


Dept. of the Month
Los Angeles Public Library



See pages 20-25

Office Depot Club Benefit Is a Big Hit

■ Hundreds have signed up for great new Club benefit. What are you waiting for?



Have you been saving up to 40 percent on your home office supplies? You have if you've joined one of our newest and best Club benefits: discounts at Office Depot.

"We've had a great response," says Ken Meyer, business development manager at Office Depot and the representative for the Club discount program. "Monica and I are busy receiving phone calls and e-mails from Club members. We're trying hard to connect with everyone the same day they call us to sign up, if we don't answer the phone directly."

The Club has arranged with Club partner Office Depot to offer to all Club members in good standing "contract pricing" —often the same discounted prices that large organizations and companies negotiate. They offer the buying power, and you reap the benefit.

Here's how it works: You contact Ken Meyer or one of his staff by phone or e-mail (details at the bottom of this story). You give him your credit card number (do not leave that

See Club Benefit, Page 9



Office Depot is just waiting for you to start saving money by using the Club's special discount program.

Club Honors Three With First-Ever Awards of Merit

■ Awards, which signify exemplary service to the Club, were handed out at the Club's 76th Annual Meeting Feb. 26.

The Club has been recognizing exemplary service to the City for almost all of its 76 years in existence. But, on Feb. 26 it began to honor those who have delivered exemplary service to the Club in its mission to honor City employees.

The City Employees Club's Awards of Merit were handed out during an annual luncheon meeting Thursday, Feb. 26, in the Tom Bradley Room high atop City Hall.

The awardees were:

- David Muraoka, who won the Chairman's Award
- Olivia Figueroa, who won the Department Representative Award
- Club Counselor Arlene Herrero, who won the President's Award.

"We have so many great people working hard to make the Club the success it has become," said Club COO John Hawkins, who hosted the luncheon. "These three are exemplary. We're glad to begin this award program."



The luncheon also featured the annual election of Club board members and other incorporation business.

Others who spoke included Club Board President Robyn Barnes and Club staffer Robert Larios.

General criteria for the awards were:

The Chairman's Award:

The nominee for the Chairman's Award is selected by the LACEA Chairman of the Board. The following criteria were used in the selection process:

- Nominee must be an LACEA or LACEA Insurance Services Board Member
- Nominee has demonstrated significant and consistent contributions or accomplishments for the award period. EXAMPLES:
 - A proven track record of promoting and publicizing the Club throughout the City of Los Angeles on and off the job

See Awards, Page 14

March of Dimes City Campaign In Full Swing for WalkAmerica

■ Club to sponsor free merry-go-round rides during charity event April 24. T-shirt Day is April 13.

Children who take part can ride the Griffith Park merry-go-round free during the March of Dimes WalkAmerica, thanks to the generosity of the Club. That's the latest news as the City's campaign to participate in the charity's WalkAmerica event heads down the final stretch before the event, scheduled for April 24 in Griffith Park.

See March of Dimes, Page 13



The Club is sponsoring free rides on the Griffith Park carousel during WalkAmerica.



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Members Flocking to Office Depot Benefit; Please Read Instructions

Club Benefit

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number on a message). He logs your card number into the system, and that's all there is to it.

The next time you shop at Office Depot and use the credit card that you have linked to the program, you will receive a discount on any product that the big contract purchasers receive. The discount is taken off your bill right at the register, automatically. Every time you shop at Office Depot.

It's that simple.

"We're averaging about four Club purchases every day," Meyer said. "Office Depot loves the Club, and we're happy to continue to build our relationship," Meyer said.

Not all items are discounted. But those that are can save you from five to 40 percent. (You need to use a credit card, not the Club card.)

Eligible credit cards include Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express and the Office Depot Credit Card.

It takes just a few minutes to transform your ordinary credit card into the extraordinarily convenient and flexible "Office Depot



Save up to **40%** on selected items.

Procurement Card."

If you prefer to shop from the comfort of your home computer and have Office

Depot deliver your order to you, you must first set that up with Ken Meyer. The site you will use after you sign up is Office Depot's Business Services Website: <http://bsd.officedepot.com>

There are a couple of ways to check to see how much of a discount you might receive on an item, before you actually purchase it:

1. Office Depot will make a discount catalog available at the Club for member use (but not all discounted items will be available in the catalog for researching).
2. At checkout, you can ask the sales clerk to subtotal your purchase before you actually purchase the items.

"We appreciate the response we are receiving from the members and are happy to answer any questions they may have," Meyer says.

So all you Club members who haven't signed up yet: What are you waiting for? Sign up now!

Here's how to do get your Office Depot Discount:

1. Contact Ken Meyer or one of his staff: (818) 837-2563, or kmeyer@officedepot.com
2. Identify yourself as a Club member, and give him your Club ID number.
3. If he does not answer, leave a message and he or his staff will call you back.
4. Do not leave your credit card number on his answering machine.
5. When you talk to Ken or one of his staff, give him the number of the credit card you wish to link to the program. (You must use this card to receive the discount.)
6. Wait a day or two for your linked card to become active.
7. **Start saving!**

Wanna be heard? What do you think of this new Club discount program at Office Depot? Let us know: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Having Problems With the Office Depot Discount?

Some people are having trouble making the Club discount program work for them. Here are some handy tips:

1. You must first register your credit card with Ken Meyer, as detailed above. You cannot register for this discount at a store.
2. This is not the "Advantage" program, which is for regular consumers. The Club discount is a special bulk purchasing discount and is not available to the general public. (You do not have to buy in bulk; you can buy as much or as little as you like. You get to take advantage of the buying power of the Club.)
3. Once you have registered, you do not need to show your Club card. Your Club card will not get you the discount — your linked credit card will.
4. Local store managers will likely not have any knowledge of this discount and cannot help you get it. This program comes from the corporate level.
5. To get the discount, you must use the credit card you registered with the Office Depot system. The discount does not work with cash purchases, or with purchases made with any other credit card.
6. Not all items are discounted, and some items are discounted more than others. There are tips in the main story for checking on items before you leave for a store.

7. The key to knowing how much you save is to watch the cash register. At first it will display how much you would normally pay. A few moments after you swipe your registered credit card, a new total will be displayed. That new total will reflect your special Club discount.

Happy saving!

Volunteers Needed

for

International Pow Wow Los Angeles

April 23 - 28, 2004

We have volunteer shifts open Friday, April 23 through Wednesday, April 28th!

International POW WOW is an important citywide convention hosted by LA INC, The Convention and Visitors Bureau in partnership with the City of Los Angeles and many contributing sponsors. This premiere event includes international tour operators and suppliers from over 70 countries conducting business that results in significant tourism business for the host city over five days.

Airport Greeter - Greet incoming delegates and provide that smiling, warm welcome that speaks volumes about LA! Direct guests from baggage claim to the outdoor area(s) where transportation shuttle service is provided.

Convention Center Assistant - Provide assistance to the delegates in the Registration area of the Convention Center. Work with the staff running the convention as directed.

Hotel or Event Ambassadors - Direct delegates as needed prior to all events or activities during the week. Be a human arrow and direct guests during the evening events at Hollywood & Highland (April 26) or The Music Center (April 28), pass out lanyards or offer other hospitality related assistance as needed.

Volunteers will receive:

- Complimentary parking
- Staff polo shirts and welcome buttons
- Food and beverage
- Knowledge of LA Tourism
- Volunteer Recognition

For more information or to sign-up, please contact The Mayor's Office and Jorge Quezada at (888) 227-3452 or email jquezada@mayor.lacity.org





Dept. Coordinators Hard at Work for WalkAmerica Event

March of Dimes

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More than 10,000 walkers are expected at the event, with hundreds coming from the City of L.A. "Our goal is to raise \$350,000 for the March of Dimes," says Zaki Mustafa, Dept. of Transportation, who is coordinating the City's participation. "I'm confident, with everyone's help, we'll get there."

"The Club is happy to support this great cause by letting all the children who are going

to walk in the event ride the merry-go-round free," says Club Chief Operating Officer John Hawkins. "This will be a fun day. As Zaki says, 'Only together can we make a difference.' We're happy to play our part."

"More than 10,000 walkers and their families will participate in the March of Dimes' 34th annual WalkAmerica at the beautiful Griffith Park on Saturday, April 24th," Mustafa said. "With its expanded, carnival-like setting, this walk site will be a very family-oriented event full of fun games, rides and other cool activities for the children and great entertainment, celebrity appearances, good food, and recreation for all.

He continued: "Team LA is in force, with more than 45 department coordinators determined to raise \$350,000 for the babies."

To further build excitement, Mustafa is organizing a T-shirt day April 13, when he will present before the City Council a push for all City employees to purchase a March of Dimes Team LA WalkAmerica T-shirt, for solidarity and fundraising.

T-shirts are available from your department rep every day until the WalkAmerica event.

The Merry-Go-Round

The Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round has been bringing joy to children and their parents since 1925 and for more than 75 years at its present location. Located on a grassy hill and almost obscured by trees, this is the last full size Spillman Engineering carousel still in operation.

The 68 hand-carved horses, four-abreast, are all jumpers. Most were created in the Spillman

factory in North Tonawanda, New York. However, roughly a dozen horses, though original to this carousel, were made at the Loeff factory and probably date from 1895, making them over 100 years old—30 years older than the Spillman figures.

Each horse is finely detailed offering surprises and differ-



The Club is sponsoring free rides on the Griffith Park carousel during WalkAmerica.

Club To Sponsor FREE Merry-Go-Round Rides at WalkAmerica

ences in decoration. Their bridles are jewel encrusted and many have secondary carvings of lion heads, eagles, maidens and sphinxes. Some wear armor and some carry broad axes.

All of the horses wear old paint, yellowed with age giving the machine a sepia-tone patina, as if frozen in time. The chariots have carvings of a man in loincloth, chasing what appears to be a wood nymph, perhaps an indication that a young, 1920s swain might pursue his own love within the confines of the chariot.

A major carousel deserves to have a major band organ, so the owners commissioned the Stinson Pipe Organ Company to build one. It is the largest band organ playing with carousel on the West Coast, with 256 wood pipes voiced to sound like trumpets, trombones, bass horns, flutes, piccolos and other wind instruments. There are 154 melody pipes, 30

bass pipes, 30 accompaniment pipes and 42 counter-melody pipes. The longest bass pipe is more than 7 feet long. It is mitered (bent) so that it will fit in the pipe chest. Among the other instruments in the band organ are a bass drum, tympani, snare drum, cymbal, wood block, triangle and glockenspiel.

The Mighty Stinson 165 is heard on Saturdays and Sundays and at other times by request. Cassette tapes are available at the gift stand.

So enjoy the free rides on the Griffith Park Carousel, and participate in WalkAmerica! 🎪

Wanna be heard? Have you ever ridden the Griffith Park merry-go-round? Are you participating in the March of Dimes WalkAmerica event? Tell us about it: talk-back@cityemployeesclub.com

March of Dimes WalkAmerica

Saturday • April 24
Griffith Park



These department coordinators are working hard to raise funds for the March of Dimes' WalkAmerica event. Make sure you sign up with them — or just thank them for their hard work.

Put Your Wheels on Display At Building, Safety Car Show

■ Club to sponsor trophies at second annual event that supports March of Dimes.

We know firsthand that lots of Club members are really proud of their cars. And for good reason!

So put that pride on the line by entering your car in the second annual Building and Safety Family Picnic and Car Show. The event is to be held in conjunction with the March of Dimes WalkAmerica in Griffith Park Saturday, April 24. You don't need to work for Building and Safety to enter.

"As a 2004 Building and Safety March of Dimes Coordinator, I am taking this oppor-

tunity to thank the City Employees Club of Los Angeles for its support," says Preston Meyer, principal inspector at Building and Safety. "Thanks, Club!"

Support the City's efforts to raise funds for the March of Dimes and save the lives of babies.

Trophies are to be awarded for original/restored stock vehicle; hot rod custom; special interest vehicles;

modified imports; and in general for trucks, motorcycles and "works in progress."

The Club is happy to sponsor the trophies at the car show in support of the March of Dimes.

Entry fee is \$20 per vehicle. Fee includes admission for one person to the picnic, a picnic T-shirt and a commemorative dash plaque.

Look for a registration form elsewhere in this issue of *Alive!*

So have fun and support the March of Dimes!



Lots of Activities Keep the Fun in Fundraising for March of Dimes

If you want to help raise funds for the March of Dimes during this period of the City's dedication to the charity, but you might not have the time to do the "walk" of WalkAmerica, you're in luck.

Here are four events designed to help raise funds the good way: by having fun.

■ **A TALENT SHOW** sponsored by the Community Development Corporation, with proceeds going to the March of Dimes. May 6, Los Angeles Theater Center. Tickets: \$10 and \$12. Contact Angela Estell, (213) 485-5720.

■ **A RAFFLE**, to win an entry in the 2004 Southern California Invitational golf tournament, at the Riviera Country Club. Drawing: April 30. Golf tournament: May 24. Additional prizes included. Raffle tickets: \$25 each. Contact DOT Officer Barbara Hartsfield, (323) 913-4460.

■ Street Services is putting together a **BUS TRIP TO LAUGHLIN**, Nev., with a total package price of \$100 per person/double occupancy. Date of the trip: June 25-27. Proceeds go to the March of Dimes. Contact Lori Sapone, (213) 473-4465.

■ Personnel Department sponsoring **DAY-TRIP TO STATELINE**, Nevada for only \$50, May 1st. Depart at 7 a.m. and return at 2 a.m. Price includes transportation, free full buffet, and continental breakfast. Contact Gail Thomas at (213) 847-9760 for further details.

Other departmental activities including bake sales and such, are sure to be happening. So be sure to check with your department. 🎪

City Employees Club — 76th Annual Meeting — February 26, 2004



From Left: David Muraoka, LACEA Board, LAPD; Dorothy Dillard, LACEA Board, Retiree; David Peterson, LACEA I.S. Board, Retiree; and Joannie Mukai, LACEA I.S. Board, Harbor Dept.



From Left: Adriene Allen, Dept. Rep, DWP; Pamela Tiller, Dept. Rep., DWP; and Marilyn McGuire-Holley, LACEA I.S. Retiree Committee.



From Left: Harry Crusberg and Scott Decker from the City Employees Club Auto Program; and Michael Anderson, City Employees Club IT Manager.



From Left: Irene Castillo, Dept. Rep., Animal Services; and Cheryl Power, Dept. Rep., DWP.



From Left: Beckie Gonzalez, Dept. Rep, Recreation and Parks; Patricia Avilez, Dept. Rep., Recreation and Parks; Olivia Figueroa, Dept. Rep., Controller's Office; Leonor Kuratomi, Controller's Officer; and Gail Rucker, Dept. Rep., Building and Safety.



From Left: Armando Martinez, City Employees Club Home Loan Program; Jim Quinney, City Employees Club Insurance Broker; and Angel Gomez, City Employees Club Member Services Manager.



From Left: Leigh Thompson, City Employees Club; Michael Leighton, LACEA Board Member, General Services; and Trinh Pham, City Employees Club.

Club Honors Three for Dedication

Awards

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- Has the respect of their fellow board members and co-workers
- Has gone above and beyond the call of duty by opening doors for the Club's field counselors

Department Representative of the Year Award:

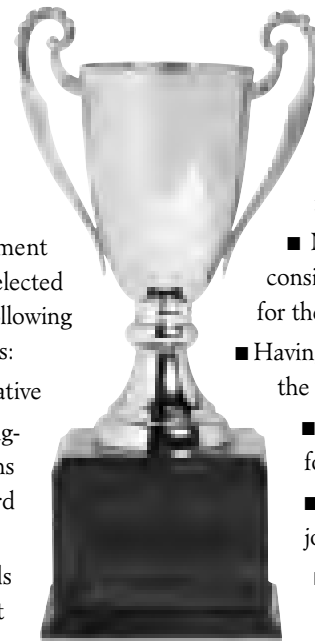
The nominee for the Department Representative of the Year award is selected by the Director of Marketing. The following criteria are used in the selection process:

- Nominee must be a Club Representative
- Nominee must have demonstrated significant and consistent contributions or accomplishments for the award period. EXAMPLES:
 - Demonstrates enthusiasm towards the Club, including the most enthusiasm of carrying the vision of the Club to their workplace and encourages their co-workers to see the value of the Club
 - Provides positive feedback as well as solutions on how to improve the Club

President's Award:

The nominee for the President's Award is chosen by the President/CEO or the highest ranking staff member. The following criteria are used in the selection process:

- Nominee must be a full time staff member of the Club (Los Angeles City Employees Association)
- Nominee must have been employed as a full time employee for at least one full year prior to the respective Annual Meeting
- Nominee demonstrated significant and consistent contributions or accomplishments for the award period: Examples:
 - Having a "can-do" and positive attitude despite the challenges of their job
 - Possesses extraordinary enthusiasm for their job
 - Performed above and beyond normal job responsibilities
 - Putting the member first in their decisions and planning and demonstrates a sincere interest in the members
- Significantly contributed to the positive image of the Club



Congratulations to the winners! (Read the citations on the next page about the exemplary dedication to the Club provided by the winners.) 🏆

Wanna be heard? Do you have a great story to tell about the winners of the Club awards, and how they helped make the Club even better? Feel free to share: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Michael Leighton, Publishing Services, Named New Club Board Member

■ **Michael Leighton, the City's director of publishing services, was sworn in as a new Club Board member at the Club's annual meeting and luncheon Feb. 26.**

He takes the spot of Dorothy Dillard, who retired from both her City employment and her Club Board position after an excellent career of service.

Michael Leighton has 35 years of experience in his field, thanks to being from a family of printers: his father was a linotype operator for the Los Angeles Times.

Michael has held positions as printing and records manager for United California Savings Bank and

Hunt Wesson Foods; the chief of reprographics for the County of Orange; and the reprographics specialist for the City of Beverly Hills.

He has served as the ship's printer aboard various cruise ships for Princess Cruises and, while working for R.R. Donnelley as a quality analyst, was responsible for the administration of the quality program for Time, People and Sports Illustrated.

Michael is past president of the Orange County chapter of the International Publishing Management Association and the Los Angeles Club of Printing House Craftsmen and has served on the Board of Directors for the Orange YMCA and the Literacy Volunteers of Newport Beach. 🏆

Please join in our welcoming of Michael Leighton to the Club Board.



Club Board Members (from left): Mike Biagi, Vice Chair; David Muraoka; Robyn Barnes, Chairman; Rita Robinson; Maria Romasanta; Regner Globus, Secretary; Michael Leighton

City Employees Club — 76th Annual Meeting — February 26, 2004

Here are the citations that tell of the great dedication these award winners have for the Club:

Chairman's Award

David Muraoka



The Chairman's award is given to a board member who has had a proven track record of enthusiastically promoting and publicizing the Club throughout the City of Los Angeles on and off their job.

Since 1987 David has participated in the Life, Spouse Life, and AD&D programs offered by the Association.

By 2000 he became active in the Association's affairs by serving on the member services committee. As a newly elected board member in 2003, he volunteered to chair the ClubFest committee. On

his own time he visited various sites throughout the greater Los Angeles area. He was searching for a place that the whole family would enjoy, a place where the City Employee could enjoy an outing with their family and other City families, a place that promoted the good will and affinity that City employees deserve.

His constant activity in the field, promotion of the Club, opening access to sites for counselors, and the success of ClubFest 2003 under his direction merit special recognition by his Board peers and fellow members.



Department Representative Award

Olivia Figueroa



The department representative award is given to the department rep who has demonstrated significant and consistent contributions.

Olivia has demonstrated great enthusiasm in carrying the vision of the Club to her workplace and has consistently encouraged their co-workers to see the value of the Club.

Olivia has always been a very cordial and caring when the Club needed help. Every Club employee who has asked for her assistance knows all about the lightning speed in which she returns the calls. She knows how important it is that the good news of the Club reaches as many City employees as possible and has always been supportive of the marketing activities with the payroll inserts for many years.

Those that work with her are very fortunate because she truly cares for the development of City employees.

President's Award

Arlene Herrero



The President's Award is given to a Club staff member who has gone above and beyond the scope of their job.

Arlene Herrero has recruited more than 500 new Club members and has made more than 300 presentations at City sites to educate City employees about the Club and its benefits. She is responsible for roughly 10,000 City employees, and it would not be surprising if she has seen all of them.

Arlene has demonstrated a "can-do" and positive attitude, demonstrated extraordinary enthusiasm for her job and has performed above and beyond normal job responsibilities.

She has received a certificate of appreciation from the West LA Sanitation Yard for her work during their Employee Appreciation Day. The Central City Police Boosters and LAPD Central Area Community Police Station also officially acknowledged her for sponsoring their 23rd Annual Children's Holiday Party and toy drive. With her dedication, she helped to provide 275 needy kids holiday gifts.

The City Employees Club of Los Angeles recognizes Arlene for the service she has given to the City of Los Angeles as well as the excellence she has demonstrated on a daily basis at the Club. 🏆



From Left: Arceo Ramos, Dept. Rep., Office of Personnel; and Alan Bound, City Employees Club.



From Left: Robyn L. Barnes, LACEA Board Chairman, Fire and Police Pensions; Daren Perlstein, Dept. Rep., Fire and Police Pensions; and Michael Biagi, LACEA Board Vice Chair, Los Angeles World Airports.



From Left: Kevin Wright, City Employees Club Financial Services; Howard Pompel, City Employees Club; James Ocon, City Employees Club Financial Services; and Joseph Mendez, Dept. Rep., City Attorney's Office.



From Left: Gregory Monfette, Dept. Rep., Public Works – Street Services; William Harding; Ed Harding, President of RLACEI; Dolores Foley, President of DWP Retirees' Association; and Americo Garza, Board Member of RLACEI.



From Left: MaryJo and Thom Diemer, Rosebud Marketing Group.



From Left: Sharon P. Redditt, Dept. Rep, Public Works; Arlette Davis, Dept. Rep., Public Works – Accounting; and Myra Vines, Dept. Rep., Planning Dept.



ALIVE! CREATIVE TEAM - From Left: David Jamgotchian and Marie Carama, JILA Associates; and John Burnes, Burnes Creative.



SWEARING-IN OF 2004-2005 LACEA BOARD - From Left: Regner Globus, Los Angeles World Airports; Rita Robinson, Bureau of Sanitation; Michael Biagi, Los Angeles World Airports; Robyn Barnes, Fire and Police Pensions; David Muraoka, Los Angeles Police Department; Michael Leighton, General Services; Maria Romasanta, Department of Water and Power; and Brian Trent, Chief Financial Officer, City Employees Club.