

Lewis Arrives at Zoo Amidst Building Boom

■ **New zoo director eager to oversee major construction projects at Griffith Park facility.**

It's a good thing John Lewis had a strong background in zoo construction projects when he was brought to the L.A. Zoo's top position by Mayor Jim Hahn July 1. Because that's what Lewis has in front of him: a myriad of construction projects to cost many millions of dollars, funded from taxpayer and private sources.

But he's ready.

"I took a look at the job here in Los Angeles, and I knew I could help," he said in an interview with *Alive!* "I had overseen \$20 million in



New L.A. Zoo Director, John R. Lewis, with one of his charges, a macaw.

capital developments [construction projects] at the John Ball Zoo in Grand Rapids, Mich.," where he came from. "So I was ready.

"There are so many opportunities here, in terms of animal programs and visitor services," he continued. "A big part of my job here is program analysis — taking a look at the services we are providing, and making sure they're effective.

"And finally, I want to make sure we use our staff in the best way we can to give the citizens

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Here Come The Checks!

■ **The Club's ready to deliver refund checks to more than 8,000 members, continuing its tradition of returning premiums back to its members.**

It's that time of year again, and the Club is ready to deliver. The Board of Directors for the Los Angeles City Employees Association, Inc./City Employees Club declared a 14 percent member life experience dividend August 21.

That means that actively employed members who hold term life insurance with the Club can expect to receive their

refund checks in September.

"We are more than happy to continue our tradition of returning excess premiums back to our members," said Brian Trent, the Club's chief financial officer. "We've held to that promise in 73 of our 75 years of existence."

In total, the Club will be returning **\$594,070.42** back to its members.

- Some 8,246 Club members will receive a refund check.
- The largest check issued to a Club member will be for \$1,094.77.
- The newest Club member to receive a check will be enriched by 17 cents.

Here's the schedule:

- Most active DWP members will receive their checks with their payroll Sept. 16.
- Most active City employee Club members will receive their checks at their worksite Sept. 17.

City employees who sign up now for Term Life Insurance will share in next year's anticipated refund, along with current members in good standing. The refund becomes available if there are any monies remaining after claims and operating expenses have been paid.

While a refund is not guaranteed, it has been given out in all but two years of the Club's existence. The Club was founded in 1928.

The refund is always a pleasant reminder of the benefits of Club membership.

Trent reminds Club members to make sure their checks don't get lost. Members who have recently moved or changed job locations should call the Club at (800) 464-0452 and update your Club information. 📄



ClubFest 2003: Now's Your Last Chance to Get In on the Fun

■ **Raffle items being added every day. Sign up now: No reservations will be accepted the day of the event.**

Don't wait any longer to sign up for the Club's best event of the year: ClubFest 2003, set for Sunday, Oct. 5, at Calamigos Ranch in the hills above Malibu.

WIN PRIZES!

Here are just some of the great raffle prizes to be given away at ClubFest 2003:

- Four roundtrip tickets wherever Southwest Airlines flies
- A DVD player
- Tickets to the Sea World, Universal Studios, Magic Mountain, Knott's Berry Farm, and the Aquarium of the Pacific.
- Hundreds of movie tickets.
- Gift certificates to Big 5 Sporting Goods, Office Depot and Halie's Restaurant.

ClubFest 2003, the Club's annual family picnic for members and their families, is set for Sunday, Oct. 5, at Calamigos Ranch above Malibu. There will be lots of fresh air, green grass and sunshine for everyone. This year, it's Club members only, so it's going to be more comfortable, more relaxing ... and more about you.

There will be a small charge to attend ClubFest 2003 (prices are below). Each ticket has a value of \$35, but Club members will pay just \$4 (slightly more for members of the family). Take a look at some of the things that very small fee buys you:

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Water and Power Credit Union: A Strong Financial Resource for You

■ **Water and Power Credit Union, a Club partner, is open to all City employees and expanding to meet your needs. And it's friendly, too.**

Club members might not have known that the Water and Power Credit Union is open to all City employees, not just those of the DWP. It is, and it's ready to serve the financial needs of Club members.

"Water and Power Community Credit Union will be a premier financial partner with all members and involved in the community it serves," says Kayleen Leone, senior vice president, member services, for the credit union. "And we welcome Club members. Let us know how we can help you."

"We're dedicated to helping members within our community to build a secure financial future through providing quality products while excelling at member service and education."

From its starting days back in 1936, Water and Power Community Credit Union has helped members save for a down payment on a home, purchase that



The Water and Power Credit Union is ready to serve your financial needs.

special vehicle, and send their kids to college. It has extended loans to make the rent when a member was short of funds, or to put a new roof on a house before the next winter storm. The credit union was the place where countless Department of Water and Power employees turned to solve life's financial challenges.

As a community credit union, it can now serve more people than ever before. Depending on where they live, work, or worship, this means that friends and families of City employees can join too, and experience some of the benefits that our members have enjoyed for years. WPCCU has \$430 million in assets and now serves more than 44,000 members.

Water and Power Community Credit



Kayleen Leone, Senior Vice President, Member Services, Water & Power Community Credit Union

Union is dedicated to strengthening the communities where City employees and members work and live. WPCCU staff performs volunteer work for many organizations throughout Southern California, and it forms strategic relationships with local and global human-services organizations to maximize effective-

ness. WPCCU focuses on building positive relationships, linking with community causes and programs to enhance the quality of life in the community.

Real estate and auto loans are the credit union's primary source of business, and the rates and terms are hard to beat. The credit union also offers recreational vehicles, signature loans and credit cards. Check it out for free checking, too. "We have a family of checking products that will suit your lifestyle," Leone says. "We offer the convenience of direct deposit for checking accounts and automatic loan payments to make your life easier."

WPCCU has six full-service branch locations in the greater Los Angeles area. In addition to its six branches, there are more than 17,097 surcharge-free ATMs available nationwide through the CO-OP ATM network. More than 3,000 of those ATMs are in California. As part of a shared branch network there are 1,000 branch locations in 37 states to serve you.

"Water and Power Community Credit Union is the friendly way to bank," she says. Give them a call at (213) 580-1651 or visit its Website at www.wpcu.org to find out more about it. 📧

Lewis: Snakes, Lizards Guy

New Zoo Director

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of Los Angeles good products and services."

It's all part of the advancement of the Griffith Park facility – and of all zoos in general.

"Zoos have really been undergoing strong change," he continued. "There's an emphasis on showing animals in a more natural setting. It's just more educational that way. Education and conservation gives our visitors a strong sense of what the animals really are."

"Here at the L.A. Zoo, we're building for the future, and we're going to be doing it over the next several years. We're upgrading the grounds and walkways, the animal habitats and the educational facilities for our guests. Also, we're making the grounds more functional for our staff, and we're building for the continued comfort of the animals."

"A big challenge is keeping the Zoo open and friendly during renovation. And I think we're doing that."

The upgrading of the Zoo involves fundraising, in addition to the public funds the Zoo has already received [see this month's Department of the Month feature for more information on public funding]. "I'm working with the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association and its work with corporate, philanthropic and foundational support."

"I help assure citizens that we are good caretakers of their donations."

How did he come to be the director of a major zoo?

"I've always been interested in animals," he said. "I was always the guy on the block with snakes and lizards. I was a pre-vet [the veterinarian version of pre-med] and I worked for a veterinarian in Monroe, La. Through him I got my first job at the Louisiana Purchase Gardens and Zoo there, working with primates. I immediately applied what I was learning in school to a real zoo environment."

He moved up quickly, with a stop at a zoo in Minnesota as its animal curator before running the zoo in Grand Rapids in 1986. He is well-credentialed: In 2001, in addition to performing his duties in Michigan, he was named president of the board of directors of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, which he held until last year. The AZA is the leading zoological organization in the United States.

But now he's an employee of the City of Los Angeles.

"As I went through all the processing of becoming a City employee, they gave me a very warm welcome. It's been very positive."

"I hope that all the City employees come by and visit. They should really take advantage of the great aspects of living in Los Angeles." 📧

Wanna be heard? Welcome John Lewis to the City of Los Angeles: Send a letter to *Alive!*, and we'll print your welcome letters: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

The benefits start the moment you join!

Join the Club!

Start enjoying:

- **Alive!** monthly newspaper
- The Club Card, with fantastic discounts for popular restaurants and services
- Big ticket discounts
- ClubFest annual Club party
- Club Website



Join today!

City Employees Club of Los Angeles
Your city. Your Club.

 **Water and Power Community Credit Union**