

LETTERS To the Editor

During City Interview, How Best to Shake Hands?

I recently read the article in the newspaper about dressing right for an interview, and I had a question regarding interviews that has been puzzling me. When doing a group interview should I make it an effort to shake hands with all the interviewers, if there are three or more or is it too time-consuming? Thank you for taking time on reading my e-mail.

— Daniel Garcia, Club Member

Alive's Personnel columnist, Jackie David, responds: That's a great question, Daniel. A City interview panel typically consists of up to three people, with introductions made at the beginning of the interview. Do shake hands with each person as he/she is introduced. Panel members usually make it easier by making the first move. If they don't, then use the opportunity to show your professionalism and ability to take charge of the situation by extending your hand. I can't see there being more than three people in an interview panel. However, if faced with the situation, then do shake hands with the first two or three members nearest you and then acknowledge other introductions with a nod in the general direction of the person being introduced.

Here are a couple other pointers about shaking hands:

- Do smile and look the person in the eye.
- Shake hands with a medium-firm grip to convey confidence and authority. A limp (wet noodle) handshake may give the impression you are hesitant or meek. A bone-crunching (I want to show you how strong I am) squeeze can hurt and give the impression you are overly enthusiastic or domineering. If unsure about your handshake, then take the time to practice with a co-worker or friend.

Remember when walking into an interview: It only takes 30 seconds to make a lasting impression. Your handshake will speak volumes about you in that crucial 30 seconds.

Can Councilmembers, Mayor Join Club, See Good Work?

I'm curious: Can City Councilmembers and the Mayor join the Club? I think it would be a great resource for them to see what all of us are doing in and around the City. Sometimes I get the feeling that they are a little disconnected from the City employee. There's so much good that we're doing, and I would really like them to see it.

By the way, I'm not sure if you are going to print this or not, but if you do I'd like to say that I've noticed that Councilman Zine is always very nice when he meets City employees. That's really important to the troops, and I wanted to say thanks.

Keep up the good work.

— Thomas Williams, S.W., Club Member

Thanks for writing, Thomas. All City employees, including Councilmembers and the Mayor, are welcome to join the Club. In fact, Councilmembers Tom LaBonge, Jan Perry, Greig Smith and Janice Hahn are indeed Club Members and contribute to Alive! on occasion with letters to the editor, Council columns and story submissions. We know that several other Councilmembers read Alive! and are pleased with the work being done by their fellow City employees. We have been in conversation with the staff of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa about his being the subject of an Alive! interview in the New Year; we'll keep you apprised of that development. But, whether you're a Councilmember, the Mayor or a rank-and-file City employee, Alive! represents you equally. We consider all City employees as equals and celebrate the lives of all City employees thusly.

— Ed.

Hynda Column Causes Him To Look Down, in Wonder

I was fascinated by the Hynda Rudd column, "History Comes Alive," about the upcoming book by Anna Sklar regarding the City's sewer system. How many of us think about where the waste is going when we push the handle down to flush the toilet! It seems so easy when in fact it is very complicated.

Thank you, Hynda, for bringing this complicated issue to our attention. I look forward to reading the book.

— David Hiovich, Transportation

ClubFest Photo Gallery Sells Ticket for Next Year

Looking over the photo gallery from Clubfest in the December *Alive!* tells me that the Club is not untruthful when they say that they want to celebrate the lives and work of City employees and their families. There were no color lines, no politics, just a day to say thanks to City employees. Too bad City Hall doesn't do enough of that, but how great it is to have the City Employees Club save the day. By the way, the foam photos are hilarious. When you sell tickets to Clubfest next year, I'll be buying.

— John Duncan, General Services

Gilda Loves That Retirees Were Eligible for Refund

Wow! I want to thank the Club for my refund check that came in the mail. It seems as though it has been years since I last got my refund check. I was told that once we retired, we weren't entitled for a refund check, but my check is finally here. I had to call the Club office to make sure I wasn't dreaming. Sure enough, the young lady told me that the check was real and that I could cash it. This is going to be a good Christmas. Thank you and Happy New Year.

— Gilda Hunter, Retired

You're welcome, Gilda. Retired Club Members who held life insurance with the Club were eligible for the refund this year.
— Ed.

Tina's Interested in Info on Affirmative Action Group

It's a pleasant surprise to read that the Affirmative Action Association for Women is doing well. It's also nice to see that there is support from the Club (I saw Club President John Hawkins in the article in the December issue).

I have a question, though. How can I get hold of AAAW or get more information on them so that I can join?

— Tina Thompson, Rec and Parks

We're glad you enjoyed the article we printed on the Affirmative Action Association for Women. Look in the back of this month's issue for contact information on this group, as well as many other City-affiliated groups. We run this feature every month. But, to save you time, contact the Affirmative Action for Women Association at (213) 847-AAAW; write to AAAW, P.O. Box 53488, Los Angeles, CA 90053, or visit the Website at www.la-aaaw.org.
— Ed.

Club's Gift Ideas Were Just Thing for This Guy

I admit it. I'm the typical guy who hates shopping for Christmas gifts. I have such a tough time figuring out what people would like. But all was solved on a Monday afternoon when I was ordering AMC movie tickets online on the Club Website. The Club is a life-saver for selling City hats, City watches and books on the history of Los Angeles. I finished up all my shopping that afternoon! Thanks, City Employees Club!

— J. Smith, Club Member

Joe Had Memorable Time At RLACEI Holiday Party

I went to the RLACEI Christmas Party as a guest, and I don't think I've had more fun than I did at that event this year. People like Phil Skarin, Ken Spiker and Ed Harding were very cordial and really made everyone feel good. It was nice to see some old colleagues and get a good meal while I was at it. There seemed to be a good crowd, too. Happy New Year to all my friends and former coworkers!

— Joe Stern, recently retired, LAPD

WRITE TO US TODAY!

Send your letters by email to
talkback@cityemployeesclub.com or conventionally:

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Our Club Counselors are all over the City, every day, serving our Club Members. While we're out, we'll be asking City employees a fun question. Keep your eyes open... you never know when we'll be asking you what you think!

ASK A QUESTION: What is your New Year's Resolution?



"Eat healthier."
— Richard Moreno, Traffic Officer, Transportation, 4 years



"Work out more and spend less."
— Alden Marsh, Traffic Officer, Transportation, 3 months



"Try to have a better year than last year."
— Jerry Borunda, Traffic Officer, Transportation, 3 months



"Win a championship in softball."
— Douglas Aleman, Traffic Officer, Transportation, 4 months



"Have a new baby with my wife."
— Paul Harvey, Traffic Officer, Transportation, 3.5 years

Corrections:

In the December issue's Retiree list, the number of years of service was incorrect for Isom Holmes, Rec and Parks. He retired with 31 years of service.

Also, in the LAPD Cops for Tots story, we inadvertently dropped one photo. Here is the missing photo, with its outline. *Alive!* regrets these errors and omissions.



From left: Cece Tatum, Clerk Typist; Capt. Andrew Smith, Commanding Officer, Central Community Police Station, Club Member; and Melanie Gay, Sr. Clerk Typist, Club Member.