



From left: Ann Marie De La Riva, AAW Director, Management Analyst II, DWP, 6 years; Joan Becker-Freese, AAW Director, Management Analyst II, DWP, 24 years.



The 2005-07 Executive Board of the AAW.



Guest speaker Controller Laura Chick.

In the Affirmative

■ Affirmative Action Association for Women installs officers. Several are Club Members.

Story by Robert Larios, Director of Communications and Marketing, and John Hawkins, Club CEO

The Affirmative Action Association for Women (AAAW) installed officers at an event Nov. 8 in the Tom Bradley Room high atop City Hall.

Guest speakers were City Controller Laura Chick and Councilwoman Jan Perry.

The group installed officers for the coming year and enjoyed light appetizers and networking.

"Women who still haven't taken our full place in the higher ranks across the board have different perspectives and a different style to bring to the table," Laura Chick said in her remarks. "Women, and especially men who have not always been at the steep of power, have an ability to be change agents and to continue to rattle things – to change things because they still need to be changed."

"My really benign rabble rousing message is that we've made great progress since this organization was formed, since Mayor Tom Bradley took leadership here and changed the face of the workforce, much less the management, since sexual harassment laws have come into place, with training and affirmative action training, [too]. We are a progressive City, with that kind of leadership."

"But I'm sorry. I still have to say, 'Not good enough, not far enough.' We could be so much better. We could be so much further. We could be doing so much more. It doesn't always have to be about a lot more resources, either. It could be a

lot more energy, a lot more focus, a lot more oompah-pah. So that's what I'm here to pitch is: Whatever your style or passion, your arena, always push your comfort zone."

"I believe, as a long-time City employee of organizations like this, it is vital for not just the women, but it's setting a tone or climate to 'lead by example,' said Councilwoman Jan Perry in her remarks. "We face some unique challenges. More often than not, we are not only working fulltime and taking care of business for the City, but taking care of families and running the household and battling the issue of a pay scale that doesn't necessarily favor women in the workplace. By continuing to empower ourselves to work together politically and legislatively we will continue to make strides and level the playing field. I feel we are very, very optimistic."

Established in 1974 and approved by the Los Angeles City Council as the official representative for female City employees, the Affirmative Action Association for Women has been representing women for 30 years.

As an employee advocate organization, the group's mission is to advance the status and support the upward mobility of women and minorities in government. As such, the AAW has placed a special emphasis on training and development of its members in preparation for career advancement opportunities.

Membership consists of people from all levels

The incoming executive board consists of:

- Cecilia Weldon, DWP, President
- Linda Wah, DWP, First Vice President
- Diana Salas, DWP, Second Vice President, Club Member
- Rose Garcia, DWP Third Vice President
- Michele Nagin, DWP, Treasurer
- Susie Rodriguez, DWP, Secretary

The new slate of directors is:

- Joan Becker-Freese, DWP, Club Member
- Lilly Calvache, IBEW/DWP, Club Member
- Ann Marie De La Riva, DWP
- Jaime Truong, Building and Safety
- Michelle Wilson, DWP

of government with different backgrounds, willing and eager to engage in an exchange of a variety of knowledge and experiences. Members serve on department and Citywide committees that influence policies and practices that affect women and minorities. Finally, the AAW's work supports its continuing commitment to affirmative action programs and equal employment opportunities as a basic principle of the City's merit system.

You can learn more about the group by accessing their Website: www.la-aaaw.org

The Club thanks Cecilia Weldon, AAW President, for her assistance.



From left: John Hawkins, Club President and CEO, with Cecilia Weldon, AAW President, DWP employee.



Gail Rucker, Retired, Building and Safety, former Club Dept Rep, with Dr. Grace Harper, Deputy Superintendent of Building I, Building and Safety.



Calvin Birdsong, Management Analyst I for the Commission on the Status of Women, 7 years.



Maureen Layton, Sr. Clerk Typist, Planning, 6 years; Pam Cummings, Management Analyst III, Emergency Planning Dept., 18 years; James Okazaki, Assistant General Manager, Transportation, 34 years.



From left: Susie Rodriguez, AAW Secretary; Rosemarie Guzman, Public Works, Engineering; Gloria Adams, Cultural Affairs Dept.; and Sharyl Anderson, DWP.



From left: Marlene Lewis, Project Manager with Airports, 15 years; Diana Salas, Second Vice President, Electrical Engineer, DWP, 20 years; and Lilly Calvache, AAW Director and Business Rep for IBEW at the DWP, 25 years