 464-0452</b>   |
| <b>The Club's FAX Number</b>           | <b>(213) 620-0398</b>   |
| City Bureau of Sanitation              | (800) 773-2489          |
| Bulky Item Pick-up & Recycling         | (213) 978-1655          |
| City Employees Benefit Office          | (213) 978-7480          |
| City Paymaster                         | (213) 978-1593          |
| Commuter Services                      | (888) 457-9460          |
| Deferred Compensation                  | (213) 580-1690          |
| DWP Credit Union                       | or (800) 300-9728       |
| DWP Employees Association              | (213) 367-3146          |
| DWP Health Plan & Medicare             | (800) 831-4778          |
| DWP Information                        | (213) 367-4211          |
| DWP Intake Magazine                    | (213) 367-1361          |
| DWP Paymaster                          | (213) 367-1106          |
| DWP Personnel                          | (213) 367-1934          |
| DWP Retirement Plan Office             | (213) 367-1692          |
| Engineers and Architects Association   | (213) 620-6920          |
| Fire and Police Pension System         | (213) 978-4545          |
| LACERS                                 | (800) 779-8328          |
| LA Federal Credit Union                | (213) 485-5000          |
| LA Firemen's Credit Union              | (323) 254-1700          |
| or (800) 231-1626                      |                         |
| LA Fire Department Museum              | (323) 464-2727          |
| LA Firemen's Relief Association        | (213) 380-2900          |
| LA Police Federal Credit Union         | (800) 872-2843          |
| LA Retired Fire and Police Association | (888) 288-5073          |
| Local 721                              | (213) 482-6660          |
| Local 3090                             | (213) 487-9887 ext. 340 |
| Retired LA City Employees, Inc.        | (800) 678-4145          |
| Ticket Hotline                         | (888) 777-1744          |
| Whistleblower/Complaint Program        | (800) 824-4825          |
| Worker Compensation                    | (213) 473-3400          |

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Previous 12 Months: **\$728,683**  
 Since 1992: **\$92,413,536**

## Claims Paid

Your Club Insurance Dollars at Work:

|                                       | Previous 12 Months | Grand Total Since 1992 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Life Insurance                        | \$540,255          | \$57,028,466           |
| Disability Insurance                  | \$119,319          | \$26,163,772           |
| Long-Term Care                        | \$67,839           | \$6,173,581            |
| Cancer and Critical Illness Insurance | \$150              | \$2,965,250            |
| Accident Plan                         | \$1,120            | \$82,467               |
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Cecilia Talbot, Director of Claims, Member Advocate



Monica Zamudio, Claims Administrator

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## Club Members' Praise

"Everyone I have spoken with at the Club has been very polite and accommodating – pleasant, respectful and efficient. Very endearing. I loved it! It was a very kind gesture to make [to send the book, The Fall of Freddie the Leaf] during a very difficult time."

– Life Insurance customer, January 2017

The Club's claims service is "very good – helpful, responsive and courteous."

– Cynthia Vaughn, December 2016

The Club's claims service "was great. Everything was very beneficial at our time of need; the City Employees Club came through like a good neighbor. Thank you. Our needs were met. We appreciated your care and concern."

– Mary Joseph, November 2016



Feb. 2018 • Volume 17 – No. 2

# Alive!

Alive! is the official publication of the City Employees Club of Los Angeles  
 120 West 2nd Street  
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## Meet the Club Team

These are the faces behind the Club. Our staff is dedicated to helping our members receive the maximum benefit from their membership. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions about your Club, our counselors are ready to help.

Email us at: [info@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:info@cityemployeesclub.com)  
 if you have an event you want covered in the Alive! or if you have questions about insurance. Or call us at: (800) 464-0452

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(located at Club Headquarters)



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 Member Services Counselor  
 Ext. 136



MaryAnn Urdiales  
 Member Services Counselor  
 Ext. 159

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Megan DeBolt  
 Manager of Tickets and Retail Operations

Guadalupe Lira  
 Club Store Manager

Mia Victoria Garcia  
 Customer Service Associate

Dylan Noel  
 Customer Service Associate

Cristina Ramos  
 Customer Service Associate

### Club Store In-house Counselor



Tiffany Sy  
 Member Services Counselor  
 Ext. 202

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Summy Lam  
 Director of Marketing

### Team Leaders



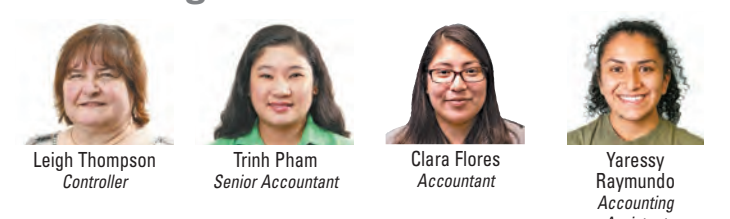
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 Chief Financial Officer

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 Chief Operating Officer,  
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 and "Chef Larios"

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 Accountant

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 IT Developer

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 IT Developer

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Cecilia Talbot  
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 Member Advocate

Monica Zamudio  
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**Schedule a visit with the Club's LTD experts:**



**Cheryl Martin**  
Member Services Counselor  
cmartin@cityemployeesclub.com  
**Ext. 136**



**Tiffany Sy**  
Member Services Counselor  
tsy@cityemployeesclub.com  
**Ext. 202**



**MaryAnn Urdiales**  
Member Services Counselor  
murdiales@cityemployeesclub.com  
**Ext. 159**

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**Rosa Calderon**  
Personal Insurance Agent  
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**Feb. 22:** 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.



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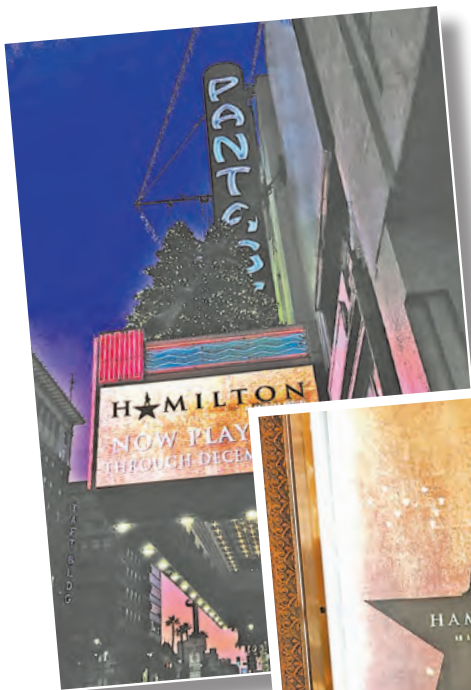
Take a look at how **United Agencies** stacks up against the competition!

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|  | State Farm             | \$1,339          |
|  | Allstate               | \$1,329          |
|  | Geico                  | \$1,311          |
|  | Auto Club              | \$929            |
|  | <b>United Agencies</b> | <b>\$876</b>     |

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## THE CLUB

# They Went to *HAMILTON!* Thanks to the Club!



Ashley and Noreen  
Arikawa



In early August, the Club announced a great deal on tickets to *Hamilton*, the super-cool new musical at the Pantages. It's the hottest ticket in town, with tickets on the secondary market going for many hundreds of dollars each, if you can find them.

The Club secured some tickets and made them available to

Club Members at an incredible price – but because of the very limited number available, the Club created an essay contest.

The response was overwhelming.

Here, we print another reaction of a winner of Club *Hamilton* tickets.

Congratulations to the winners!



### **"Thank you to the City Employees Club**

*for the wonderful opportunity to see Hamilton. My daughter, Ashley, and I loved the whole production. From the contemporary musical styles to the intriguing interwoven stories and amazing performances, the story of Hamilton was conveyed beautifully. Surrounded by the exquisite architecture of the Pantages theatre, this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for my daughter and me. Thank you for a truly memorable experience!"*

**– Noreen Arikawa, Airports**

# Letters to the Editor

Tell us what you think! [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)

Chermaine Fontenette (right) delivering toys as part of the East Valley Yard's holiday drive.



## Sanitation/ East Valley's Toy Drive a Success

The East Valley Sanitation yard had a great success in our toy drive donations.

The kids, and even the teenagers, were so excited to see us there. My husband and I had such fun late one night picking out gifts, and to my surprise, my UPS elf husband showed up to see what great success the City had done in making this day such a huge success.

Our outreach to the kids was Dec. 19.

– **Chermaine Fontenette,**  
Public Works/Sanitation

## Club's Office Depot Discount Again Pays Off in Savings

I didn't believe it until I tried it myself. I went to Office Depot and bought more than \$160 of supplies for my kids and ran the credit card I registered with the Employees Club. The new total was \$129! Both the cashier and I were shocked at reduced total. The reality is that I was happily surprised. Thank you goes to the Club for making this program available.

– **Gilbert Jones, DWP**

## Winchester House at Holidays Enhanced With Club Discount

We went to the Winchester House in Northern California during the holiday season, and it was a treat to experience. Aside from the wonderful holiday decorations, as a first-time visitor, I found the history and architecture very impressive. It is an ideal place to take a family and learn the history of what it was like in early California. For anyone on a budget, the Employees Club does a great job of making this venue available at a great price.

– **Rita Brown, LAPD**

## Club Partner 'Entertainment' Now Has a Powerful App

I started using the Entertainment program on the Club Website, and between the Jiffy Lube, Pizza Hut and Ralphs Supermarket special promotions, I am getting huge savings, and it makes my membership with the Employees Club well worth it. And it is convenient for me to get it all on the Entertainment mobile app. I suggest if anyone has not used this awesome service, do it right away. To not use it is to lose money.

– **Kim Lopez, General Services**

## Mobile Team Video Shows Angel, Dylan Working Hard

I had a chance to see that new video that the Employees Club produced called "It's A Wonderful Club Life." I had no idea that Angel and Dylan did what they did like that in the mobile Club van. That's a lot of work. They look like they have a fun time doing it, and their positive attitudes are incredible. That is inspiring. I think most people would like to feel that when going to work, too.

– **Melvin McGrady, Retired**

Thanks, Melvin. Club Members can check out the Mobile Team video at:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEVptA8rxPK](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEVptA8rxPK)

## Holidays Are Extended With Alive!'s City Parties Section

I am saddened to see the end of the holiday season. It was such a wonderful time of the year. But I very much enjoy the continuation and celebration of the season in *Alive!* with the holiday party section. In a small way, the holiday season seems to continue beyond December. I like that very much. I look forward to seeing the happy faces again later this year for another joyous Christmas season.

– **Lilly Kramer, LAFD**

## Lots of Good Club Info Is on On Social Media, So Follow

I am very much enjoying the postings on the Employees Club Instagram account. It is colorful and filled with enthusiasm. It is entertaining as well as informative. It does a good job of giving me a taste of what life is like as a government employee in the City of L.A. as well as our sister agencies in the county and State of California. Keep it up.

– **Roger Tillman, LAPD**

## Robert's Question of the Month

BY ROBERT LARIOS, Chief Operating Officer  
[rlarios@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:rlarios@cityemployeesclub.com)  
TWITTER: @robertlarioscoo



Fellow Club members answer the Question of the Month

**CLASSIC**  
FROM FEB 2015

## What's a great place for a meal on a date?



"There is no other place like Olvera Street. I like the birria at Memo's, and my wife loves the tacos and chile rellenos there! Try them; do it!"

– **Luis Hernandez,**  
Laborer, Airports,  
18 years of City  
service, Club  
Member since 2014



"Bourbon Street Seafood in San Antonio or Haime's Seafood in Charleston, S.C.!"

– **Samuel R. Smith,**  
DWP, Retired,  
37 years of City  
service, Club  
Member since 2009



"Yamashiro in Hollywood."

– **Jeff DiFiore,**  
Public Works/  
Sanitation,  
1 year of City  
Service



"Javier's in Newport Beach, with the great view of the ocean. Can't beat that!"

– **Eric McCarter,** Public  
Works/Sanitation,  
13 years of City  
service, Club Member  
since 2003



"Go to Long Beach and experience Periguete Restaurant!"

– **Jose Ordorica,** Public  
Works/  
Sanitation, 2 years  
of City service, Club  
Member since 2013



"Any place you can enjoy each other's company."

– **Rafael Larios,**  
father of Robert  
Larios, the Club's  
VP of Operations



"Frida in Glendale – great atmosphere and drinks!"

– **Lucille Ordenez,**  
Transportation,  
16 years of City  
Service, Club  
Member since 2003



"I can't think of any place, really!"

– **Maurice Hyett,**  
Construction and  
Maintenance Supervisor  
II, General Services



"A old-time Italian restaurant with a great wine menu always works!"

– **Nick Pendorf,**  
Director of  
Construction Forces,  
General Services, 29  
years of City service,  
Club Member since  
2007

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Angel Gomez, the Club's Mobile Man

Angel's

Be Alive! Feb. 2018



# Pio Pico State Historic Park

## - Whittier



Angel Jr. and Aden in front of "El Ranchito."



Angel Jr. and Aden look over the park map with "El Ranchito" in the background.



Angel Jr. takes a seat next the outdoor oven.



A walkway into the park and restrooms.



The courtyard in the middle of the Pio Pico Mansion.

### Hello again, everyone!

This month we travel to a historic state park in Whittier, about 15 miles southeast of Los Angeles. The park is about five acres in size, and it contains a home that's a 19th century adobe ranch house. The home was owned by Pio de Jesus Pico IV, twice governor of Alta California under Mexican rule. This historic park has a home, a garden and horse stables, and is rich with California history.

### Let's begin.

**The Walk:** When you arrive you will see a spacious green field protected by a gated enclosure; front and center is the Pio Pico House. There is a walkway up to the house, and off to the side is a garden. This is an easy and very enjoyable walk.

The park is very simple but has lots of history. The landowner was Pio de Jesus Pico IV; he was born in 1801. Pio Pico was a father, businessman, revolutionary, cattle rancher, politician and part owner of 532,000 acres in Southern California. He lived until 1894 and he was the last governor of "Mexican California."

Thanks to the Volunteers: Pio Pico State Historic Park has been slated for closure twice but has remained open because of the efforts of many volunteers. Pio Pico Park was one of the 48 California state parks proposed for closure; if it were not for the Friends of Pio Pico and the City of Whittier together raising \$80,000, the Pio Pico Park would have been forced to close its doors. This is an amazing part of history, and we can make a difference. Please visit our state parks, and consider donating some time and you will get such a rewarding feeling.

I recommend spending an hour in this beautiful park. Don't forget to always pack your sunscreen and snacks, and most importantly bring lots of water.

Until, we meet again next month, be well and *Be Alive!*

*Angel*

## INFO

### Pio Pico State Historic Park 6003 Pioneer Blvd., Whittier

**Walking distance:** .05 mile (round trip)

**Elevation gain:** zero

**Difficulty:** easy

**Time:** 1-2 hours  
(depending on your speed)

**Parking:** free outside parking available

**Guided tours:** by appointment only except on weekends. Groups of 10 or more need to reserve ahead of time.





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It was truly a family affair as Deputy Mayor Miguel Sangalang was joined by his family. Some of his family members also work for the City, including the DWP and Library, to name a few.

Story and photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Director of Product Development



### LAFACE

# Hello, Deputy Mayor

Filipino Association hosts meet/greet with Miguel Sangalang.

Last summer, the Los Angeles Filipino Association of City Employees (LAFACE) coordinated a meet and greet event to personally congratulate and get to know newly appointed Deputy Mayor Miguel Sangalang for Budget and Innovation.

The event was held in the Tom Bradley Room high atop City Hall.

In this role, Miguel serves as a senior consultant to City departments and the direct

policy branches of the Mayor Eric Garcetti's Office. Deputy Mayor Sangalang will manage a portfolio of five City departments with more than 3,000 personnel. Prior to this role, he served as Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's Director of Performance Management.

Congratulations on your appointment, Miguel. And thanks go to Rea Lazo and Criselda Pabellano for their assistance



Deputy Mayor Miguel Sangalang addresses the packed room.



Claire Bartels, Director of Finance and City Treasurer with Deputy Mayor Miguel Sangalang.



Alex Banares, First Vice President of LAFACE, Club Member.



From left: Lt. Ron Lizardo, State of California, FALEO-LA President, Club Member; and Rea Lazo, LAFACE President, Club Member.



From left: Lt. Ron Lizardo, State of California, FALEO-LA President, Club Member; and Deputy Mayor Miguel Sangalang.



From left: Deputy Mayor Miguel Sangalang with Arlene Herrero, the Club's Director of Product Development.



Well-wishers stopped by to congratulate Miguel Sangalang.



Several different employees from other departments came to show their support.



From left: Mildred Jacla, LAFACE Treasurer; Amelia Marucut, Second Vice President for LAFACE, Club Member; and a guest.



LAFACE staff makes sure that the food line was moving efficiently.

From left: Lt. Ron Lizardo, State of California, FALEO-LA President, Club Member; and Joel Jacinto, Commissioner for Board of Public Works.



# The Car Club

By EVERETT BENNETT, Inspector,  
Public Works/Contract Administration



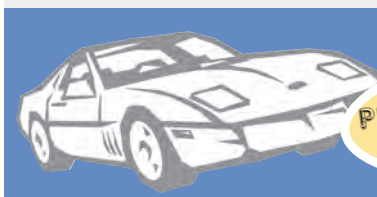
## DWP Holiday Show

Before the sun began its ascent over the City of Angels Dec. 22, the rumble of cars and motorcycles could be heard making their way to the DWP Main Street yard just north of downtown. It was that time of year again – the annual DWP Holiday Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show – held for employees and their families traditionally on Christmas Eve, but as that was a Sunday last year, it was held on Friday, Dec. 22.

Corvettes, Ferraris, hot rods, lowriders, trucks and motorcycles flooded the parking lot from 6 a.m. to noon and filled the air with holiday cheer, good music and the smell of my favorite breakfast choice – menudo. Car and motorcycle enthusiasts walked the parking lot, admiring the rolling works of art and sharing stories.

Joining in the mix of custom cars and trucks were LAPD Rescue and SWAT vehicles. LAPD Officers were on hand to answer questions and give the crowd a glimpse of what tools they use in the field. As the cold morning air gave way to the warmth of a beautiful Southern California day, awards were handed out to the lucky winners.

The last sips of coffee were soon had and the same rumble heard hours before, soon made its way back onto the streets to mingle with the hordes of holiday traffic. The end of the show only meant one thing, the countdown to next year's could now begin. See you in 2018!



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For Retired Club Members

# The Best Years

**RLACEI**

## CITY RETIREE ASSOCIATIONS

### Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)



Ed Harding, RLACEI President  
www.rlacei.com  
Contact him: (800) 678-4145 Ext. 703  
E-mail: edwardjharding@rlacei.com

#### Change of Address?

If you change your address, notify Michael A. Perez, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145, x705.

#### Have News About Yourself?

Contact Mary Beetz, call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 711

### Three Retirees Groups Hold Events; Make Sure You're at the Right One

#### RESERVATION LINES:

RLACEI events: (800) 678-4145, Ext. 701

DWP events: (949) 388-1206 (Dolores Foley)

LARFPA events: (888) 288-5063

**JUNE:** RLACEI annual golf tournament; date to be announced.

**JUNE 6:** LARFPA annual barbecue and board meeting, Grace E. Simons Lodge.

**AUG. 9:** RLACEI corporate meeting and picnic, 11:30 a.m., Grace E. Simons

**DEC. 6:** RLACEI annual holiday party, 11:30 a.m., Grace E. Simons Lodge.

#### RLACEI Website

Hal Danowitz asks you to visit the RLACEI Website at www.rlacei.com to find the latest retirement news. If you find it helpful, or have suggestions for improvement, call Hal at (800) 678-4145 Ext. 707.

#### Contact the LA City Employees' Retirement System

The Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System is at 202 W. First Street, Suite 500, (LA Times Building), Los Angeles, CA 90012. Hours: 8AM-5PM. Phone (213) 473-7200 or (800) 779-8328. Contact them to arrange direct deposit of your retirement checks, change your tax withholding or beneficiary, or for questions about your health plans. www.lacers.org

#### DWP Retirees Association



Dolores Foley, President  
Phone: (949) 388-1206  
E-mail: vinedolores@gmail.com  
www.dwpretirees.org

#### Los Angeles Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA)



Robert L. Olsen, President  
Phone: (323) 283-4441  
Fax: (626) 285-1461  
9521 Las Tunas Dr. #4,  
Temple City, CA 91780  
www.larfpa.org

## 3 Directors Needed; Meeting Dates Set

2010 Club Excellence Award Recipient



Ed Harding

### President's Report

By Edward J. Harding  
President, RLACEI

The holidays have come and gone. I hope everyone had a good time and was left with warm memories celebrating with family and friends looking forward toward 2018.

Having said that, get your calendar and reserve the following dates: The 40th annual golf tournament will be scheduled in June (date to be announced). The annual corporation meeting, elections and picnic, is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Aug. 9.

And the holiday party and board meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Dec. 6. All events will be held at the Grace E. Simons Lodge, 1025 Elysian Park. See you there.

There are three vacancies for RLACEI Directors; Helen Delgado, Americo Garza and Phil Orland resigned effective Jan. 1. If you are an active member of the Los Angeles City Retirement System (LACERS), you are eligible to apply. Please contact Neil Ricci, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, at (310) 650-2745 for additional information.

Join us to continue our mission and our goal – to protect, maintain and improve Retiree benefits.

**Happy Valentine's Day!** ■

## Private Equity Report: Diversification Is Key



Michael R. Wilkinson

### LACERS Board Update, By Michael R. Wilkinson

It has been more than a year since I reported to you on one of our investment asset classes that is very important to funding our LACERS pension: private equity.

Private equity investments are long-term investments that carry a higher risk of volatility (prices going up and down), but also the promise of much higher returns than other investments. The old adage certainly applies here: There is no free lunch in investing.

LACERS has set a target of a 12 percent allocation to private equity, and as of our most recent report, 10.3 percent of the total LACERS fund was committed to this asset class representing about \$1.6 billion.

A key to a successful program in this field is diversification. Wouldn't it be great to know exactly what investment would be guaranteed to outperform other investments? Well, no one has figured out how to be right on each choice, so the only sensible route is to diversify.

In private equity we diversify using several factors:

- Vintage years (we make purchases each year since some years will end up being much better than others).
- Geography (78 percent US investments and 22 percent international).
- Sectors (different types of investment strategies).

LACERS' private equity is an asset class that invests primarily in private companies with the goal

of diversifying our investments and getting high returns. 86 percent of the funds go to private companies, while the other 14 percent is invested in the public markets.

LACERS' investments are in various strategies, but the most popular is buyout. In a buyout, investors purchase a struggling company, install new management, run the business and later sell it either as a public company or a private firm. There are also other strategies, but 55 percent of our total private equity portfolio is going to buyout funds. Venture capital, the next most popular sector, is currently receiving 15 percent of our investments.

LACERS returns for the 1-, 3-, 5- and 10-year period lagged the benchmark for those periods, but exceeded the benchmark for inception to date, with an 11 percent return. The inception date for our current private equity manager, Portfolio Advisors, is January 2014.

Here are the private equity returns (yearly annualized):

- 1 year: 15.7 percent
- 3 years: 8.4 percent
- 5 years: 12.5 percent
- 10 years: 8.5 percent

These are very good returns on private equity, but the underperformance compared to the benchmark (a broad based US stock index plus 3 percent) should be expected due to the difficulty in matching an almost impossible target when the US stock market is having such a spectacular rise in prices. Note also that while this is our most recent report, the reporting for this asset class lags the other asset classes and the performance here is as of June 30, 2017. ■

## Inequity in the Survivor Option Purchase Program?



Michael Karsch

### Legislative Report: Pension Law and Policy, By Michael Karsch

We're not too old to run for office! In New Jersey two months ago, a retiree at the age of 93 won the local election for mayor of Tinton Falls by 53 percent of the vote against the incumbent! (California City News.org). Maybe the rest of New Jersey (and beyond) could benefit from considering the potential of the more seasoned, more experienced people in our communities to run for office.

The Trenton Falls mayor will not have to be too personally concerned about pension reform in New Jersey, where his state faces huge pension deficits in the coming decades. Fitch Ratings (as reported by Burypensions Blog in mid-December) reported that states with the highest pension burdens were Illinois (net pension liabilities of \$151.5 billion), New Jersey (\$91.8 billion), Massachusetts (\$48.9 billion), and Kentucky (\$32.8 billion).

The Los Angeles *Daily Journal* newspaper gave us a report by Daniel Grunfeld, who is from Pardee RAND Graduate School, leadership positions in

*Continues next page*

## California Near Top of Pension Underfunding? (continued)

two international law firms, deputy chief of staff for policy under former Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and president/CEO of Public Counsel. He reports that the pension crisis in California is getting worse and needs major reform. "California leads the nation in pension underfunding." He blames the "inherent dynamics of public-sector contract negotiations in a democracy." The unions demand greater support for retiring government employees, but the unions are loath to use the unions' ultimate tool of a strike (in many cases, it is illegal), so negotiations center more on post-job benefits in the pension system. This leads, Grunfeld explains, to labor agreements compounding over the years into higher and higher unfunded liabilities.

He discusses the efforts at reform, namely the Legislature's and Governor's Pension Reform Act of 2013, and the battle now brewing in litigation in the appeals courts, soon to be decided by the State Supreme Court. As I have written about earlier, the issue is just how far does the "California Rule" go relative to not touching public pensions. The appeal is between the Marin Association of Public Employees *et al* vs. Marin County Employees Retirement Association

*et al*. At issue is not only the California Rule but specific issues like pension spiking, what benefits may be counted towards establishing an individual's ultimate pension, the purchase of "air time", etc. Grunfeld cites a Supreme Court case in 1947, Kern vs. City of Long Beach, holding that a pension can be modified, and the pension system should be permitted to make adjustments, in accord with changing conditions and maintaining the integrity of the system.

He also cites the City of San Jose's reform efforts at pension reform for that city that are being challenged by that city's labor unions.

In Colorado (as reported by the *Denver Post* Dec. 11, 2017), the pension reform proposals center on the issue of cost-of-living increases. The state board recommends lowering the current cap of 2 percent to 1.5 percent. Gov. Hickenlooper supports a lower cap of 1.25 percent, and State Treasurer Stapleton recommends no more COLA increases until the pension system is fully funded. In the years prior to 2010 the retirees had received COLAs of 3.5 percent, but it was lowered to 2 percent in that year. ■

## For Retired Club Members

# The Best Years



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### Club Member Services:

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**BY EMAIL:** info@cityemployeesclub.com  
**ON THE WEB:** www.cityemployeesclub.com

## RETIREMENT HELPLINE

Who to call? Call the Helpline and reach the officers of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. If you move or change your address, contact Cliff Cannon. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA and LAFUCU. For information on problems, activities, meetings or membership. Each officer's extension is listed below.

**Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System:** (800) 779-8328

**RLACEI Retirement Counselors and Retiree Helplines** (800) 678-4145

- Mary Beetz Ext. 711
- Hal Danowitz Ext. 707
- Edward Harding Ext. 703
- Michael Karsch Ext. 704
- Gary Mattingly Ext. 702
- Neil Ricci Ext. 714
- Michael A. Perez Ext. 705
- Tom Sternock Ext. 708
- Michael Wilkinson Ext. 712

Questions: Ext. 0

RSVP: Ext. 701

**DWP Retirement Plan Office** (213) 367-1722

## Join the RLACEI!

## LACERS



Mary Beetz

### LACERS Update By Mary Beetz

One important reason of many to become an RLACEI member and/or Director:

The Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) is the only retiree organization whose sole effort is to protect, maintain and enhance retiree benefits. Our Board members are City Retired volunteers who put in a tremendous amount of time and work

diligently to maintain, improve and to protect retiree benefits.

#### Here's how:

- Become an RLACEI member by contacting Mike Perez by email: maperez77@gmail.com
- Become an RLACEI Director by contacting Neil Ricci, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, at (310) 650-2745 or (800) 678-4145, ext. 714. ■

## Life after Retirement



### Stay Connected

- If you have news about yourself, family or other retirees that you would like to share with our readers, send it and we will publish it.
- If you would like to contact a former City Employee that you met or worked with, send your contact information and we will publish it so they can contact you.

If you are a Retiree and have interesting news or updates about yourself, your family or other retirees, or would like to connect with coworkers, send information to mbeetz@4841@aol.com, or mail to **Mary Beetz:** 137 Westmont Drive, Alhambra, CA 91801

NOTE: Due to our confidentiality policy, we do not give out any information without authorization.

### Stay in Touch With LACERS

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 202 W. First Street, Suite 500  
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FAX to: (213) 473-7202 – Attention: Membership Processing Unit

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## RLACEI:

### Officers

Edward Harding: President  
 Tom Sternock: First Vice President  
 Michael Perez: Second Vice President  
 Hal Danowitz: Secretary/Treasurer

### Committee Chairpersons

Mary Beetz: Publicity  
 Cliff Cannon: Director  
 Hal Danowitz: Finance  
 Neil Ricci: Health and Nominating  
 Michael R. Wilkinson, Legal and Legislative  
 Tom Sternock: Audit and Golf

### Directors

Mary Beetz  
 Cliff Cannon  
 Michael Karsch  
 Gary Mattingly  
 Michael A. Perez  
 Neil Ricci  
 Michael R. Wilkinson



# The Best Years

For Retired Club Members



## A Birthday by the Bay



Hal and Co. celebrate a birthday in San Francisco.

2013 Club Excellence Award Recipient



By Hal Danowitz, Secretary, RLACEI

she would pay for the airfare. Seeing that it was her party I let her plan where we would stay and all of the activities. To tell you the truth, it was nice not having to do all the reservations and planning.

We flew up on Tuesday morning from LAX to San Francisco International on Southwest Airlines. For short trips they are the best airline, with no baggage charge. Now, if I were planning the trip, I would have flown into Oakland International, one, because it has more Southwest flights; and two, because it is a smaller, less crowded airport that's closer to downtown San Francisco. As it was, it was no problem getting our bags (it seems they had come on an earlier flight), and the taxi ride into San Francisco only took about 30 minutes.

We stayed at the Andrews Hotel (624 Post St., [800] 926-3739), which is in a great location just two blocks from Union Square. It's a charming, European-style hotel centrally located in San Francisco's renowned theater and shopping district. Its small size – just 48 guest rooms – allows the friendly and courteous front desk staff to give you individual attention.

The hotel offers a complimentary Continental breakfast buffet each morning served on each floor, and complimentary coffee and tea in the cozy (small) lobby all day long, along with free Wi-Fi throughout the hotel.

In the evening you can have a complimentary glass of wine at Fino Ristorante & Bar, just off the lobby.

This is how the hotel describes itself: "It was built back in 1905; construction began for the Sultan Turkish Baths, a gentleman's bath and relaxation establishment. It was a Class-A structure, meaning a steel frame that was state of the art for the time. It was a good move on the part of the architects, because some months later, in 1906, the big quake struck the city. Though the fire that followed left its mark, the baths frame was hardly damaged by the earthquake, and repairs didn't take long. The Sultan Baths, which finally opened in 1907, was a full-service affair, with a tiled hot room, a rubbing room, a restaurant, bar, barber, and chiropodist. Bedrooms could be rented as well, and the place had a steamy reputation that didn't arise from the sauna.

"In 1928, the Sultan Baths catered to its last gentleman, and a hotel opened in its place. During the next decades, 624 Post was an office building, a youth hostel, and a number of restaurants (including the China Doll, which had an aquarium spanning most of a wall). In 1981, Harry Andrews acquired the property, renovated it to its original Victorian splendor, and named it after his grandfather, under whose name it flourishes today."

Our room was a petite suite, all of 140

square feet, but it was fine. The location was great and the hotel services were what they advertised.

After checking in and getting a quick bite for lunch, we walked around Union Square and the Market Street area. They have done a lot to clean up the area, and there is a lot of high-end shopping. As a tourist, you want to stay east of Jones Street and north of Market Street. To the west is the area known as the Tenderloin with a heavy population of homeless and street people.

While the ladies did some shopping, Don and I had a beer at an outdoor café in Union Square.



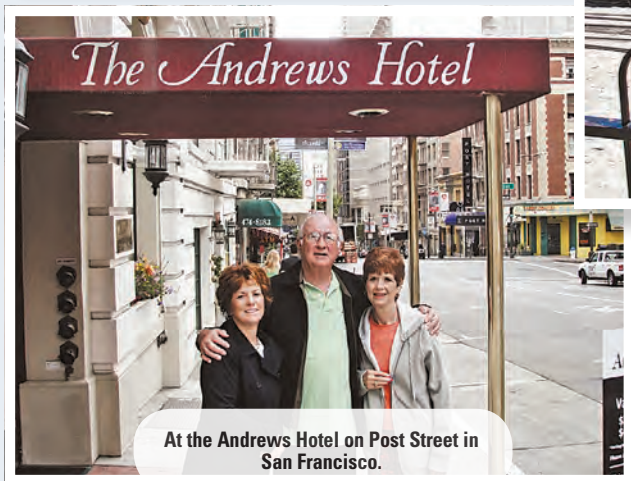
The four of us have dinner at the Cliff House.



Evelyn dances with a friend.



Evelyn with the famous San Francisco cable car.



At the Andrews Hotel on Post Street in San Francisco.

Myrna planned for our dinner that evening to be at the Cliff House (1090 Point Lobos, [415] 386-3330), which has been around for years and is known for its sunset views and is part of the Sutro Historic Landscape District. The first Cliff House was a modest structure, built in 1863 by Sen. John Buckley and C.C. Butler. Perched on spectacular cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the Cliff House is one of the crown jewels of San Francisco's Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the largest urban park west of the Mississippi River.

We had to wait for a table by the window, so we had a drink in the lobby area. The food was just okay, and I was disappointed that the changes made to both the inside and outside of the structure have changed the appearance from a 19th-century building to 20th-century modern.

The one attraction we did plan to see was the Birth of Impressionism: Masterpieces From the Musee d'Orsay at the De Young Museum in Golden State Park. The d'Orsay is in Paris and is being renovated. Paris is a sister city to San Francisco, and the almost 100 paintings represented the beginning of the impressionism movement. The current showing ended

hope to see the second part of the show.

We caught a taxi back to Union Square and walked through the Stockton Street Tunnel to go to Fisherman's Wharf. San Francisco is a very hilly city, and normally you would have to climb a hill to get over California Street. But using the tunnel, you can skip the hills. It is about a two-mile walk, and you pass through Chinatown.

We had lunch on Pier 39 where we stopped to watch the seals, and then walked over to Ghirardelli Square for ice cream. The square once had a lot of shops, but is now being converted into a hotel, condominiums and timeshares.

We took the cable car back to Union Square, waited about 45 minutes and paid \$5 to take a very uncomfortable ride with a bunch of smelly tourists.

We had dinner at Fino on the ground floor of the Andrew Hotel adjacent to the lobby. The food was Italian, and overall I give the restaurant a good rating with the exception that it is very noisy.

Thursday was our last full day, and we took a walking tour of Chinatown. It is the oldest Chinatown in North America

and the largest Chinese community outside Asia. Since its establishment in the 1840s, it has been highly important and influential in the history and culture of ethnic Chinese immigrants to the United States and North America.

We booked our 10 a.m. tour with Local Taste

of San Francisco which started at the main gate on Grant Street. We met our guide and started our private tour by visiting one of the oldest cathedrals in San Francisco, which survived the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Next stop was at a music store, where they seemed to have every musical instrument ever made. We stopped to sample some dim sum, which was not very good. We visited a local Buddhist temple, which was very interesting. After a quick stop at a local market, we stopped to watch them make fortune cookies, where they let us put our own fortunes in the cookies. Our last stop was at a teashop, where we tasted at least 15 different types of tea. Except for having to use the bathroom, the experience was good.

We played a little bridge in the afternoon, and for dinner we celebrated Myrna's birthday by eating at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse. The food and service were very good.

In the morning, Evelyn and I decided to go to a breakfast place that was recommended by one of the taxi drivers. Dottie's True Blue Café is a small hole in the wall with about 10 tables and a seven-stool counter. The wait time in the morning is about an hour, but you get to talk to other tourists, and the food is well worth it.

After breakfast, we walked over to Union Square and then back to the hotel where we met up with Don and Myrna. We took a taxi back to the airport to catch our afternoon flight home.

San Francisco is a great short vacation trip, with lots of attractions and very good restaurants. ■

# RETIREES AROUND THE WORLD



## The DWP Dirty Dozen Visits Southeast Asia

**T**welve current and Retired DWP employees and friends known as the “Dirty Dozen” traveled to Thailand this past fall for a fun and adventurous 10-day vacation. The Dirty Dozen stayed in Pattaya and Bangkok, Thailand, where they enjoyed zip-lining in the rain forest, visiting the zoo and Buddha temples, and took rickshaw and jungle tours. Some in the group showed off their culinary skills while taking a Thai cooking class. They produced delicious dishes, including Penang and green curries, pad Thai, stir-fried chicken

with cashew nuts, Tom Yam koong, and chicken galangal in coconut milk soups. They also made sweet and tasty desserts, including, mango and sticky rice and fried bananas.

The Dirty Dozen traveled in rickshaws, cabs, vans and trains, and walked to many of the countries’ most scenic and interesting sites. They were treated to the customs and friendly people of the land.

*Thanks to Earl Rodgers, DWP, Retired, for the information and photos.*



The entire Dirty Dozen traveling group, from left: Gregory Hornsby Sr., Steven Starks, Trinh Nguyen, Aditya Sharma, LaTanya Carson, Latrice Williams, Julie Naslund, Max Reyes, Melissa, Zebbra Corbin-Rodgers, Ethelinda Reyes and Earl Rodgers.



Zebbra Corbin-Rodgers, Electrical Engineering Associate II, DWP, Club Member, 34 years of City service, and her husband, Earl Rodgers, USM II, DWP, Club Member, Retired, 38 years, happily pose before gearing up to zip-line.



From left: Trinh Nguyen, Management Analyst, DWP, 22 years of City service, and Aditya Sharma, USM III, DWP, Club Member, 17 years of City service, are prepared for their zip-lining adventure.



Latrice Williams, USM III, DWP, Club Member, 24 years of City service, and her husband, Gregory Hornsby Sr., Assistant Director, DWP, 31 years, pose and enjoy the scenery while in the rainforest.



From left: Julie Naslund, USM III, DWP, Retired, 39 years of City service, and LaTanya Carson, USM III, DWP, Club Member, 21 years, mean business and are ready to take off.



The ladies get ready to do some shopping in downtown Pattaya.



The Dirty Dozen pose in front of a Buddha temple in Bangkok.



Steven Starks, USM IV, DWP 31 years of City service, and friend Melissa enjoy the scenic background of a waterfall in Pattaya.



Ethelinda Reyes, USM IV, DWP, Retired, Club Member, 30 years of City service, with husband, Max Reyes, Sr. Management Analyst, Transportation, Retired, Club Member, 30 years, are all hugged up while enjoying the view.

The fellas get a rare chance to explore Thailand alone!



**Take the Club with you, wherever you go!**

Bring your recent copy of *Alive!* with you. Snap a **high resolution** photo with you holding a copy, send it in, and we'll publish it. **Send to:** [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)

# The Best Years For Retired Club Members

## Retirements

Here's a listing of all those who retired from the City this month. To all we say, welcome to the Best Years!

| NAME                       | TITLE                      | DEPT.           | YEARS | NAME              | TITLE                    | DEPT.           | YEARS | NAME                 | TITLE                   | DEPT.              | YEARS |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Aitken, Douglas            | Traffic Paint Sign Post    | Transportation  | 17    | Feldmeier, Louis  | Supply Chain Services    | DWP             | N/D   | Rivers, Zakkiyya Y.  | Sr. Librarian           | Library            | 7     |
| Alberico, Michael          | Power Supply Op.           | DWP             | N/D   | Florance, John    | Civil Engin. Draft Tech. | Public Works    | 36    | Rosenblum, Alan      | Water Operations        | DWP                | N/D   |
| Amimoto, Eugene Y.         | Engineer Designer          | Public Works    | 34    | Gomez, Daniel     | Power Trans. & Distrib.  | DWP             | N/D   | Rosenfeld, Lee       | Sr. Equipment Mech.     | LAPD               | 30    |
| Baskerville, Wenton        | Security Services          | DWP             | N/D   | Hahn, Keumsook    | Librarian                | Library         | 15    | Salvador, Benny      | Water Distribution      | DWP                | N/D   |
| Bickerstaff, Monica Chaney | Management Analyst         | Airports        | 32    | Hanley, Wayne     | Water Operations         | DWP             | N/D   | Sandefur, Linda      | Police Service Rep      | LAPD               | 30    |
| Blumstein, Ann             | Admin Clerk                | Library         | 34    | Harrison, Terrell | Buyer                    | Harbor          | 26    | Selder, Eric         | Painter                 | Gen. Services      | 20    |
| Bradley, Ronald W.         | Window Cleaner             | Airports        | 15    | Holland, Margaret | Sr. Admin. Clerk         | LAPD            | 37    | Serrano, Marisela    | Supply Chain Services   | DWP                | N/D   |
| Broad, Thomas              | Background Inv.            | Personnel       | 12    | Holloway, Dwayne  | Power Trans. & Distrib.  | DWP             | N/D   | Stotland, Julian     | Wastewater Treat. Mech. | Public Works       | 31    |
| Busby, Denise              | Cust. Serv. Business Unit  | DWP             | N/D   | Jack, Raymond A.  | Airport Manager          | Airports        | 20    | Sue, Sidney          | Admin Clerk             | Library            | 11    |
| Bustillos, Maria           | Retirement Plan Office     | DWP             | N/D   | Jackson, Lee T.   | Refuse Coll. Truck Op.   | Public Works    | 12    | Thomas, Byron        | Refuse Coll. Truck Op.  | Public Works       | 30    |
| Butler, Ornetha            | Cust. Serv. Business Unit  | DWP             | N/D   | Jaime, Jerry      | Truck Operator           | Public Works    | 30    | Thomas, Laura J.     | Sr. Personnel Analyst   | Public Works       | 30    |
| Butts, Bonaventur          | Refuse Coll. Truck Op.     | Public Works    | 39    | Jefferson, Edward | Integrated Support Serv. | DWP             | N/D   | Trujillo, Nancy      | Water Operations        | DWP                | N/D   |
| Bynum, Robert              | Integrated Support Serv.   | DWP             | N/D   | Keene, Kenneth D. | Crime & Intell. Analyst  | LAPD            | 15    | Tucker, Joseph       | Wastewater Treat. Op.   | Public Works       | 29    |
| Carrasco, Kenneth F.       | Deputy City Attorney       | City Attorney   | 33    | King, Garry L.    | Maintenance Super.       | Airports        | 21    | Tung, Chen Ru        | Tax Auditor             | Finance            | 10    |
| Chen, Samuel               | Power Supply Op.           | DWP             | N/D   | Lisa, Laraine     | Animal Control Officer   | Animal Services | 1     | Uribe, David         | Fleet Services          | DWP                | N/D   |
| Curry, Donnie              | Custodian                  | Airports        | 13    | Little, Glenn     | Roofer Supervisor        | Harbor          | 21    | Westmoreland, James  | Security Officer        | Airports           | 23    |
| Dedeaux, Louis             | Assist. General Mgr.       | Animal Services | 34    | Luckey, Franklin  | Golf Starter             | Rec and Parks   | 23    | Whitmore, Jeffery D. | Chief Manage. Analyst   | Econ./Wrkfrce Dev. | 29    |
| Dominguez, Javier          | Metering Serv. & Field Op. | DWP             | N/D   | Miranda, Penelope | Legal Clerk              | City Attorney   | 37    | Williams, Tony       | Refuse Coll. Truck Op.  | Public Works       | 27    |
| Dunn, Edward               | Security Services          | DWP             | N/D   | Mirisola, Daniel  | Pt.&D Energy Dist.       | DWP             | N/D   | Yasuhara, Paul       | Gardener Caretaker      | Rec and Parks      | 39    |
| Edwards, Brett L.          | Wastewater Treat. Ele.     | Public Works    | 12    | Morales, Diosdado | Accounting Clerk         | Finance         | 11    |                      |                         |                    |       |
| Feldmeier, Jane            | Supply Chain Services      | DWP             | N/D   | Palomo, Felipe    | Water Operations         | DWP             | N/D   |                      |                         |                    |       |

\*N/D - Not disclosed



**Monthly Griffith Park Hike:**  
 With Commissioner Cynthia Ruiz and LACERS Well  
 • First Friday of every month  
 • 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.



## Seniors: Get Active in 2018!

### Monthly Easy-Paced Bike Ride

- Dock 52, Marina del Rey
- 3rd Wednesday of the month
- 11 a.m.
- Contact Ron Skarin for location updates and to RSVP at ronskarin@sbcglobal.net

The LACERS Well program sponsors walking/social events that are perfect for helping you keep in shape and take care of your health. And they're open to all fitness levels.

For outside walks and events, make sure to bring comfortable shoes, sunblock, sunglasses and water.

For more information on LACERS Well events: Tara Miller, LACERS Well coordinator: (213) 978-6843 Or [LACERS.org/lacerswell](http://LACERS.org/lacerswell)

#### West Covina Mall Walk and Stretch

- West Covina Mall, West Covina
- Every Wednesday, 8:30-10 a.m.
- Contact Pablo and Vivian Cortez at pabrcrt6@aol.com

#### Lakewood Center Mall Walk and Stretch

- Lakewood Center Mall, Lakewood
- Every Monday, 8 a.m.
- Contact Beverly Anderson at the.andersons@verizon.net

#### Pathfinder Park Walk and Stretch

- Rowland Heights
- Every Wednesday, 9 a.m.
- Contact Joyce Kawai at jkawai@gmail.com

#### Madrugada Trail Hike and Stretch

- Chino Hills
- Every Sunday, 4-6:30 p.m.
- Contact Eugene Mandelcorn at eman-delcorn@gmail.com

#### Ontario Mills Mall Walk and Stretch

- Ontario Mills Mall, Ontario
- 1st Saturday of the month, 9 - 11 a.m.

- Contact Eugene Mandelcorn at eman-delcorn@gmail.com

#### Ontario Mills Mall Walk and Stretch

- Ontario Mills Mall, Ontario
- Every Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - noon
- Contact Eugene Mandelcorn at eman-delcorn@gmail.com

#### Chino Hills Workout and Stretch

- Chino Hills Senior Center, Chino Hills
- Every Saturday, 4-6 p.m.
- Contact Eugene Mandelcorn at eman-delcorn@gmail.com

#### Buddy Walk for Life

- Kaiser Baldwin Park
- 1st Friday of the month, 8-10 a.m.
- Contact Mariam Galang at mariam-galang@gmail.com

#### Playa del Rey Beach Walk & Stretch

- Playa del Rey
- Every Friday, 8:30 a.m.
- Contact Frankie Gallagher at Frankiequeenofhearts@yahoo.com

#### Rueben Ingold Park Walk and Stretch

- View Park, Windsor Hills
- Every Thursday, 11 a.m.
- Contact Avis Ridley-Thomas at avisridleythomas@me.com

#### Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park Walk and Stretch

- Sherman Oaks
- 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, 9 a.m.
- Contact Debby Rolland at debbylr22@gmail.com

#### El Cariso Park Walk and Stretch

- Sylmar
- Every Monday, 8:30 a.m.
- Contact Irene Galvan at ronnie20dav@gmail.com

#### Manhattan Beach Pier Walk

- Manhattan Beach
- 1st Saturday of the month, 9-11 a.m.
- Contact Cyrous Adami at Cyrous13@yahoo.com



# When seniors volunteer, it's good for everyone.

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”*  
 – Margaret Mead

As a returned Peace Corps volunteer (Morocco, 1999), I thought I knew a little something about volunteering. For two post-graduate years, I lived in a mud-thatched house with no electricity or running water, to help spread awareness about health and sanitation, in Berber (the native dialect). It was hard, awesome, challenging and amazing, often all at the same time. But it wasn't until I worked for the New York Food Bank that I saw the depths of what volunteering can do within a community. I met dozens of incredible individuals who gave an abundance of their best resources – time, energy and experience – to local soup kitchens and food pantry programs, sometimes seven days a week, to provide hot meals to the underserved. Unlike me, who would have to board an international flight to call it quits from the Peace Corps, these volunteers could decide at any time that they were too tired, too busy or simply no longer emotionally invested in feeding the homeless. But they never did. Rain or shine, they showed up. They changed lives. And in doing so, bettered their own.

So, can “giving of oneself” actually be selfish? Ironically, yes, but this may not be such a bad thing. As a society, we rely heavily on the generosity of strangers. Nonprofits and community organizations depend on volunteers to stretch limited resources, but research indicates that the return on investment, or ROI, of a volunteer's effort is significant. According to Independent Sector, a coalition of nonprofits for research, organizations gain an average of \$23.07/hour of volunteer time donated. Conversely, studies also show that volunteering provides substantial mental and physical health benefits for those doing the helping. This means that, although no money is exchanged, both the volunteer and the organization can increase in value. This is especially true if said volunteer is provided training, can utilize his or her expertise and past experiences, and is afforded social networking opportunities. By investing in their volunteer's intellectual growth, an



organization becomes stronger and healthier – a true “quid pro quo” where everyone, even bystanders like the community, wins. So while volunteering is generally viewed as altruistic, it can, and perhaps should, be considered as a “what's in it for me?” scenario. Asking what can be personally gleaned from a volunteering opportunity may serve as a catalyst for a more rewarding experience for all parties involved.

Seniors and retirees are uniquely qualified to be exceptional volunteers and to reap the benefits in real time. A lifetime of experience, a flexible schedule and a desire to breathe life back into a hobby or interest, are all helpful tools in a volunteer's toolbox. When seniors work with youths, these multi-generational volunteer groups capitalize on lessons learned and fresh perspectives. From a health standpoint, studies show that senior volunteerism improves longevity and psychological wellness. According to the National Institute on Aging, social, meaningful and productive activities, such as volunteering, may lower the risk of health problems, including dementia and a decline in cognitive health. Additionally, depression and isolation are common but devastating concerns among the aging. According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, volunteerism provides hope in this area by supporting seniors with a viable means to socialize outside the home, enjoy physical activity, and regain a sense of purpose.

*If you or a loved one would like to find a local volunteer opportunity, check out some of the following resources:*

- **RSVP**, a program of Senior Corps, is one of the largest senior volunteer groups in the country, with close to 300,000 volunteers in a wide range of areas. RSVP volunteers recruit and manage other volunteers, participate in environmental projects, mentor and tutor children, and respond to natural disasters, among many other activities. ([www.nationalservice.gov/resources/senior-corps](http://www.nationalservice.gov/resources/senior-corps))
- **Seniors Helping Seniors** is a program of the Senior Citizens Bureau that provides educational resources, referrals and support services to seniors, families and caregivers. They have hundreds of volunteers who help with phone calls, e-mails, and research. ([www.seniorshelpingseniors.com](http://www.seniorshelpingseniors.com))
- **The Humane Society** enlists more than 2,100 active volunteers in providing animal enrichment, foster care, shelter support and other assistance. ([www.animalhumanesociety.org/volunteer/](http://www.animalhumanesociety.org/volunteer/))
- **Become a LACERS Well Champion!** If you have a hobby, interest or activity that you would like to share with fellow LACERS retirees, consider volunteering with the LACERS Well program. Call or email Tara Miller, RD at (213) 978-6843 or [lacerswell@LACERS.org](mailto:lacerswell@LACERS.org). ■

By Tara Miller, MS RD/N,  
 LACERS Well Program Manager,  
 and Candace Wilkie, Wellness Intern



## 5 Ways Seniors Are Changing the World

*Adapted from 5 Reasons Seniors Should Volunteer Their Time, by Sarah Stevenson. (A Place for Mom Senior Blog, September 2014)*

1. Bridging the generation gap. Seniors who volunteer with young people have a unique opportunity to work with and assist other generations — and learn from them, too.
2. Changing the face of “ageism.” By using their talents, skills and experience, seniors demonstrate that they are active, involved and essential to a healthy community.
3. Improving mental health and risk for Alzheimer's disease. Being a volunteer can help keep the brain and the body active, which contributes to continuing cognitive health.
4. Reducing senior isolation and depression. Seniors who volunteer have been shown to have greater life satisfaction, a sense of purpose and accomplishment, more stress resilience, and lower rates of depression.
5. Promoting healthy physical activity. Volunteering can be good for maintaining a healthy level of physical fitness as we age to ward off disease, injury, and even dementia.



## Show Us Your Grandkids!

**RETIREES: *Alive!* wants to show off your grandkids! So send in those photos!**

**Here's how:**

1. **Make sure to have the permission from their parents.** If you send in a photo, *Alive!* assumes you have already received that permission.
2. Photos with you in them are better, but if not, that's okay, too.
3. Make sure you list the names of your grandkids.
4. Tell us, in a sentence or two, a little bit about them – their school, their accomplishments, what they love to do, how proud you are of them, etc.
5. Digital photos are best!

Send them to: [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)

**Send Prints To: Grandkids**  
 City Employees Club of Los Angeles  
 120 W. 2nd St., Los Angeles, CA 90012 (800) 464-0452

*If you want the print photo returned, make sure you write your name and phone number on the back.*

## It's All Down Hill

when you use the great Club deals on ski lifts!

– Go to the Club Webstore for details:

[cityemployeesclub.com](http://cityemployeesclub.com)

ZOO

Photos by Jamie Pham, Zoo

# See an Okapi

Zoo welcomes first female okapi calf.

The Los Angeles Zoo welcomes its first-ever female okapi (pronounced oh-KAH-pea) calf born at the Zoo, a unique species often nicknamed the "forest giraffe." The calf was born on Nov. 10 and is the second offspring for mother Opey, 14 years old, and the first for father Jackson, three years old. The couple was paired together as part of an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Species Survival Plan (SSP) program to increase the okapi population, which is rapidly declining in the wild. The currently unnamed calf spent the first couple of months behind the scenes bonding with mother and familiarizing herself with her new home and the animal care staff.

Over the last decade, the wild okapi population has dropped, and there are estimated to be between 10,000 and 50,000 left in the wild. There are currently close to 100 okapi in U.S. AZA-accredited facilities.

"There was a time not so long ago when having okapis in a Zoo was extraordinarily rare," said Josh Sisk, Curator of Mammals at the Los Angeles Zoo. "But, due to Species Survival Plan (SSP) programs being so proactive and being able to breed these animals in Zoos, the captive population is doing extremely well."

Guests can now view the female calf and her mother out in their habitat daily, weather permitting. The female calf brings the Zoo's okapi group to four, including mother Opey, father Jackson, and a four-year-old male okapi born in August 2013 named Berani. Berani was the first calf ever born at the L.A. Zoo since okapi were added to the Zoo's collection in 2005.



The Club offers discounted tickets to the Zoo.

— See page 45 for details.

Zoo admission is \$21 for general admission and \$16 for children (ages 2 to 12). No ticket is required for children under age two. Admission for Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association members is free.

The Los Angeles Zoo is in Griffith Park at the junction of the Ventura (134) and Golden State (5) freeways. 5333 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027. Free parking is available. For additional information, contact (323) 644-4200 or visit [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org)

THIS MONTH AT THE

# Griffith Observatory

## Sunset Walk

Wednesday, Feb. 28  
5:35 - 6:35 p.m.

The Observatory offers a sunset walk led by a Park Ranger and a museum guide. The easy walk starts on the Observatory's West Terrace, proceeds up the Charlie Turner trail to the Berlin Forest on the hill just north of the Observatory, and then returns to the West Terrace. The distance covered is about half a mile over the course of an hour at a very moderate pace with stops along the way to discuss the highlights and history of Griffith Park, and objects visible in the evening sky.

NOTE: The Charlie Turner trail is a moderately steep earthen trail. The Observatory recommends footwear appropriate for hiking.

**FREE!**

**Information:**

[griffithobservatory.org/programs/programs.html#walk&talk](http://griffithobservatory.org/programs/programs.html#walk&talk)

Support the Griffith Observatory!

Consider joining the Friends of the Observatory (FOTO)  
Call: (213) 473-0879 or go to [www.friendsoftheobservatory.com](http://www.friendsoftheobservatory.com)

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For more information and to find out about additional events go to [www.LAABP.ORG](http://www.LAABP.ORG) or email us at [laabp.org@gmail.com](mailto:laabp.org@gmail.com).

**WIN**  
**\$50**  
**Target**  
Gift Card

**Deadline**  
For submission:  
**March 10, 2018**  
Winners will be printed  
in the April 2018 *Alive!*

# It's a Coloring Contest!



# for Adults!

**GROWN-UPS,  
GET YOUR CRAYONS OUT!**

It's time for another Grown-up Coloring Contest! Why let your kids have all the fun? The prize: a \$50 Target gift card. So get out your crayons, sparkles and whatnot, and get going!

**PLEASE COMPLETE:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Job title and department with the City: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PROVIDE** →

Club Membership Number:

**Send Entries to:**

Club Grown-Up Coloring Contest  
City Employees Club of Los Angeles  
120 West 2nd Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Rules of the Club's Adult Coloring Contest:**

- Winning contestants must be Club members in good standing. Everyone is welcome to submit responses, however. (Responses without Club membership numbers will be accepted but not eligible for the winning prize.)
- All responses must be completed by the person indicated: no ringers (including your children!)
- Winning responses will be determined by official Club personnel. All decisions will be final.
- The contest is all in good fun: The Club cannot be responsible for delays in delivering *Alive!*, or for delays in the transmission of responses.



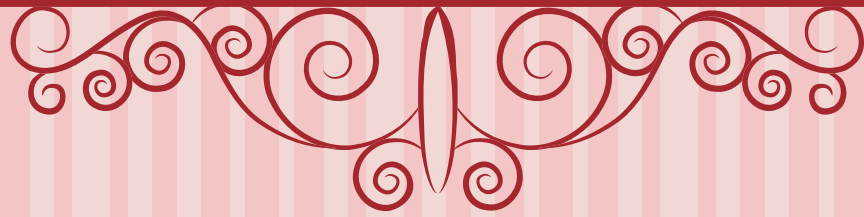
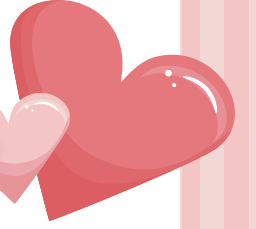


**CLUB**

*Alive!* presents one of our most popular annual features – Club Valentines. Enjoy... and happy Valentine's Day!



# Valentines



"Kenny, we made it 30 years, and I plan on enjoying many more with you. I love you."  
— Rhonda Brown, LAPD



"I wanna love you, every day and every night! Happy Valentine's Day, babe!"  
— Kirsten Aceves, Rec and Parks



"Your heart is filled with so much love, and I appreciate you for that every day. Will you be my Valentine? Love you."  
— Wil Dismuke, Public Works/Sanitation, for Kay Davis, Transportation

"Happy Valentine's Day, Abie. Te quiero. <3."  
— Edith Bon, Club Staff



"My husband Kwan, and my daughters Karina and Kelsey are my partners in crime. Can't do silly things without you guys!"  
— Officer Ka Man Fan, Airport Police

"An angel of a wife who has been by my side in the good times and the toughest."  
— Ruben Garcia, Transportation



"My dearest Barbara Lynne, thank you for being part of my life. Love you, my Valentine, as my heart is yours."  
— Dennis L. Acevedo, Public Works



"Happy Valentine's Day, Diana! With love, Steve."  
— Steve Felszeghy

"Happy Valentine's Day, baby. Wishing for many more to come."  
— Vaughn Dorsey, Transportation



"My love for you is for forever and a day! From your husband for life!"  
— Iver Dreben, Airports, for Jacqui Dreben, LAPD

"Happy Valentine's Day, my love. Love you more than ever!"  
— Lupe Durazo, Personnel



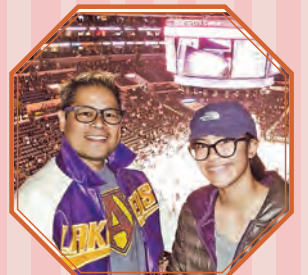
"Thanks for always keeping something brewing in our lives. Happy Valentine's Day!"  
— John Burnes, editor, *Alive!*

"Happy Valentine's Day to my heart and soul in Paradise (the Atlantis Bahamas, Paradise Island)."  
— Chermaine Fontenette, Public Works/Sanitation



"If you have only one smile in you, give it to the people you love."  
— Maya Angelou.

For you, Sweetheart, I have but only one endless smile. – Papa."  
— Rodney Bernaldo, Public Works/Sanitation

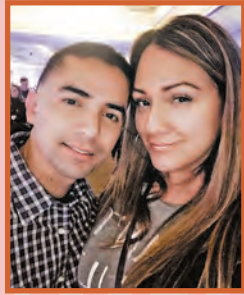




**"To many great years and two wonderful children. I love you, Letty."** (From left: David, Joseph, Lexy and Letty.)  
— David Orozco, Public Works/ Street Services



**"Happy Valentine's Day to my soulmate, the mother of my kids and the love of my life!"**  
— Gabriel Leivas, DWP



**"I love you more today than I did yesterday, but not as much as I will tomorrow. Happy Valentine's Day!"**  
— Nancy Madrigal, LAPD/ Communications, for Raul Gonzalez, LAPD



**"Happy Valentine's Day to my love, Maria. May we continue to enjoy our life together with love and laughter."**  
— Carl Holmes, Rec and Parks



**"Happy Valentine's Day to the love of my life. David, you always brighten my day. Love you!"**  
— Kelli Nunez, LAPD/ Communications

**"To my first grandson on his first year in this world, I wish for you all that you deserve. May hard work and dedication be your guide, and your future will have no limits. Love always."**



— Phillip Nunley, Finance



**"Love is forever: engagement photo, 1978. Stan and Karen Kalsman."**  
— Karen Kalsman, Retired, Rec and Parks



**"My lil' man, love U lots."**  
— Julie Briones, City Attorney



**"Thank you for seven wonderful years."**  
— Julie Briones, City Attorney

**"Hope we continue to make crazy memories. Always loving you."**

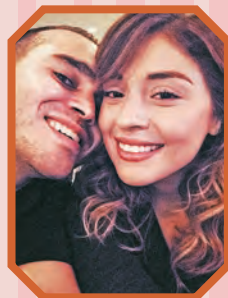
— Julie Briones, City Attorney



**"My wife, Khin Nilar Soe, is always 'Be My Valentine.'"**  
— Ismail Nanabawa, Airports



**"Happy 2018 Valentine's Day to my sexy wife. Love you more each and every day."**  
— Rogelio Perez LAPD



**"Happy Valentine's Day, Ashley! Thank you for being a great mother to our kids and my ride or die. I love you. 2018 is our year!"**  
— Luis Mora, Mayor's Office



**"To my best friend and the love of my life. Without you there's no me :-)"**  
— Miguel A. Lozano, Airport Police



**"Mexico City, Nov. 19. Raiders vs. Patriots. I love you so much, I asked the Raiders to let the Patriots win that day!"**  
— Maricela Price, LAPD/Communications



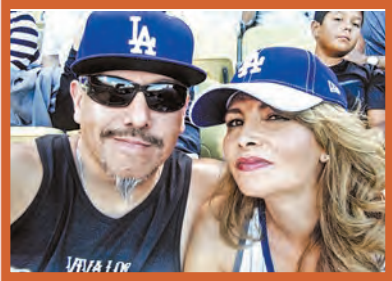
**"Love of my life, you complete me. Thank you for 23 great years."**  
— Alfredo Rocha, LAFD



**"My loves, my life, my world. I love you all with everything I have. Happy Valentine's Day."**  
— Tanya Rodrick, Animal Services

**"Happy Valentine's Day, Jim Birch! Thank you for all of the wonderful adventures we've taken over the years. From your loving daughter."**  
— Casey Birch, Animal Services





**"To my beautiful pussy-cat: I love you with all my heart Today, tomorrow and always."**

— Frank Sugiyama, DWP

**"Maribel, I'm so proud of being in love with you! Thank you for your love for me! I love you!"**

— Musa Khan, City Clerk



**"The first time I saw you my heart whispered, that's the one. Happy Valentine's Day, Susan! I love you!"**

— Lorenzo Sandoval, LA County Probation



**"Happy Valentine's Day to my perfect nephews, Anthony and Johnny! You both bring our family sooooo much joy! I love you beyond words! xoxo – Noelle."**

— Noelle Kauffman, Club Member Services Manager



**"I wish my hubby, Josh Ulatowski, Happy Valentine's Day for our 29th Valentine's Day together."**

— Cindy Reinhardt-Ulatowski, Retired



**"In you I've found the love of my life and my closest, truest friend. Love, your wife, Elena."**

— Elena Sousa, Airport Police



**At the Seven Magic Mountains art installation by Ugo Rondinone outside Las Vegas.**

— Jorge Trejo, LAPD



**"To a grandma who shows us each and every day the importance of love and family... xoxoxo."**

— Arlene Herrero, Club Director of Product Development



**"Happy Valentine's Day to my girlfriend, Dani."**

— Noah Hawkins, Club Mobile Team



**"Life is the very best with you beside me. With all my love, Happy Valentine's Day!"**

— Robert Larios, Club COO



**"To my one and only love ... I've loved you for the last 18 years. Let's do at least another 18. Happy Valentine's Day, honey!"**

— Lori Griner, Transportation



**"James, happy Valentine's Day. I love you; looking forward to spending time with you! – Renu"**

For James Case, DWP



**"Rigoberto, I am thankful for having you in my life! I love you! Happy Valentine's Day."**

— Beverly Monroy, DWP



**"My three beautiful Valentines: I am the luckiest husband and father in the world."**

— Than Tiet, DWP



**Happy Valentines Day!**

— Kevin & Diane Ishida, LAPD.



**"Ma chère Kelley, la vie est une aventure avec toi. Je t'aime pour toujours."**

— John Hawkins, Club CEO



**"Happy Valentine's Day to our parents, Rafael and Carmen Larios – we love you! Feliz día de San Valentín. From Roberto, Ana, Norma, Patty and the rest of the growing family!"**

— For the parents of Robert Larios, Club Chief Operating Officer

**"The love of my life and best friend."**

— John Mireles, Transportation, for Imelda Mireles



**"To my Knight in Shining Armor of 16 years. I love you with all my heart and soul. We have been so blessed."**

— Jessica Rodriguez, the Neighborhood Prosecutor Program



# CLUB Valentines



**"L is for 'laughter' we had along the way. O is for 'optimism' you gave me every day. V is for 'value' of being my best friend. E is for 'eternity,' a love that has no end."**  
— Greg and Diana Rogers, Transportation



**"I promise to be by your side forever and for always. I love you. Nothing can do us apart."**  
— Peter Arroyo, Rec and Parks



**"Happy Valentine's Day to my grandbabies, Kordai and Korii. Noo-Noo loves you!"**  
— Cassandra Burrell, Finance



**"Dear Panini, I want you and all of the other City Employees to know what a great gift God gave me when he put you into my life and my daughter's life. You are the sweetest piece of candy I have ever tasted! Love, your soulmate, Brian."**  
— Brian Szramowski, Public Works/Engineering



**"Our candle of love is as bright as ever. In my heart you will be forever. Love you lots till we grow old together. Happy Valentine's Day, love."**  
— Robert Hernandez, Public Works/Sanitation



**"Disneyland, 1972: You were 18. I was 19. Now 46 years later, it's still true, Love."**  
— Tom Fisher, Housing

**"This is a photo of myself and my lovely wife, Rebecca, at a reception at the British Consulate in LA. I met my wife of 34 years in Yukon Jacks Bar in Disneyland, while I was working for a Saudi Arabian Sheik. So you could say it was a bit of a Mickey Mouse affair."**



— Capt. Michael Barnes, Harbor



**"Francine, from the first moment I saw you, I knew you were the one for me. Now and forevermore, you are my one and only true love! From Loverboi."**  
— Gordon Dupree, Rec and Parks

## Rest Insured

BY JEFF GELINEAU  
Retired Vice President of United Agencies,  
The Club's Auto and Home Insurance Partner



**CLASSIC**  
FROM FEB 2016

## Insurance For El Niño

We are all hoping for lots of rain this winter! We've been fighting this drought for too long, and it would be great to get lots of water.

Unless that water comes into your living room.

We've had lots of phone calls lately about flood insurance: "What happens if the rain comes rolling in my sliding glass door? Am I covered?"

There is coverage for rain damage, but unless you buy a flood policy, it is quite limited.

Homeowners' policies do not cover damages due to a flood, but they do cover other kinds of water damage. For example, they would generally pay for damage from rain coming through a hole in the roof or a broken window if the hole were caused by strong storm winds. On the other hand, if you have a hidden pipe leaking in your house and over time water damage occurs, that

would not be covered.

It pretty much boils down to whether the water damage was caused by a covered peril such as a storm — if the water damage were due to you not keeping your house maintained and repaired, then your insurance would not cover it. If you don't know what water damage is covered, review your home insurance policy or check with your agent now, before any damage occurs.

If sudden water damage occurs to your property, such as with a storm, it is important to dry all wet areas and provide air circulation to aid in the drying process. Also, cover any areas with a tarp to prevent more water damage. Covering, drying and dehumidifying wet areas can help minimize the possibility that mold will accompany water damage. Always contact your insurance agent immediately to start the homeowners' insurance claims process.

### Here's a list of seven possible losses, and whether or not they are covered:

**The temperature drops below zero, causing your water pipes to freeze and burst. Your floor is now covered in six inches of water.**

Are you covered? Yes, you are covered for water damage from burst pipes, but most policies won't cover you if you've left the house unoccupied and without heat. If that's the case, your claim could be denied because you've failed to perform the necessary upkeep that would prevent the accident.

**Water leaks from your backyard pool, ruining your manicured lawn and flooding your living room.**

Are you covered? Yes and no — the damages to your living room and your personal property in it are covered, but not the damage to your lawn.

**Your washing machine overflows, flooding the laundry room.**

Are you covered? Yes — the extent to which you are covered depends on your insurer's view of the problem: Did you fail to maintain the washer properly, or did sudden, unforeseen damage cause the flood?

**A sewer backs up, flooding your house.**

Are you covered? No — standard policies don't cover it, and many specifically exclude damage from sewer backups. Special endorsements are available, at added cost, for sewers and drains.

**During a heavy rainstorm, water leaks through your roof. The roof is damaged, as is furniture.**

Are you covered? Yes — while you might not be reimbursed for roof repairs, because that's a house-maintenance issue, the water damage to your home is covered. The damage to your furniture is likely covered if you have the standard HO-3 homeowners' policy, but not if you have the HO-1.

If something more drastic leads to the roof leak (your neighbor's tree falls on the roof, for example), the damage to your roof, home and belongings is covered. (In the tree example, your policy also reimburses you up to a certain amount, usually around \$500, for the cost of removing the tree.)

**Your bathtub overflows.**

Are you covered? Yes, you are even covered if the bathtub overflowed because you forgot to turn off the faucet.

**A nearby lake or river overflows its banks, causing a flash flood in your living room.**

Are you covered? No — flood damage is not covered by homeowners' insurance. You must purchase flood insurance from the federal government. You can purchase flood insurance as long as your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program.

#### About United Agencies

United Agencies is the Club's Partner in helping members with their home and car insurance, and related products. Feel free to call us with any questions about rental cars, auto insurance, or any other topic. We specialize in creating personal relationships with our customers, and

serving their needs in a prompt, efficient and friendly manner. Call our office today at (888) 801-5522.

Check out the City Employees Club page on the United Agencies Website: [www.ua-insurance.com/city-club](http://www.ua-insurance.com/city-club)



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## LAFD: Supply and Maintenance Division

Photos by Sammy Lam, Club Director of Marketing; and John Burnes, *Alive!* editor

# Keeping the Rigs on the Road

**The Supply and Maintenance Division repairs, maintains and certifies thousands of the Fire Dept.'s critically important vehicles every year.**

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In Supply and Maintenance's Body Shop, sitting, from left: Sitting, from left: Gary Hayakawa, "Body Man," 18 years of City service; and Gustavo Ramirez, Auto Body Builder/Repairer, 11 years. Standing: Dan Walker, Auto Painter, 3 months; Rito Escamilla, Mechanical Helper, 9 years; Jimmy Jackson, Sheet Metal Worker, 16 years; Tony Ramirez, Auto Body Builder/Repairer, 1 year; and John Lawler, Auto Body Supervisor, 26 years.

Fire apparatus is some of the most impressive equipment the City owns. Strong and powerful, these rigs – pumpers, aerials and other assorted vehicles – help keep the City safe.

The men and women Firefighters are not the only heroes – so are the mechanics, carpenters, warehouse workers and others who keep these complex rigs on the road, doing their job.

This *Alive!* feature takes a look behind the scenes at the division that repairs, maintains and certifies the thousands of trucks, pickups, Suburbans, sedans and other specialty rigs in the LAFD's vast fleet.

The Supply and Maintenance Division, under the LAFD's Training and Support Bureau, has the responsibilities for the design, purchase and maintenance of the fire fleet; they also have the responsibility for the purchase of medical supplies, tools, equipment, small engine repair, as well as developing the specifications and purchase of protective gear for members.

This includes the purchase and maintenance of breathing apparatus and oxygen cylinder filling and repair. The apparatus maintenance responsibilities include: the repair and body work of light vehicles, heavy apparatus, and specialized vehicles. The Supply and Maintenance Division

also handles the logistics of any large-scale incident warranting a supply and support section. The Purchasing Unit handles any and all purchase orders for all supplies needed to support Fire Stations throughout the City and supports the grant unit expenditure of allocated grant funds. The Division also has a carpenter shop that repairs ladders, tables, chairs, and any other wood-related project or repair as needed.

For this feature, *Alive!* focuses on the mechanical side of the division – the mechanics and carpenters who keep the department's fleet in tip-top shape. ■



■ Special thanks go to Daniel De Leon, Equipment Repair Supervisor, for his assistance.



**ALIVE! FEATURE**



Devin Dekoning, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 2 years of City service.

## LAFD: Supply and Maintenance Division

On Jan. 10, Club CEO John Hawkins and *Alive!* editor John Burnes interviewed Daniel De Leon, Equipment Repair Supervisor, 29 years of service, at the Fire Dept.'s Supply and Maintenance facility in Lincoln Heights. Daniel is one of several repair supervisors at the facility, and in the division.

**T**hanks for the complete tour today, Daniel. We first found out about this amazing facility last year when we were doing a story on General Services' elevator repair services – you have several hoists.

Right.

Anyway, in your own words give us a broad overview of everything that this facility does.

Sure. We support the Fire Stations and the sworn personnel with the equipment that they wear, the equipment that they use and the apparatus that they drive. We have a triple shop for all the pumpers; we have an aerial shop for the aerial trucks; and we have a light vehicle shop for all the rescue ambulances, plug buggies, Suburbans, sedans ...

**Plug buggies?**

That's what we call a pickup truck. We have the paint shop, so we paint the apparatus here. We have a body shop that makes body shop repairs; and an allied shop, which is composed of the chainsaws, the gurneys, the fire hoses. We repair the fire hose also at the facility here. We have a carpenter shop. Our two carpenters maintain all the ladders on the trucks, and they maintain all the furniture, all the cabinets and all the lockers in the Fire Stations. They also work in conjunction with the maps and drafting in the City. All the Fire Stations have maps of their district, and so we make and install all the frames.

Chief Wade White is the chief of Supply and Maintenance.

**How would you define how big you are, or how many repairs you complete?**

We count the jobs. Today you saw a fire truck here that was getting a new water pump. That's called an in-and-out – they come and go home the same day. Last year, Supply and Maintenance did 5,509 in-and-out jobs.



**Holy cow.**

And then there were 653 vehicles changed over, which means extensive repairs that take more than a day. We had 3,604 driver reports, which are field repairs – repairs done in the field, for a variety of reasons. We have six field mechanics who are out full-time throughout the City, and each is assigned approximately 15 stations, plus the airports. We support Van Nuys airport and LAX. We have crash rigs out there – six crash rigs at LAX and two at Van Nuys.

**We've covered those crash rigs before – they don't travel on regular roads.**

Right, they stay at the airport. We have a field mechanic who's exclusive for the airports. He does service other stations, but his main focus is the airports.

The field mechanics are in their own field truck, which is fully supplied with batteries, starters, alternators, electrical components, belts, and so forth. We have another field mechanic who's responsible for the Harbor and fixes all the fireboats there.

And then we have the air units. We have a portable air station for all the air bottles and the oxygen tanks. We have

The aerial shop replaces old external lighting systems with LED technology that is brighter and more energy efficient. Here, Steven Dennis, Mechanical Helper, 2 years of City service, replaces an old system with a new one.



Daniel De Leon, Equipment Repair Supervisor (left) speaks to *Alive!* editor John Burnes (center) and Club CEO John Hawkins.

### The *Alive!* Interview

# Safe, Dependable And on the Road

air units at the stations in strategic areas, and then we have field mechanics certified to work on the portable air units. If you have a big incident, they'll bring in a rapid air utility rig to fill the air bottles onsite. Anyway, we maintain those, too.

**How many vehicles are being repaired here right now?**

About 70.

**Is the Supply and Maintenance Division ever involved in an actual emergency?**

Sure. We're on scene a lot of times when they request a mechanic. Maybe it's a big incident and they want to make sure all the equipment works. When we had all these fires going on recently, we had a fire mechanic assigned on scene to maintain the vehicle equipment in case they broke down. And if the rigs break down on the road, we're going to be out there on the road. The rigs that come in here usually drive in or they're towed in. But if they won't start or lose a light bar or lose hydraulics or lose charging or whatever out in the field, it doesn't make sense to bring them all the way across town, because our whole issue about supporting the sworn is the response time. I have to get that apparatus back in service as soon as possible so they can continue doing what they need to do. So we have six field mechanics.

**Are you 24/7?**

Our hours here are 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every day. From 3:30 p.m. till six in the morning we're on call, either here or at our facilities in the Valley, City Hall or the Frank Hotchkiss Training Facility

**What about the Dept.'s helicopters?**

We don't maintain them. General Services maintains them for the Fire Dept.

We're a very big facility, the main facility, but we have the satellite shops, too.

### Certification

**And you do a lot more than repair here. You also do certifications.**

Right. That's big. Every rig is inspected once a year per NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) compliance and meets manufacturer specifications. The aerial fleet just finished certification, and that runs from August till December. Every truck is brought here once a year for a full certification process. We do a complete aerial test, and that aerial test consists of a full inspection of the whole aerial ladder, an operational test, a time test and a weight test, a drift test, and a twist test. Every rig is inspected to make sure it meets manufacturer specification. If it does not, it does not go home [to a Fire Station]. It stays.

Once a year, every apparatus is tested.

**How often has a truck not gone home?**

Usually out of 58 trucks, there are usually a couple a year that we hold back, or we make the repair on the spot.

**You have a pool of water that you use to test those pressures, etc.**

Yes, the test pit engineer has an underground sump. It's basically like a swimming pool underground, and they use that to test the pumping.

All our equipment is sent out every year for calibration before we start the testing process. The aerials are tested from August to December. The pumpers – there are 220 of them approximately—are tested from January to July. We test two a day.

### Keeping the Rigs on the Road

**Your mechanical abilities in repairing are obviously really important, but it sounds to me like logistics is just as important – figuring out what piece of equipment is where, and when it needs to come in for repairs or inspection – and making sure that everything is moved to where it needs to be, and supplying spare vehicles so that every Fire Station has what it needs, and is never under-equipped. That's a huge job.**

Yes. We produce a schedule a year in advance. All the Fire Stations will know what day they have to come in for scheduled maintenance and certification. We follow up with calls just to keep things on track.

But certain jobs that can't be scheduled a long time in advance, like the water pump job that you saw here, they have to get here in a timely manner if the rig is going to go home the same day. So we manage those communications – "FYI, the sooner you get here, the sooner we start."

**Who drives them in that situation?**

The Firemen at the station. They'll shut down the truck, and when they get the substitute that they need to cover the service, then they drive it in, if it's drivable.

**How much of what you do is required by law?**

We follow the U.S. Dept. of Transportation's guidelines. Everything here is DOT-compliant. And then we go by the NFPA [National Fire Protection Association] standards. That's how we determine what's compliant and what's out of compliance. It's very important that we meet these standards, and if an apparatus doesn't, that's when we take it out of service. The rig has to be safe and it has to be reliable. If it's not, then it's out of service.

– continued page 28

# Keeping the Rigs on the Road



## The Repair Shops

The mechanics of LAFD's Supply and Maintenance Division take care of some very expensive and incredibly important City gear. Here are the people who keep the rigs on the road, with the safety of LA citizens as their highest priority.

### The Machine Metal Shop

The Supply and Maintenance Division's Metal Shop can fabricate pretty much anything that goes on a fire rig. Fire engine parts are in limited supply and can take a long time to order and deliver, and/or be very expensive. To keep the rigs on the road, the machine shop is often called on to fabricate the needed part.



Rito Escamilla, Mechanical Helper, 9 years of City service.



Jimmy Jackson, Sheet Metal Worker, 17 years of City service.



Stephen Baldwin, Mechanical Helper, 23 years of City service.



John Kitos, Machinist, repairs a large hammer from a fire rig. He's with Club CEO John Hawkins.

### Inventory Control

With many hundreds of rigs that need to be serviced, certified and temporarily replaced while out of commission, logistics becomes a huge deal.



Managing schedules and parts is Lisa Chen, Systems Analyst, 18 years of City service.

### The Triple (Pumper) Shop

Heavy-duty fire rigs that pump water are known as Triples. The Triple Shop takes care of the repairs, maintenance and certification of these rigs.



From left: Bryan Fitzgerald, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 2 years of City service; Rafael Serrano, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 2 years; Isaac Turner, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 11 years; Teren King, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 11 years; Rafi Mardini, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 4 years; Al Jensen, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 9 years; and Devin Dekoning, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 2 years.

## LAFD: Supply and Maintenance Division

### The Aerial Shop

The aerial trucks – the fire rigs with the giant telescoping ladders – are generally the biggest rigs the department owns, with the exception of some specialty equipment. Supply and Maintenance performs daily repairs, long-term maintenance and yearly certification.



From left: Juan Ramirez, Mechanical Helper, 3 years of City service; and John Warner, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 10 years.



From left: Mike Myers, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 2 years of City service; and Bruce Gallion, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 3 years. They're replacing a water pump in a fire engine.



From left: Steven Dennis, Mechanical Helper, 2 years of City service; and Julio Banuelos, Sr. Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 13 years.

### Light Vehicles

Repairing and maintaining ambulances, sedans, Suburbans, pickup trucks, and other light specialty equipment is the responsibility of the Light Vehicle Shop.

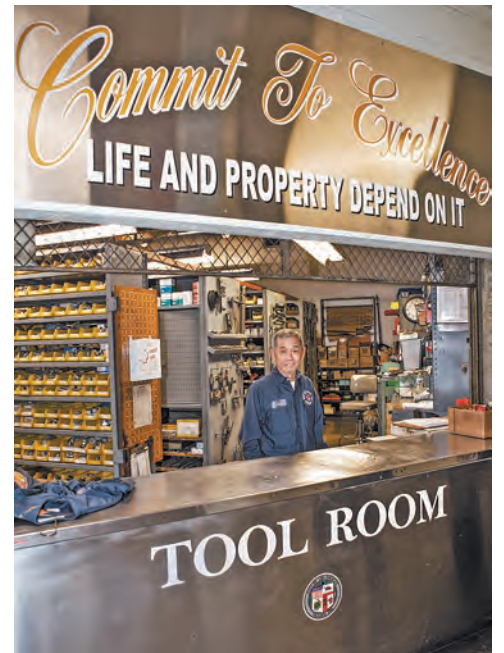


Kneeling, from left: Gary Cisneros, Equipment Mechanic, 19 years of City service; Rob Navarro, Equipment Mechanic, 1 year; Dishon Chaudhuri, Equipment Mechanic, 17 years; and Ulysses Gomez, Equipment Mechanic, 1 year. Standing: John Lara, Automotive Supervisor, 13 years; Brian Elsasser, Equipment Mechanic, 3 years; James Taylor, Equipment Mechanic, 20 years; Reggie Varela, Mechanical Helper, 32 years; Dan Thomas, Equipment Mechanic, 9 years; Reginald Henderson, Equipment Mechanic, 9 years; and Arthur Hernandez, Sr. Equipment Mechanic, Club Member, 17 years.



### Tool Room

Keeping track and maintaining inventory of the nuts, bolts, special testing tools, washers, fittings and many other elements is the job of the Tool Room.



Lou Hua, Tool Keeper, 32 years of City service.

## The *Alive!* Interview, continued from page 26

### Custom Solutions, When Necessary

**Talk about the custom manufacturing. Sometimes you machine your own parts.**

Yes. When we need to order a part, sometimes there are very long lead times until we can get a new one in. It could be many months; there isn't a huge market for some of these parts. These rigs are custom-built. Ordering the parts can take a long time, and sometimes they can be very expensive.

Sometimes a part is just not available – American LaFrance, which made some of our rigs, is no longer in business – and that's when we have to be a little creative. Our expertise is very high here. We can't have the truck sit, so we have to make the part ourselves. Our metal shop guy can make fenders. He can make everything, actually. So do we order a fender and wait four months to get it, or do we buy the diamond plate and make it ourselves, and have it done by the end of the week? And then the truck is put back in service. It's all about getting the truck back in service to support the swarm.

### How many other cities can offer that kind of customization, where you can build things here and machine things yourself?

I haven't met too many. Most of them call us looking for assistance.

We are one of the biggest. Our guys set a very high standard for themselves.

### Pride

### What do you wish people knew about what good work is being done here?

There's a lot of pride and integrity. There's an efficiency to provide the service for the citizens of L.A. There have been many times when people wanted to outsource a job, and we've proven with our labor force and what it costs to operate the facility, that we can still beat the people on the outside. Many times vendors have knocked at the door, saying that they can do it better and cheaper. But we show them they can't. We're not here for profit. By doing it

in-house, we control our environment. We send trucks out when they're under warranty, but sometimes they're not the first one on the list to be worked on. Here we triage all the time. In the same way that the Firemen do it at a big incident – how many people to use – it's the same thing we do here; we triage all day long. The rig has a leak? We're sending a field mechanic instantly. We stop what we're doing, we move people around, and we put everybody on it so that the truck goes home.

What's nice about all the facilities is that we all work together to keep the fleet on the road, where they can serve the people of L.A. You need every position working together to win the game, offense and defense. We have our parts department support us, we have our front office, and we have each other. Our main goal is to support the apparatus so we have a safe and reliable apparatus to respond for the citizens.

### What do you love about what you do?

I love the people I work with. I love the fact that we do everything in this facility – but you could drive by it and might never know it's a city within the City. I love that, when you work on an apparatus and remember what this apparatus is being used for, to protect property and save lives, you get a good feeling out of that. The Firemen take such great care of these trucks. One of the rigs we're working on in here is from 1995. That rig's more than 22 or 23 years old, and it looks brand new. You would never know it's from 1995.

I like working on them. I get a good feeling knowing what I'm doing makes a big difference. I've been here a long time, and I've built a good working relationship with the Firemen. We interact with each other. When we make a decision, we're looking out for their best interest. We're supporting them.

### And the citizens of L.A., too, because they're the beneficiary of all this work.

Exactly. Our main objective is to get that rig out there as

soon as possible, but also to make sure it's safe and reliable, because the Firemen need to have a piece of equipment that's dependable.

### Talk about your crew.

You'll find that when people come to work here, there's a camaraderie between the people in the different shops that's built not only during the day, but after hours. They work together, and the first thing they do when lunch comes is that all sit together. This morning, one of the guys brought in food and made everybody breakfast on our break time. The cohesiveness – they look forward to that.

### Thank you for the tour and for all this information.

You're very welcome. We appreciate that you came to visit us.



Daniel De Leon (right) is interviewed by Club CEO John Hawkins.

# Keeping the Rigs on the Road

## The Allied Shops

These shops maintain, certify and repair assorted equipment – rescue gurneys, carpenter projects, hoses, small engines, and other pieces.



Enrique Mercado, Supervisor, Allied Shop, supervises all the allied shops. He also is responsible for repairing and maintaining the LAFD's fireboats in the Harbor.

### Small Engine Shop

Keeping the department's small engines – compressors, generators, chain saws, jaws of life, etc. is the job of the Small Engine Shop.



Fashioning a new chain for a chainsaw is Anthony Escarcega, Mechanical Repairer, 15 years of City service.

### Gurney Repair

Repairing and maintaining the City's nearly 400 rescue gurneys is critical for first responders.



Noel Binotapa, Mechanical Repairer, 5 years of City service, with Club CEO John Hawkins.

### Hose Room

Hoses are expensive and are meticulously maintained.



Bona Sey, Mechanical Helper, 9 years of City service, repairs a hose.

### Carpenter Shop

Making and fixing everything from scratch from lockers, desks and tables for all LAFD Fire Stations to a lot of ladder maintenance work, the LAFD's carpenters do work that impacts the department every day.



Sergio Gonzales, Carpenter, 1 year of City service.



Raul Gutierrez, Sr. Carpenter, Club Member, 23 years of City service.

## The Body Shop

The Body Shop handles repairs and maintenance on the bodies of the rigs, and it also prepares the rigs for service after the rigs are purchased brand new. The rig behind the crew photo is brand new and cost the City more than \$1 million. It will be in service for decades.



Sitting, from left: Gary Hayakawa, "Body Man," 18 years of City service; and Gustavo Ramirez, Auto Body Builder/Repairer, 11 years. Standing: Dan Walker, Auto Painter, 3 months; Rito Escamilla, Mechanical Helper, 9 years; Jimmy Jackson, Sheet Metal Worker, 16 years; Tony Ramirez, Auto Body Builder/Repairer, 1 year; and John Lawler, Auto Body Supervisor, 26 years.

## San Fernando Valley Repair Shop

About one-third of the LAFD's Supply and Maintenance repair abilities are housed in the Valley, serving all Valley and some L.A. Basin Fire Stations, and maintaining specialty equipment. Most repair and maintenance functions can be handled here, but some custom machining and certifications are handled at the main Lincoln Heights facility.

The Valley facility handled 1,200 one-day repairs last year, plus many additional long-term repairs. The facility is responsible for more than 400 pieces of LAFD equipment.

The Valley facility is housed at Fire Station 88 on Sepulveda Boulevard in Sherman Oaks. Supervisor is Tony Mastrolia, Equipment Repair Supervisor, 18 years of City service, Club Member.



Front, from left: Tony Mastrolia, Equipment Repair Supervisor, 18 years of City service, Club Member; Franco Torrez, Equipment Mechanic, 13 years, Club Member; Alex Khorchidian, Equipment Mechanic, 12 years; Alfred Rocha, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 14 years, Club Member; and Eric Ruth, Equipment Mechanic, 11 years. Back: Mark Brewster, Storekeeper, 15 years, Club Member; John Demedio, Equipment Mechanic, 18 years; Joe Toth, Sr. Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 31 years, Club Member; Roger Rompal, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 10 years, Club Member; Mike Ragan, Equipment Mechanic, 2 years; and Juan Paredes, Equipment Mechanic, 18 years, Club Member.



## LAFD: Supply and Maintenance Division

### Field Truck Repair Crew

Having a repair crew that can visit the Fire Stations is key to keeping the fleet moving – the field crew can assess on the go, and their trucks are equipped with parts and materials that can be replaced at the station, without the need to bring the rig in. This helps keep the fleet at maximum availability.

Derrick Tinsley Supervises the field repair crew.



From left: Derrick Tinsley, Equipment Repair Supervisor, 32 years of City service, Club Member; Brent Balich, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 23 years; Arturo Cuevas, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 20 years; Eugene Bourgeault, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 30 years; and Darren Shiflett, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, 11 years. Not pictured: Craig Mason, 30-plus years.

### Frank Hotchkin Memorial Training Center Facility

Since many LAFD vehicles head to the Hotchkin department training facility for exercises and other training programs, it makes sense to field a small repair facility there.



From left: Jorge Sandoval, Equipment Mechanic, 10 years of City service, Club Member; and Kurt Ruiz, Equipment Mechanic, 13 years, and a very enthusiastic Club Member.

### P-2/City Hall Facility

The LAFD maintains a small fleet of mostly sedans and passenger vehicles at its headquarters at City Hall, so it has a small repair and maintenance facility there.



From left: Adam Blasey, Equipment Mechanic, 1 year of City service; Aaron Calderon, Garage Attendant, 3 years, Club Member; and Oscar Jimenez, Equipment Mechanic, 1 year.



### Tire Shop

Fire rigs require monster-sized tires, and they are not one-size-fits-all – tires that turn (at the front of and the back of the big aerial rigs, known as Tillers Steer Tires) are different. Some can be retreaded, and others must be purchased new. Keeping track of inventory is the job of the tire shop.



Tino Rojas, Tire Repairer, 14 years of City service.

### Auto Parts

General Services adds its expertise to keeping the LAFD rigs on the road by supplying auto parts for the facility – air filters, oil filters, belts, and so forth.



From left, all from General Services: Mike Mimms, Principal Storekeeper, 18 years of City service; Rico Lee, Storekeeper II, 28 years; and Ramiro Lomeli, Storekeeper II, 2 years.

### Supervision

The Mechanics in the Supply and Maintenance Division are managed by intermediate Supervisors, most of whom are pictured in this feature. Looking over the whole operation are Mark Clark, Superintendent, and Guy Patenaude, Sr. Automotive Supervisor.



Guy Patenaude, Sr. Automotive Supervisor, 29 years of City service, Club Member. Not pictured: Mark Clark, Superintendent, 30 years.

Keeping the  
**Rigs on the Road**

REC & PARKS

# Get Close to the Whales

March 6-14, 2018



Seeing whales up close is a feature of the Baja whale-watching trip.



Cabrillo's Larry Fukuhara on a whale-watching adventure.

Club Members are invited to join Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA), March 6 - 14, for an annual trip that truly is the journey of a lifetime! During this nine-day ocean voyage we spend three exciting days anchored in San Ignacio Lagoon where friendly gray whales and their curious calves swim within arm's length of the skiffs.

The trip also visits Todos Santos Island and land on San Benito, Cedros and San Martin Islands, where travelers will enjoy naturalist-led hikes on these remote, offshore islands that are home to elephant seals, Guadalupe fur seals, a multitude of birds, diverse geological formations and a wide range of native vegetation.

CMA's experienced naturalists, including experts on gray whales and other marine mammals, birds, native island plants, and marine biology, will lead hikes and give ship-board presentations to add to the educational aspect of the trip. Each passenger will receive an illustrated natural history guide containing information about animals sighted and locations visited.

The 113-foot *Royal Polaris* out of San Diego will provide comfortable accommodations, a roomy galley/lounge and a friendly crew that furnishes hardy, flavorful meals. To reserve your spot today, call (310) 548-7562 x223.

Fee: \$2,890 includes food and lodging, plus \$150 crew gratuity.

Interested in more information about the CMA Baja Adventure?

Go to: <https://sites.google.com/site/cmabajaadventure/>



BY PATRICK MILLER, CBLIFE,  
The Club's Insurance Partner



## Invest Your Tax Savings

Most of us have a surprise coming in our paycheck, thanks to 2018 tax reform. According to the current administration, the new tax plan will save an average family around \$2,200 per year. Broken down on a weekly basis that's a little more than \$40 per week, or around \$180 per month. Think about it: What will you do with an extra \$40 per week in your paycheck? Sadly, most folks don't have a plan for this new windfall, and it is likely to slip through their fingers and be of no long-term benefit. This is a great opportunity to set aside an extra bit of money out of your paycheck. Money that was going to taxes now can go to work for you.

It doesn't take a huge amount of money to begin or add to your retirement nest egg. If you have been blessed with a pension, a lot of the work has been done for you; however many things could happen to put your pension in jeopardy. You could come down with a medical condition, or you could get hurt and not be able to continue to work. You could change jobs and go to work for an employer who does not provide a pension. To be safe and assure an adequate income when you do retire, it makes sense to have a couple of retirement pots.

The first step is to recognize the power of time and compound interest and to put that concept to work for you. The best way to ensure your future financial success is to start saving today, even

if all you have seems like a paltry sum. "The amount of capital you start with is not nearly as important as getting started early," writes Burton Malkiel in *The Random Walk Guide to Investing*. "Procrastination is the natural assassin of opportunity. Every year you put off investing makes your ultimate retirement goals more difficult to achieve."

The miracle of compound interest is the secret to getting rich slowly. Even modest returns can generate real wealth given enough time and dedication -- mainly time. On its surface, compounding is innocuous, even boring. "So what if my money earns less than three percent in a high yield savings account?" you may ask. "What does it matter if it averages eight percent annual growth in a mutual fund? Why is it important to start investing now?" In the short term, it doesn't make a huge difference -- but don't let that fool you. On the slow, sure path to wealth, we need to keep focused on long-term goals. Short-term results are not as important as what will happen over the course of 20 or 30 years.

Let's say you took 50 percent of your windfall, \$20 per week, and invested it at a return of just 4 percent for the next 25 years. That \$20 per week would be worth \$44,691. If you were able to increase your return to 6 percent, that \$20 per week would be worth \$60,379.

### You can make compounding work for you by doing a few simple things:

- 1. Start early.** The younger you start, the more time compounding has to work in your favor and the wealthier you can become. The next best thing to starting early is starting now.
- 2. Make regular investments.** Don't be haphazard. Remain disciplined, and make saving for retirement a priority. Do whatever it takes to maximize your contributions.
- 3. Be patient.** Do not touch the money. Compounding works only if you allow your investment to grow. The results will seem slow at first, but continue on. Persevere! Most of the magic of compounding returns comes at the very end. Compounding creates a snowball of money. At first, your returns seem small; but if you are patient, they will become enormous.

CBLife is The Club's partner for four areas – life insurance, critical illness insurance, retirement income and accident medical expense insurance. Currently the Club offers three CBLife products: the Security Builder Plan, the Timber Ridge Critical Illness Plan and the Accident Medical Expense Plan. Ask your Club Counselor for details.

You can contact CBLife at (888) 443-8829.

**THIS MONTH AT THE**  
**Cabrillo Marine Aquarium**  
 A REC AND PARKS FACILITY

**Tidepool Walk**  
**Saturday, Feb. 13**  
 12:30 - 2 p.m.


CMA's Educators conduct tours of the Point Fermin tidepools. Attend an informative slide show in the John M. Olguin Auditorium, then come along on the naturalist-led ramble on the rocks to see animals in their natural habitat. Outdoor clothing and sneakers advised. Young children must be accompanied by adults.

**We hope you'll join us!**

**Free!**  
 (Parking: \$1/hour)

Support the  
**Cabrillo Marine Aquarium!**  
 Consider joining the  
 Friends of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.

Call (310) 548-7562 or go to  
[cabrillomarineaquarium.org/support.asp](http://cabrillomarineaquarium.org/support.asp)

 **Cabrillo Marine Aquarium**  
 LOS ANGELES

City Owned. City Run. City Proud. [cabrillomarineaquarium.org](http://cabrillomarineaquarium.org)

{ Who are the people you see every day? }

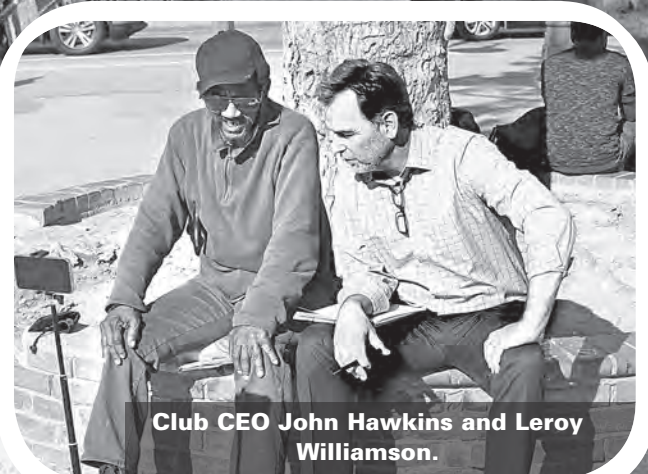
**No. 97**  
in a series.



# People We See

*Shelterless in Los Angeles.*

## Meet Leroy Williamson.



Club CEO John Hawkins and Leroy Williamson.

**AGE:** 77.

**BIRTHPLACE:** "Kansas City, Mo."

**MOVED TO L.A.:** In 1963.

**HOME THE PREVIOUS NIGHT:**

"On the sidewalk at Sixth and Los Angeles."

Leroy moved to LA in 1963 from Kansas City. He made the move because he was "running from the draft." When he turned 22, he and his friend got in their car and headed to Los Angeles. When they got to LA he found a job as a fry cook and then worked for the Salvation Army. He said back then it was easy to find a job in Los Angeles, but as time went on it got tougher.

He went to Manual High School in Kansas City but dropped out in the middle of 10th grade. Did peer pressure cause him to drop out? He said no – he dropped out because he didn't want to go to school. He said he did a lot of partying but not with alcohol or drugs. As far as drugs he didn't know what weed was until he got to California. He said when people said they were smoking grass he thought they were literally smoking real grass.

He said he had been living on the streets for a long time and that it was nothing new to him. When he was young he used to run away from home and sleep wherever he could. He would hop the trains like a hobo going from one place to another; it was an "adventure to me." Oh, and he didn't call it "sleeping on the street;" he called it "camping out." Had he ever lived in an apartment? He said yes, about five years ago, but there were too many bedbugs, so he left; to him it was cleaner on the streets than in the apartment. He also said that, in his opinion, most people catch the flu because they are inside without any fresh air.

He told me he lives off of Social Security, buying fast food for meals. He gets around on his bicycle, which he affectionately calls his "second pair of legs." I asked him if living on the street was dangerous, and if it still was an "adventure." He replied, "Yes," it's always dangerous, and yes, it's still an "adventure"! He said he carries pepper spray with him.

**FAMILY:** "I have one biological sister, but I have been separated from her for 30 years."

**MARITAL STATUS:** "Single, never married."

**EDUCATION:** "I went to Birmingham High School."

**RELIGION:** "No, but I have enough common sense to know there is someone greater than me, but I don't have a name for it."

**MILITARY:** "No."

**MEDICATIONS:** "For my prostate and high blood pressure."

**POLITICS:** "Not a Republican, not a Democrat."

**FAVORITE MOVIE:**

"*The Guns of Navarone, For Whom the Bell Tolls.*"

**FAVORITE TV SHOW:** "None, but I do like Rush Limbaugh on the radio."

**FAVORITE ACTOR:** "Gary Cooper."

**FAVORITE FOOD:** "Meatloaf, cabbage, cornbread, greens and a glass of water."

**IF YOU WERE MAYOR:** "Build more shelters, but you can't make people go in them." Should the mayor pay people to go into the shelters? "Yes."

**MAKE A WISH:** "I wish to never run out of wishes."

**ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE:** "Be yourself; pay no attention to what others think about you. Stay positive."

*The Club gave Leroy water and \$20 for food. The interview, conducted by John Hawkins, took place Jan. 18 on the corner of Third and Main Streets downtown.*

{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins introduces you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell. }





# John's Picture Perfect Contest

John Hawkins, Club CEO

WIN A \$25 AMAZON E-GIFT CARD



“My daughter Sophie atop a camel out at the Living Desert Zoo in Palm Desert, waiting patiently for Sophie and camel to pass by. Once in position, I shouted, ‘Smile.’ I got more than I bargained for.”

– Mike Aubin, DWP

**John's comment:** Whoa! Reminds me of that movie *Doctor Doolittle*, the guy who could talk to the animals. You requested, and it was answered! Fun photo with great timing. Thanks, Mike!



“I've bled purple and gold my whole life. That's all I know.” – Kobe Bryant

– Joshua Martinez, Rec and Parks

**John's comment:** Wait, did you decorate this tree with the purple and gold baubles just for your child? That's some serious art direction! It's also totally awesome that you decorated a tree that's kid-sized. I never thought about decorating a tree that is downsized so that any kid can take it all in. But I wonder: How often did your child try to slam-dunk the basketball angel? Anyway, thanks for sending this charming photo.

“Catalina's Avalon is always a fun place to visit, but to me nothing compares to soaring a few thousand feet right above the city with its scenic, almost Mediterranean surroundings. This bird's-eye view was captured on a particularly beautiful weekend in mid-November.”

– Yves Didier, LAPD

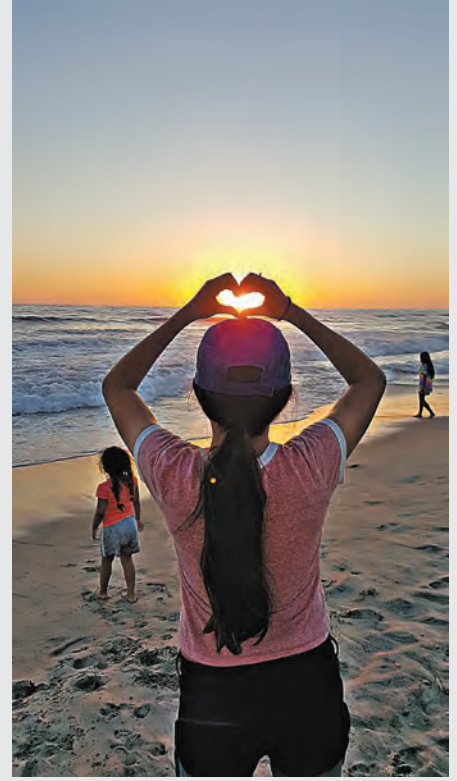
**John's comment:** I love the daring of this, Yves. I've never seen this angle before, and I imagine few have. But it's more than just the angle – it actually places the town between the mountains and the sea. It all comes together here. Thanks!



“A beautiful sunset at Moonlight State Beach. My daughter is holding the sun in a heart-shaped gesture to show her love for our great land.”

– Nino Lovato

**John's comment:** Another word I'd use for this awesome photo is hope – in the next generation enjoying the land as much as we do ... in being part of a loving family ... and in the contentment of a day well spent, with the promise of another tomorrow. Beautiful!



“This picture was taken on a beach near Carpinteria. I was on my way home from Santa Barbara (before the fire).”

– Rene Ramirez, LAFD

**John's comment:** What a natural resource we have in our public beaches and ocean, Renee ... and you captured that beauty and mood perfectly. And your photo is only more powerful after knowing the fires and mudslides that happened in our state. Thanks for capturing the beauty of it.



“This picture of me was taken in December for my 50th birthday trip. It was at Bryant Park in New York City. It was about 25 degrees and the waterfall in the fountain froze. It was pretty cool!”

– Sophia Ponce de Leon, LAPD

**John's comment:** Pretty cool – I'd say pretty darn freezing! And yes, cool, too. Except, as my mom would say – where are your gloves, Sophia! Anyway, I'm drawn to photos that make me feel, and this one definitely does; it makes me shiver! (You've also captured the New York vibe, too.) Nice photo, and happy birthday!



“This pic was taken on Cara's and my honeymoon. It is a sunset pic taken in front of our homestay in the rice fields of the Ninh Binh Province, Vietnam. I borrowed a boat from the family we stayed with and rowed out to the middle of the pond to snap the photo. It was taken with an iPhone 7. I took two cameras on our trip, and ended up using the iPhone camera the whole time. It really is pretty spectacular.”

– Everett Bennett, Public Works/Contract Administration

**John's comment:** Spectacular is the perfect word for this shot, Everett ... and, like you, I'm using my iPhone more and more, and getting better and better photos. Warm and perfectly balanced, your photo evokes the feeling of peace and tranquility. Congratulations!

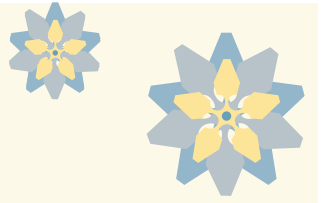


## RULES:

- The contest is open to all Club members in good standing. Non-members are welcome to submit, but only Club members are eligible to win the monthly prize.
- If your photograph does not win, you are welcome to re-submit.
- Winners are chosen by Club staff. All decisions will be final.
- You must certify (if asked) that you indeed took the picture. No ringers!
- Photos can be submitted either on paper or digitally. Please don't send both.
- If you want your print photo returned, please write your name, address and phone number on the back of your photo.
- Photos can be of any subject matter: vacation, portraits, families, landscapes, still lifes, pets, etc. Subject matter must be appropriate for *Alive!*
- Paper prints can be mailed to: Picture Perfect Contest, *Alive!*, City Employees Club of Los Angeles, 120 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- When you send digital photos through the Internet, please send the full, original digital file yourself, rather than using digital photo software like Kodak EasyShare, Kodak Gallery, Flickr, etc. These programs send very low-resolution images, and they don't look good in print.
- We want you to look your best, so send us the original digital file, please! Thanks!
- Digital photos optimally should be between 100K and 2 megabytes in size and may be e-mailed to: pictureperfect@cityemployeesclub.com
- The contest is all in good fun: The Club cannot be responsible for delays in delivering *Alive!*, or for delays in the transmission of responses.



# Life's Important Moments



## New Members

### Welcome New Members!

The Club gives a great big welcome to these new members, who recently joined the Club:

#### Airports

Roberto Amancio  
Patrick Bosby  
Gary Brown  
Job Dubon Morales  
Arthur Gamboa  
Aurelio Gomez  
Mosik Hakopian  
Courtney Hamilton  
Dena Livesay  
LyDerick Malone  
Jose Mancia  
Joseph Martinez  
Luis Medina  
LeMonte Montgomery  
Oscar Oliva  
Komal Qazi  
Brenda Quinones  
Shante Rabb  
Christina Richardson  
Joseph Rojas  
Kacey Sam  
Kamilah Shields  
Muhammad Tanveer  
Andrea Thompson  
Perry Truong  
Sergio Valencia-Morfin  
Mary Wall

#### Animal Services

Catherine Lee  
Krystal Rios

#### City Attorney

Maria Varelas

#### City Clerk

Cheryl Hass

#### Fire and Police Pensions

Barbara Nobregas

#### General Services

Kristofer Aguirre  
Rodney Gilbert  
Enrique Ortega  
Jovany Perrone

#### Harbor

David Akers  
Tracy Boehm  
Stephanie Holloman  
David Miner

#### LAFD

Garrett Boccara  
Michael Chaco  
Lee Drakeford  
Jesus Hernandez  
Christian Magnussen  
Daniel Nakamura  
Jesus Rosete Jr.  
Nathan Stanton  
Darion Timmons

#### LAPD

Susan Antenucci  
Jose Calderon  
Vincent Campbell  
Jason Fischer  
Jose Guillen  
Rimareyae Harvey  
Jimmy Quintanilla  
Ralph Vasquez

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Engineering  
Barbara Nobregas

#### Sanitation

Parrish Acuna  
Issac Almendra  
Christopher Alvarez  
Jimmy Avalos  
Sean Bell  
Harry Cadlaon  
Armando Contreras  
Joshua Ebell  
Calvin Ford  
Anthony Gomez  
Lerrin Headley  
Brandon Iledan  
JoAnne Linnenbrink  
Edward Lockhart  
Carlos Maldonado  
Michael Navarro  
Charles Nelson  
Daniel Paravicini  
Freddrick Reed

Paul Russell  
Jesus Saldana  
Odessa Smith  
Jennifer Smolenski

#### Street Lighting

Robert Garcia  
Igmaz Hernandez  
Jeffrey Reyes

#### Street Services

Jesse Gallegos  
Juan Gallo  
Rene Lopez  
Michael Vega  
Brandon Wong

#### Rec and Parks

Daniel Gamboa  
Anthony Hernandez

#### Transportation

John Simmons

#### LA Zoo

Alejandra Carranza

#### DWP

Timoteo Angulo  
Ernest Blue  
Catherine Hemedez-Frias  
Eric Hoff  
Margaret Imhoff  
Mark Johanson Jr.  
Richard Luevano  
Miguel Mercado  
Jorge Navarro  
Samuel Perez  
Cesar Ruiz  
Ali Scaduto  
Juan Carlos Villalpando

#### Other

Brandon Algorri  
John Chaires  
Albert Hass Jr.  
Nelson Hernandez  
Gregory Martin  
Victoria Regular  
Daniel Rodriguez  
Stephanie Rowman

## Births



"We welcomed our latest granddaughter, Londyn, on Dec. 27! We are so thrilled to have her as well as her big sister, McKynlee, who loves to give her kisses. Life is good, we are so blessed."  
— Ron and Jean Sarfaty, LAPD/Communications

## In Memoriam

Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of the following current and retired City employees who have passed away. The number after the name indicates years of service.

| DEPARTMENT          | YEARS OF SERVICE | DEPARTMENT         | YEARS OF SERVICE |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Active</b>       |                  | Hackney, Ronald    | LAPD 24          |
| Barbour, Keith      | Rec and Parks 18 | Haessig, Clarence  | LAPD 13          |
| Brydon, Kevin       | DWP 32           | Harrison, Frank    | ITA 32           |
| Gamido, Patroncinio | Rec and Parks 10 | Jamison, Felix     | DWP 31           |
| Guirnela, Sandra    | Finance 9        | Johnson, Willie    | Public Works 27  |
| Santos, Ricardo     | ITA 1            | Levin, Jack        | Bldg & Safety 11 |
| Thompson, Sharon    | Rec and Parks 12 | Madison, Agnes     | Public Works 26  |
| Zamorano, Rebecca   | Bldg & Safety 19 | Marrero, Mary      | LAPD 14          |
| <b>Retired</b>      |                  | Mayweather, Johnie | DWP 23           |
| Akerman, Evelyn     | Public Works 20  | McMillen, Robert   | DWP 30           |
| Alayra, Hannibal    | DWP 18           | Miller, George     | DWP 27           |
| Bachry, Chester     | Public Works 29  | Montoya, John      | DWP 21           |
| Baird, Clyde        | Public Works 26  | Morrow, Susan      | City Attorney 33 |
| Baker, Eugene       | Gen Services 31  | Muder, Helga       | Personnel 18     |
| Barr, Ruth          | LAPD 25          | Olson, Patricia    | Controller 35    |
| Bartle, Robert      | Public Works 56  | Palulis, Waclaw    | Rec and Parks 21 |
| Benjamin, Tommy     | Airports 11      | Prather, Ralph Jr. | DWP 27           |
| Bialas, Casimer     | DWP 32           | Prejean, Percy Jr. | DWP 24           |
| Binder, George      | Planning 37      | Pruitt, Lillie     | LAPD 34          |
| Bryant, Edward      | DWP 37           | Resendez, Rita     | Gen Services 10  |
| Casey, Floyd        | Gen Services 26  | Sailer, Frank      | DWP 22           |
| Contreras, Robert   | Rec and Parks 26 | Schwab, Louis      | DWP 30           |
| Cooper, Margaret    | Library 28       | Schwabe, Ralph     | Public Works 39  |
| Domney, Robert      | DWP 30           | Shaffer, Flora     | DWP 23           |
| Elizondo, Antonio   | LAPD 32          | Trevgoda, Joseph   | Gen Services 31  |
| Ebersman, William   | DWP 30           | Uribe, David       | DWP 32           |
| Finley, Lee         | Gen Services 12  | Walsh, Jim         | Gen Services 26  |
| Flentie, Jeanne     | Rec and Parks 30 | Wright, Sharon     | DWP 6            |
| Garner, Alfred      | Public Works 35  | Wynne, Charles     | DWP 19           |
| Garner, Richard     | Gen Services 7   | Young, Mimi        | Gen Services 30  |
| Giddens, Steve      | LAFD 22          | Zelaya, Frederico  | Public Works 17  |

## Share Your Life's Moments



Everyone reads Life's Important Moments in *Alive!*

Share your news... and send in a photo! Have you gotten married? Had a baby? Graduated? Is a family member in the military? Send in a photo and a paragraph, telling us the details. We love to share your good news.

Send digital photos to:  
(as high a resolution as you can send)  
[talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)

OR send paper photos to:  
**Life's Moments – Alive!**  
City Employees Club of Los Angeles  
120 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
*Please don't send the only one you have!*

## Tell Their Story

Every month, *Alive!* publishes the names of those current or retired City Employees who have died.

But who were they? Did you know them? If you worked with any of these people, knew a story or two about them or were related to them, consider writing to *Alive!* and letting us know. *Tell their story!*

- Write a few sentences or paragraphs
- Send in a photo, if you have one
- Let us know your name and connection to the deceased
- Send your memories to: [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com).  
**Subject line: Tell Their Story**

Los Angeles Public Library

# Library's TOP 10

Here's what LA was reading, watching and listening to in December.

*Lists are courtesy Los Angeles Public Library, Central library downtown and 72 branches combined.*

### Top 10 Books

1. *Two Kinds of Truth*, Michael Connelly
2. *The Late Show*, Michael Connelly
3. *Y Is for Yesterday*, Sue Grafton
4. *What Happened*, Hillary Rodham Clinton
5. *The Midnight Line: A Jack Reacher Novel*, Lee Child
6. *Turtles All the Way Down*, John Green
7. *The Ship of the Dead*, Rick Riordan
8. *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis*, J.D. Vance
9. *Glass Houses*, Louise Penny
9. *Magpie Murders*, Anthony Horowitz
10. *Deep Freeze*, John Sandford

### Top 10 E-Books

1. *Origin*, Dan Brown
2. *Little Fires Everywhere*, Celeste Ng
3. *The Midnight Line*, Lee Child
4. *Artemis*, Andy Weir
5. *The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood
6. *Two Kinds of Truth*, Michael Connelly
7. *Manhattan Beach*, Jennifer Egan
8. *The Rooster Bar*, John Grisham
9. *Into the Water*, Paula Hawkins
10. *Turtles All the Way Down*, John Green

### Top 10 Songs Downloaded via Freegal\*

1. "Havana," Camila Cabello feat. Young Thug
2. "All I Want for Christmas Is You," Mariah Carey
3. "MIC Drop" (feat. Designer) [Steve Aoki Remix]
4. "What About Us," P!nk
5. "Naked," James Arthur
6. "Him & I," G-Eazy & Halsey
7. "I Know You," Craig David feat. Bastille
8. "Something Just Like This," the Chainsmokers & Coldplay
9. "Hallelujah," Pentatonix
10. "Sky Walker," Miguel feat. Khalid

### Top 10 DVDs

1. *Spider-Man: Homecoming*
2. *Atomic Blonde*
3. *The Mummy*
4. *War for Planet of the Apes*
5. *The Hitman's Bodyguard*
6. *Guardians of the Galaxy*
7. *The Beguiled*
8. *Wonder Woman*
9. *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales*
10. *The Dark Tower*

\* "Freegal" music via the Library lets users download and keep up to five songs a month – it's seriously free and legal! Check it out at <http://lapl.freegalmusic.com>



From left: Airport Police Capt. Greg Staar, Airport Police Chief David Maggard, Officer Courtney Hamilton, Capt. Tyrone Stallings, and Assistant Chief Tyrone Stallings.

Photo by CSI Officer Shawn Smith

## AIRPORTS

# Welcome, Officer Hamilton

Airport Police welcome new Officer.

In a graduation ceremony held Dec. 22 at the LAPD Elysian Park Academy near Dodger Stadium, LAPD Academy Class 7-17 with 45 graduating officers were sworn in to service and now make the transition from civilian life to a noble life of public service.

Officer Courtney Hamilton, a former college track and field athlete, 200-meter runner and graduate of Cal State San Bernardino is the latest to join the Airport Police, the largest aviation law enforcement agency in the country. Officer Hamilton brings her team building experience and good work ethics to the Airport Police on a personal mission "to make a positive impact on society."

Airport Police Chief David L. Maggard Jr. spoke to Officer Hamilton and her family and said, "It's a proud day for you and your family, and it is my hope that this feeling of pride will follow you each and every day of your career." Chief Maggard then swore-in Officer Hamilton as the newest member of the Airport Police Division.

The new graduate will now begin a six-month Field Training Program specific to airport law enforcement under the guidance of a field training officer before being assigned to the Patrol Services Section at Los Angeles International Airport.

Welcome, Officer Hamilton!



# PAYROLL OR PENSION DEDUCTED

## Funeral Pre-Planning Service

Pre-funding your funeral is easy to do. You've probably already thought about who should receive cherished possessions and how you want your funeral arranged. With the help of a funeral service professional, putting your final wishes down on paper is as easy as having a conversation with a close friend.

- ✓ Available to Club Members, Spouses, or Domestic Partners.
- ✓ Your coverage is portable. If you leave the City or DWP, you can take your coverage with you.
- ✓ Paid off in 7 years.

Leave your kids the house, the jewelry, the photos ..but not this.



### Select From Participating Funeral Homes

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Angeleno Mortuary  
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Woods-Valentine Mortuary  
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Cabot & Sons  
Pasadena, CA

Inglewood Mortuary  
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Mc Kenzie Mortuary Services  
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Riverside-Akes Family Funeral Home  
Riverside, CA

Ingold Chapel  
Fontana, CA

Chapel of the Valley Motuary  
Riverside, CA

Akes Family Funeral Homes  
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Tiffany Sy  
Club Member Services Counselor  
(800) 464-0452  
tsy@cityemployeesclub.com

Getting started is easy. I can help you right away!

**The City Parties!**

Special Holiday Party Section

**The City Parties!**

It's an annual **Alive!** tradition!

All across the City, you celebrated the holidays. And *Alive!* was there! Here in February, *Alive!* continues its coverage of the City Social Season 2017, with stories and photos from Club staff ... and sent in by you, too.

*Enjoy the memories!*



David Paschal, Assistant General Manager, 20 years of City service; Angela Sherick-Bright, Assistant General Manager, 30 years, Club Member; Tina Fermin, Executive Administrative Assistant III, 28 years; Valerie Melloff, Assistant General Manager, 31 years, Club Member, and Kelly Cooper, Director of Construction Forces Div., 19 years, Club Member.

Ricardo Silva, Sr. Administrative Clerk, 20 years of City service.



## General Services

Story and photos by MaryAnn Urdiales, Club Counselor, and Noelle Kauffman, Club Member Services Manager

On Dec. 14, General Services held its annual holiday luncheon at the Friendship Auditorium. The theme this year was "GSD Goes Back to the '70s!" and employees were encouraged to dress up and participate in a costume contest and dance contest!

There were also games, including '70s trivia, bingo, a hoop shoot, a beanbag toss, a dress-up photo booth, raffles and prizes! Mike's Deli catered the lunch, which included cold-cut sandwich selections, potato salad, chips and drinks.

The event was a blast for all who attended, and the Club is honored to be a part of this event every year.



From left: Camille Carapetian, Materials Management, 22 years of City service, Club Member; Rachel Caspillo-Costes, Storekeeper, 1 year; and Daisy Curaming, Procurement Analyst, 1 year, Club Member.



From left: Carol Crittenden, Sr. Management Analyst, 26 years of City service, Club Member; and Victoria Hobbs, Head Custodian Supervisor, 28 years, Club Member.



From left: Lexi Galaz, Sr. DMO, 11 years of City service; John Anderson, DMO III, 11 years, Club Member; Vera Lievanus, DMO III, 16 years; Abby Truong, Sr. Administrative Clerk, 19 years, Club Member; Greg Analian, PPO, 5 months; Gerald St. Onge, Director of Publishing Services, 22 years, Club Member; and Dan Hurst, P.P.O.I., 13 years.



Helen Loi, Assistant Analyst, 28 years of City service.



From left: Lethu Tran, Clerk, 31 years of City service; and Irene Nosaka, Management Analyst, 16 years.

# The City Parties!

## General Services, Continued



From left: Maria Pena, Clerk, 16 years of City service, Club Member; Angie Rios, County Clerk 2, 27 years; Marie Saraos, Admin. Clerk, 13 years, and Club Member.



From left: Vincent Lomax, Delivery Driver, 2 years of City service; and Jesus Navarro, Delivery Driver, 4 years, Club Member.



From left: Paul Ramirez, Street Metal Worker, 10 years of City service, Club Member; Robert Williams, AC Mechanic, 8 years, Club Member; Perez, Electrician, 17 years; Jose Beltran, Laborer, 13 years, Club Member; and Enrico Gonzalez, Electrician, 8 years.



Wilfreda Marcano, Administrative Assistance, 23 years of City service.



From left: Loretta Quenton, Director, 23 years of City service, Club Member; Sonya Flint, Executive Administrative Assistant, 27 years; and Eric Robles, Director of Special Services, 18 years, Club Member.



India Griffin, Director of Building and Maintenance, 22 years of City service, Club Member.



From left: Layton Phillips, City Craft Assistant, 1 year of City service; Roberto Arriola, City Craft Assistant, 14 years; Esteban Maravilla, Air Conditioning Mechanic, 5 years; and Hector Chavez, Air Conditioning Mechanic, 30 years, Club Member.



Ray Smith, Truck Operator, 12 years of City service, Club Member.



The dance competition.



From left: Raul Pelayo, Locksmith, 9 years of City service; and James Segura, Electrician, 6 years.



From left: Fernando Lopez, DMO III, 14 years of City service, Club Member; Vicente Zamora, DMO I, 15 years, Club Member; Jose Vanegas, Bindery Equipment Operator I, 17 years, Club Member; Sean Lai, DMO II, 10 years, Club Member; and Jeff Ellman, Bindery Equipment Operator I, 26 years, Club Member.



From left: Lara Maiyo, Supply Service, 10 years of City service; Carrie Lemus, Management Analyst, 1 year; Marissa Rodriguez, Management Assistant, 3 years, Club Member; Yolanda Raphael, Management Analyst, 35 years, Club Member; Brian Swanson, Management Analyst, 1 year, Club Member; Alfred Lopez Sr., Management Analyst II, 19 years; and Miquel Torres, Admin Clerk, 10 years, Club Member.



From left: Debora Harrell, Custodian, 17 years of City service, Club Member; Joanna Gage, Custodian, 16 years; Ray Smith, Truck Operator, 12 years, Club Member; and Ceola Beard, Custodian, 28 years, Club Member.



From left: George Preston, Sr., Automotive Supervisor, 13 years of City service; Micaela Cabral, Procurement Analyst, 6 years, Club Member; and Aram Salmasi, Division Manager, 21 years, Club Member.



From left: Sonissa Norman, Sr. Administrative Clerk, 10 years of City service, Club Member; Tammy Vega, Delivery Driver, 1 year, Club Member; and Yolanda Jimenez, Delivery Driver, 20 years, Club Member.



From left: Benjamin Setiarto, Parking Manager, 24 years of City service; and Tony Royster, General Manager, 24 years, Club Member.



From left: Seretha Wong, Admin. Clerk, 6 years of City Service; Annabelle Gonzales, Sr. Clerk, 5 years; and Maria Pena, Clerk, 16 years, Club Member.



From left: Charles Lam, AC Tech, 3 years of City service; and Dan Stirbis, AC Tech, 5 years.



From left: Miguel Perez, Elevator Mechanic, 2 years of City service, Club Member; Matt Wharton, Elevator Mechanic, 1 year; and Charles Carevich, Elevator Mechanic, 31 years, Club Member.



David Outhier, Chemist II, 4 years of City service.



From left: Carlos Vasquez, Welder, 12 years of City service, Club Member; and Jayden Ruiz, Auto Body Repair, 13 years.



From left: David Trice, Special Programs Assistant, 2 years of City Service, Club Member; and Mike Sakamoto, Director of Systems, 29 years.



Keisha Tyler, Custodian Supervisor, 16 years of City service, Club Member.



From left: Kevin Reaux, Truck Operator, 32 years of City service, Club Member; Al Griffin, Truck Operator, 22 years; and Chris Lara, Truck Operator, 6 months, Club Member.



From left: Kathy Yamaguchi, Safety Engineer, 2 years of City service; Jessica Pua, Personnel Analyst, 2 years, Club Member; and Betty Urena, Clerk, 12 years.

# The City Parties!

## LAABP

The Los Angeles Association of Black Personnel (LAABP) held its annual "Jingle and Mingle" membership appreciation holiday party Dec. 14 at Harold and Belle's Peacock Lounge on Jefferson Boulevard.

Thanks to Neisha C. Louis, Sr. Management Analyst I, Public Works/Sanitation, for her assistance in producing this article.



From left: DeWanna Sharp, Sr. Personnel Analyst I, Personnel; Charlette Rodgers Starkey, Sr. Personnel Analyst, Personnel; Albert Lord III, Deputy, Council District 10; Antreacia Sims, Management Analyst, DWP; and Niesha C. Louis, Sr. Management Analyst I, Public Works/Sanitation.



From left: Mr. and Mrs. Martin Haynes, Construction Electrical Helper DWP; Antreacia Sims, Management Analyst, DWP; and Louis Carr, Assistant General Manager, Information Technology, DWP.



From left: Janeshia Robinson, Sr. Personnel Analyst I, Personnel; Lennon Cooper, Management Assistant, Personnel; and Patricia Kellogg, Animal Care Technician Supervisor, Animal Services.



From left: John Childs, Management Assistant, Airports; Angela Brown, Sr. Personnel Analyst II, Airports; and Charlette Rodgers Starkey, Sr. Personnel Analyst, Personnel.



From left: DeWanna Sharp, Sr. Personnel Analyst I, Personnel; and Mignon Washington, Management Analyst, Airports.



From left: Amber Osbourne, Workers Compensation Analyst, Personnel; DeOssha Moore, Sr. Workers Compensation Analyst, Personnel; and Tammy Wilhite, Workers Compensation Analyst, Personnel.



From left: Charlette Rodgers Starkey, Sr. Personnel Analyst II, Personnel; Antreacia Sims, Management Analyst, DWP; and Niesha C. Louis, Sr. Management Analyst I, Public Works/Sanitation.



From left: Williana Johnson, Administrative Clerk, LAPD; and Sandra Humphries, Sr. Administrative Clerk, Public Works/Engineering.



From left: DeMetra Stuart, Administrative Clerk, Airports; a guest; and Margaret Peters, Sr. Police Service Representative II, LAPD.



From left: DeMarlo Sims; Fred Ealey Jr., Recreation Coordinator, Rec and Parks; and Margaret Peters, Sr. Police Service Representative II, LAPD.



At the LAABP holiday party.

## DWP Lincoln Heights District

Photos by DWP staff

DWP's Lincoln Heights District held its holiday party Dec. 22 at the District Office on Artesian Street.

Special thanks go to Linda Ulibarri for her assistance in producing this article.



# CLUB SPORTS

News from Sports Leagues  
sponsored by the City Employees  
Club of Los Angeles • Feb. 2018



FEB. 8

7 P.M.



## Club Softball League

### FROM THE COMMISH:



## Reindeer, Snowflakes and Sugar Plums

It was quite refreshing returning to the softball field Jan. 4, after having so much time off due to the holidays and the weather. The eagerness of some of the players was revealed on the field, right after the first pitch. Some players took every opportunity to show their improved skills since the holiday break. The female players' bats were hot! Ladies were hitting balls in the gaps, dropping them in like "Punch and Judy," and just running around the bases like pros. Defenders underestimated the ladies on Jan. 4; I doubt they'll ever do that again!

And then there were players on most of the teams still celebrating the holidays. They were standing with the bat in hand, mesmerized by a reindeer and sleigh in the sky, and could not physically swing the bat as the holiday ornament flew toward them. Some allowed flying ornaments to drop uncomfortably close behind their backs. Others watched ornaments soar past them without moving, as if their feet were stuck in the snow – but turned their body almost 180 degrees as they watched the ornament disappear into the snowy abyss. A few never even attempted to collect the ornament, leaving many gifts unwrapped and unattended on the bases. "What are you talking about, Lady?" It was unbelievable; you had to be there.

Barring any stormy weather or air quality issues, the All-Star games scheduled for Feb. 8, will begin at 7 p.m. All of the ladies and a few chosen men will represent their teams, giving all they've got, proving to be formidable All-Stars. We need all wonderful City Employees, family and friends at the park cheering for the players and supporting good fun every Thursday, starting at 7 p.m. We cannot promise that visions of sugar plums won't still be dancing in batter's heads, but we'll do our best, together, to cause such a joyful cheer, that batters should "snap out of it!" and swing the bat!

*Batter up!*



**Lady Smith,  
The Commish**

Returning for 2017-18:  
The Softball Commish,  
Lady Smith! Read Lady's comments each  
month in *Alive!* during the softball season.

## Rolling to the All-Star Games



The mid-season highlight of Club Softball is here – the exciting All-Star games (one for men, one for women)! It's set for Feb. 8. Come out and

cheer on your favorite team! Attendance is fun ... and much appreciated! Support your department team's best players, and have a blast doing it.

After a few changes this season, the Club Softball League games continue to be held at Darby Park in Inglewood, 3400 W Arbor Vitae St. The games are played near W. 90th St./Pincay Drive near the tennis courts. (This is not Ed Vincent Park in Inglewood, where the league began the year.)

**All-Star Games**  
Thurs., Feb. 8, 7 p.m.

**Darby Park**  
3400 West Arbor Vitae Street  
Inglewood, CA 90305



Hey Club Softball League players and fans, we know you take photos at the games. Share them on social media!



**HERE'S HOW:**

Take your photos. When you post to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, add any of the following hashtags:



### Share Your Photos!

#clubsports  
#clubsoftball  
#cityemployeesclub

*That's it! Enjoy the games!*



### Mid-Season Location Change

Club Softball League games have changed location:

**Darby Park**  
3400 West Arbor Vitae Street  
Inglewood, CA 90305  
At 90th Street/Pincay Drive,  
near the tennis courts



**Robert Larios,  
The Sports Dude**

## Hoops, Bowling, Softball: Club Sports on the Horizon

The Club Sports Office welcomes all individual players to inquire about the Club's sports leagues. Currently, the Club is coordinating efforts for basketball, bowling and softball. Please contact [sportsdude@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:sportsdude@cityemployeesclub.com) or call the Club at (800) 464-0452 to be placed as a free agent and for more information.

**See more Club Softball photos on Club social media — Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!**

# Larios In the City

BY ROBERT LARIOS, Chief Operating Officer  
rlarios@cityemployeesclub.com  
TWITTER: @robertlarioscoo



**Yolana C. Young**  
Retired from LAPD,  
with 33 years of City  
service.



**Kevin C. Ward**  
Retired from General  
Services, with 23 years  
of City service.

## Congratulations!

Robert Larios, the Club's Chief Operating Officer, honors Club member with the coveted Club Retirement Plaque.



**Carolyn L. Mix-Lee**  
Retired from Finance,  
with 33 years of City  
service.



**Ralph G. Morones**  
Retired from Airports,  
with 44 years of City  
service.



Several members of the Airport Police Command Staff celebrated the retirement of Fire Capt. (and Police Sgt.) Fernando Quintos and Safety Officer (and Police Officer) Patrick McPherson, who proudly served Ontario International Airport for many years. We are grateful for their years of service and wish them Godspeed in their next chapters.

### AIRPORTS

## More ONT Retirees

Some of the last Ontario employees retire from Airport Police.



Chief David Maggard and Former Ontario Airport Commander Capt. Fernando Castro presented retiring Officer Richard Plourde (center) with his retirement flat badge and police ID. Officer Plourde officially retired after 25 years of City service.

Last year, *Alive!* brought you the story of the end of the professional line for the dual-duty Airport Safety Officers – who were both Police Officers and Fire Fighters – at Ontario Airport. The City had given ownership back to a local authority, and there was no job classification for Airport Safety Officers at LAX. Many retired at the time, but some transferred to LAX for the end of their shift.

Recently, three more former ONT Airport Safety Officers fully retired. Congratulations, and thanks, Officers, for your duty and pride to the City of Los Angeles.

Story and photos courtesy Officer Rob Pedregon, Airport Police

### AIRPORTS

## Terminally Santa

Airport Police arranges for Santa to greet children traveling on Christmas.



Santa greets traveling children.



During his very busy day, Santa managed to visit with fellow Christmas Day travelers in all nine LAX terminals.

Santa, who resembled Steve Van Noord, elementary school teacher and uncle of Airport Police Motor Officer Nick Van Dragt, handed out teddy bears, candy canes and ornaments to children and passengers.

"This has become a family tradition, and I really look forward to seeing the joy on the children's faces when they receive an unexpected gift from Santa Claus at, of all places, LAX," Steve said.

"As first responders, we can't always be with our children on Christmas

morning, but to see the happiness that Santa brings to these travelers, fills that empty space until we can make it home to be with our families," said Airport Police Capt. Michael Scolaro.

This was the third year that the Airport Police helped Santa hand out gifts at LAX on Christmas morning. The event is through the generosity of Greenscreen of Los Angeles, Cal Plush and L.A. Airports.



Photos: Patty M. Larios



# Cooking with the Club

with Chef Robert Larios



## 'ENGAGEMENT' CHICKEN

I spent some time researching a Valentine's Day recipe, and my interest was piqued by this 'Engagement' Chicken recipe. It is a recipe with a bit of history – or could it be folklore? In any case, it is claimed that the recipe was created by an editor at *Glamour* magazine. The recipe was forwarded to several co-workers, and soon three were offered marriage proposals after making the dish for their boyfriends. The recipe was also published in the magazine, and readers claimed that at least 70 couples were married after the women served

their boyfriends the dish.

The recipe itself is very simple to follow, and it seems to hold a nice flavor. The recipe calls for about 1 hour 15 minutes of roasting, but it may take longer if you have a bigger bird.

Please let me know if any of you experiences the phenomena of 'Engagement' Chicken and receive marriage proposals! Happy Valentine's Day!

*Enjoy! ¡ Buen provecho!*

*Chef Larios*

### 'Engagement' Chicken

Makes 2 Servings

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 whole chicken, 4 to 5 pounds
- 1 tablespoon sea salt
- 1 tablespoon freshly ground pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped parsley
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 4 lemons
- 1 tablespoon dill
- 1 sprig rosemary
- 8 to 12 medium-sized rose potatoes
- Approximately 12 stalks asparagus

#### DIRECTIONS:



**1** Preheat oven to 400 °F. Wash chicken and drain cavity with cold water; let chicken drain and pat dry with paper towel. Pour juice of one lemon all over the outside and inside of the chicken. Do the same with the extra virgin olive oil. Add the sea salt and pepper to the inside and outside of chicken. Prick two lemons with a fork and place them inside the cavity of the chicken.



**2** Season rose potatoes and asparagus with salt, pepper and olive oil. Lower oven temperature to 350°F and place chicken in roasting pan, with the potatoes along the sides of the chicken. Do not put the asparagus in the pan until the last 15 minutes or they will become mushy. Let cook for about 1 hour and 15 minutes or until meat thermometer reads 180°F. Always insert meat thermometer in a chicken thigh.

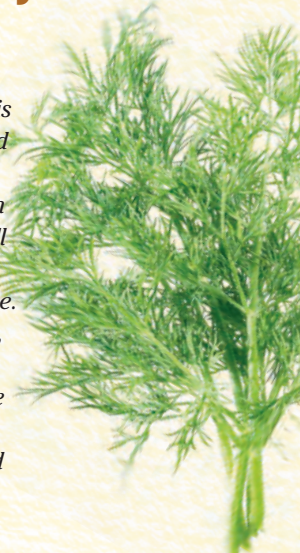
#### Cooking TIDBIT

*You may use other vegetables to roast along side the chicken.*

### [ A Cook's Dictionary ]

#### Dill:

Thought by first-century Romans to be a good luck symbol, dill has been around for thousands of years. This annual herb grows up to a height of about three feet and has feathery green leaves called dill weed, marketed in both fresh and dried forms. The distinctive flavor of fresh dill weed in no way translates to its dried form. Fresh dill does, however, quickly lose its fragrance during heating, so it should be added toward the end of the cooking time. Dill weed is used to flavor many dishes including salads, vegetables, meats, and sauces. The tan, flat dill seed is actually the dried fruit of the herb. Heating brings out the flavor of dill seed, which is stronger and more pungent than that of the leaves. It's most often used in the United States for the brine in which dill pickles are cured.



Bibliography: © Barron's Educational Services, Inc. 1995, based on The Food Lover's Companion, second edition, by Sharon Tyler Herbst.



**3** Once cooked to satisfaction, let chicken rest for 10 minutes before carving. Save the juices from the roasting pan and add to a slice of chicken. This is called the "Marry Me Juice." Garnish with parsley, rosemary and even lemon slices. Plate and enjoy!

#### Fun Food Quote:

"One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well."

– Virginia Woolf

# Alive! AROUND THE WORLD



## Egypt

"I recently visited Egypt; here are only a few pictures of many. I had the opportunity to visit Cairo, Aswan, Edfu, Luxor, Hurghada and Alexandria; and cruise the Nile River and the Red Sea. This adventure, that I would not think twice to do again, was all I expected and more."

— Gabrielle Shaw, Harbor



## Sweden

Here's **Lorean Soo Hoo, LAPD**, in Stockholm. "I finally remembered to take an *Alive!* photo while on vacation!"



## Southeast Asia

"Cara and I went to Hong Kong, Vietnam and Thailand for our honeymoon. The first picture is in front of Bai Dinh Pagoda in Vietnam. The second picture is from the front of our homestay in the Ninh Binh Province of Vietnam."

— Everett Bennett,  
Public Works/Contract Administration



## Pacific Northwest, The Yucatán

Here's our intrepid traveler and teacher, **Dr. Ed Krupp, Director of the Griffith Observatory, Rec and Parks, on his latest adventures.**

"In August, I flew to Idaho Falls, Id., and after some rock art field work continued to the 10,000-foot summit of Fred's Mountain, at Grand Targhee Resort, in westernmost Wyoming, on the west flank of the Tetons, just above Alta, Wyo., and Driggs, Id. I was on the mountain to observe the All-American Transcontinental Total Solar Eclipse of 21 August 2017 with a couple hundred Pomona College alumni and friends, for whom I provided some eclipse presentations and preparation. This mountaintop eclipse strategy was intended to provide a panoramic vista west across the Snake River Plain to watch the shadow of the moon approaching across the landscape in the last few minutes before totality. The eclipse operation was completely successful, and the story of this eclipse is told in the November and December 2016, issues of the Griffith Observer.

"With this eclipse plan in mind, I also made arrangements with local archaeologists and rock art experts to examine a few prehistoric rock art sites of Idaho. I included a few other wonders of Idaho in the itinerary, among them, of course, Craters of the Moon National Monument, which was well managed despite the astronomical increase in visitors prompted by the eclipse. The trip ended with a diversion to James Turrell's Roden Crater project in northern Arizona.

"A few weeks after my return from Idaho, Wyoming, and Arizona, I departed for Yucatán and an invited return to another monumental Turrell project, Agua de Luz. That trip also provided opportunities to revisit some ancient Maya sites.

"Astronomically Alive!, Ed"

— Dr. E.C. Krupp  
Director, Griffith Observatory



"Jaguar Cave, in Indian Head Canyon, is one of the best-known and best-preserved Idaho pictograph sites. The painted shelter is behind me."



"Numerous pictograph panels put color onto the rock faces at Idaho's Big Spring site."



"The Wees Bar petroglyphs probably were carved onto the boulders alongside the Snake River near Celebration Park, south of Boise, Id., over a period of perhaps 2,500 years, from 1,000 B.C. to 1,500 A.D."

National Park Service  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Visitor Center Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve

"The craters at Craters of the Moon National Monument, in southern Idaho, are volcanic, not meteoritic, but the blasted landscape prompted early visitors to call it a moonscape. The lava flowed here primarily between 15,000 and 2,000 years ago."



"In September, I returned to Kabah, in Yucatán, México. Although it was established perhaps as early as 400 B.C., most of the surviving buildings were constructed between the seventh century and the eleventh century A.D. This doorway belongs to the Codz Poop, the main building at Kabah. Its facing wall is covered with elaborate sculpture mosaics."



"The Snake River Plain is behind me and to the west from this ridge at the top of Fred's Mountain in Wyoming. Haze and smoke from the numerous fires in the American West last summer cut the range of visibility to about 35 miles, but from the first appearance on the horizon, the moon's shadow took more than a minute and half to transport the darkness to my observation post. The brown horizontal band in the distance is smoke, but it did not affect the eclipse in Wyoming."



Take *Alive!* with you, wherever you go!

- Bring your recent copy of *Alive!* with you when you travel.
- Snap a **high resolution** photo of you **holding Alive!**
- Attach your picture to an email, and send it to us, and we'll publish it.

Send to: [talkback@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:talkback@cityemployeesclub.com)





Santa arrives at LAX.

AIRPORTS

# Santa Drops In

LAX hosts Christmas event for nearby young students.

Emerging from clear skies and with a little help from local law enforcement officials, Santa Claus arrived to cheers and excitement at LAX's annual Santa Fly-In at the Flight Path Learning Center and Museum Dec. 7. Guests included the Los Angeles Rams' mascot "Rampage;" the LA Rams cheerleaders; LAFD Firefighters; Officers from the Airport Police and Hawthorne Police Dept.; the TSA Chorus; and LAX's Pets Unstressing Passengers (PUPs). Students attended from LAX area elementary schools across four school districts.

"South LA is very grateful that Santa could take time out of his busy schedule to bring toys to so many children, including 150 from the 8th Council District," said Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson. "Thank you to all of the organizations that acted as Santa's helpers in the City of Angels."

"At LAX, we get a lot of very important visitors – but few as important or exciting as Santa Claus himself!" said Keith Wilschetz, Airports Deputy Executive Director of Operations and Emergency Management. "Getting the kids together with Santa, the Rams, our law enforcement partners, and so many volunteers from the LAX area,

really brings the spirit of the season to life, and reminds us that creating connections between people, places and cultures can be done on any scale."

"As members of the aviation community, we are proud to participate in events like the Santa Fly-in that connect kids with Santa Claus, and well as connect the Los Angeles Airport Police with the community we serve," said Airport Police Chief David Maggard.

Santa arrived in grand fashion following rousing renditions of "Feliz Navidad" and "Happy," which students sang along with enthusiastically. Shortly thereafter, a Hawthorne PD helicopter circled overhead before landing with Santa, who was promptly escorted to the stage by Rampage, LA Rams cheerleaders and local law enforcement officers. Mr. Claus proceeded to read, "Twas the Night Before Christmas" to the students and then took photos with them. Next, he invited them to meet and take photos with first responders from LAFD, Airport Police and the Hawthorne Police Dept. Students also enjoyed listening to Hawthorne's Gaby the Talking Car and meeting Scotty the Rescue Dog, as well as getting up close to fire engines and motorcycles from the LAFD and the Airport Police, respectively. They then assembled their own cookies at the cookie activity station. Students were also given backpacks filled with toys and goodies.

Participating students came from the following LAX-area elementary schools: Dolores Huerta Elementary School (Lennox USD), Manhattan Place Elementary School (LAUSD), Raymond Elementary (LAUSD), Kornblum Elementary School (Hawthorne USD), Hudnall Elementary School (Inglewood USD), and Oak Street Elementary School (Inglewood USD).

The PUPs program participated.



Treats for everyone.



Santa visits the area students who gathered at LAX for his arrival.



Santa arrives at LAX.

Santa reads "Twas the Night Before Christmas (A Visit From St. Nicholas)" to the students.



Santa's support team from the LAFD, Airport Police, the Rams and others.

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Photos by Victor Rocha Jr., Airports, and Club staff

**AIRPORTS**

# Ralph Retires

**Club Board Member Ralph Morones retires from Airports after nearly 45 years of service.**



Ralph Morones



Ralph Morones (center) with his brother, George, and his wife, Christa.

A celebration indeed was held Oct. 26, 2017 to note the retirement of longtime Airports employee and Club Board Member Ralph Morones, who enjoyed a nearly 45-year career with the City. The party was held at the Proud Bird restaurant near LAX.

**Here is Ralph's own account of his City career:**

**April 16, 1973:** I started with the DWP as a Steam Plant Assistant Trainee at Harbor Steam Plant, now known as Harbor Electrical Generating Station, in Wilmington. This start date was actually the start of a nine-day, do or die, training course at Scattergood Steam Plant. A class of 16 individuals like myself had to complete a short training course and score 70 percent or better over the nine days to be placed in a position at one of the four DWP Steam Plants, now Electrical Generating Stations.

**Nov. 25, 1974 to Sept. 24, 1977:** I transferred from the Operations Section at Harbor Steam Plant to the Instrument Shop as a Control Mechanic Assistant working with Controls Mechanics and journeymen Instrument Mechanic. This position involved doing minor repairs and preventive maintenance on plant boiler and steam turbine recording instrumentation. This was a training position to be promoted to Controls Mechanic.

**Sept. 27, 1977 to April 25, 1978:** I was promoted to Control Mechanic at Scattergood Steam Plant and worked for Instrument Mechanic Supervisor George Ford. I did repairs and preventive maintenance on boiler and steam turbine control instru-

mentation. I also provided support to journeymen Instrument Mechanics.

**April 26, 1978 to July 15, 1983:** I was promoted to Instrument Mechanic at Harbor Steam Plant and worked for Instrument Mechanic Supervisor, Gilbert Gonzalez. I worked on plant boiler and steam turbine controls instrumentation.

**July 18, 1983 to April 20, 1990:** I transferred to the Central Utility Plant at LAX and worked for Chief Building Operating Engineer Walt Garrick. I worked on CUP gas turbine, boiler and chiller instrumentation in the CUP and the Energy Management Control Systems in the Terminals. I also worked on the LAX Fire Lifesafety systems.

**April 23, 1990 to March 28, 1997:** I was promoted to Instrument Mechanic Supervisor for Public Works/Sanitation at Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant. My first assignment there was to work in a specialty unit called the Technical Review Group, where I was one of four Supervisors from four disciplines (electrical, mechanical, plumbing and instrumentation) who reviewed construction drawings and submittals for accuracy and future maintainability. My second

and last assignment there was to supervise the Customer Service Center, where my staff of a maintenance mechanic, plumber and plant operator would use a maintenance management system to dispatch work to the four Sanitation wastewater plants.

**March 31, 1997 to May 9, 1997:** I transferred to the Instrument Shop at LAX and was the shop supervisor for five weeks. I worked under the direction of Chief Building Operating Engineer Walt Garrick and supervised six Instrument Mechanics doing repair and preventive maintenance on gas turbine, boiler and chillers at the CUP. The shop was also responsible for the Energy Management Control System and the LAX Fire Lifesafety Systems.

**May 11, 1997 to May 6, 2000:** I was promoted to Airports Maintenance Superintendent in Construction and Maintenance (C&M) at LAX and worked under the direction of Assistant Chief of C&M Al Carlson. For the first 18 months in this position, I was responsible for all custodial activities at LAX. The custodial activities were a blend of contractor-provided services and in-house Airports employees. The last 18 months in this position, I worked under the direction of Assistant Chief of

C&M Dave Waldner. In this position, I was responsible, through subordinate Airport Maintenance Supervisors, for Paving, Concrete, Airfield Paint and the Utility crews doing repairs, reconstruction and preventive maintenance on the LAX airfield, CTA and surrounding areas.

**May 8, 2000 to June 23, 2006:** I was promoted to Director of Maintenance Airports at Ontario International Airport (ONT) and worked under the leadership of Airport Manager Jens Rivera. At ONT, I was responsible for the entire C&M organization, which was comprised of more than 225 supervisors, craftsmen and custodians performing routine and preventive maintenance on the ONT terminals, infrastructure, airfield, grounds and the ONT ARFF, Police and Maintenance fleet and support equipment. I was also responsible for the Maintenance Administrative support functions at ONT C&M.

**June 26, 2006 to retirement:** I was promoted to Airport Manager III at LAX and worked under the direction of DED Paul Haney. In this position, I was responsible for the entire C&M organization at LAX. This also included responsibility for C&M activities at ONT, VNY and PMD. In this role, I was responsible for more than 1,400 employees involved in all maintenance function and administrative support activities at the four LAWA airports.

**Here is my message:**

*My 44-and-a-half-year career with the City of Los Angeles has come to an end. I have thought about that amount of time that has passed since I first started with the DWP, and it amazes me with all that I have done and who I have met along the way. My journey is now complete, and the memories of the people and places along the way will endure forever in my mind.*

*I have encountered and worked with many very talented and dedicated professionals at DWP, Public Works and here at Airports. I will always remember many names and faces from the past because of their unique qualities and outstanding work ethic. I am also fortunate to presently work with many more equally talented individuals with similar qualities and dedication to their work. You are all my friends, my family.*

*Of all that I have done, though, I can say, without reservation, that the past 11 years at LAX have been the most gratifying and rewarding part of my long career.*

*Representing all of women and men of Maintenance at LAX, ONT, VNY and PMD, whether in Board meetings, our quarterly gatherings or bi-annual crew meetings, has been a pleasure. Interacting with so many of you, not only as maintenance professionals or as colleagues but as friends and fellow human beings, has been an honor, an inspiration and a privilege that I never took lightly.*

*I am enriched beyond measure by knowing and caring for each of you, and I will cherish our times together always.*

*I thank you, and may God bless each and every one of you.*

**— Ralph Morones**

*The Club thanks Ralph deeply for all his support of the Club over the years, and for his dedication to serving the City of Los Angeles. Congratulations, Ralph!*

*And the Club thanks Genevieve Sebastian and Victor Rocha Jr. at Airports for their assistance in producing this article.*



Olivia Riter, Personnel Director I.



Russ Lewis, Director of Maintenance III.



Ralph Morones with Rick Connolly, Director of Maintenance II.



Ralph Morones with Samson Mengistu, Chief Operating Officer.



Victor Rocha, Airport Maintenance Superintendent.



Dave Shuter, Retired, Consultant.



Larry Hartnett, Airport Maintenance Superintendent.



Michael Christensen, Deputy Executive Director.

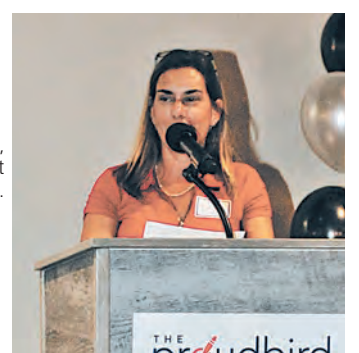
From left: Club COO Robert Larios with Ralph Morones.



Ralph Morones with Mary Wall, Sr. Administrative Clerk, and Genny Santiesteban, Secretary.



From left: Ed Melara, Director of Maintenance II; Ralph Morones; and Howard Horning, Airport Maintenance Superintendent.



Crista Binder, Chief Management Analyst.



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