

# Angela Sets Sail

■ **Club Member Angela Birkenbach retires after 31 years. She was the first woman to be Chief Wharfinger at the Port.**

Story and photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Counselor

HARBOR — Angela Birkenbach retired from the Harbor Dept. after 31 years of City service. The party was held Sept. 1 at the Los Angeles Yacht Club in San Pedro.

Family and friend helped celebrate. Angie asked that all proceeds to her retirement be donated to the YWCA of the Harbor Area and South Bay.

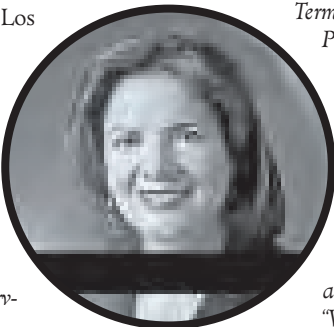
The Harbor Commission presented a resolution, which read:

*"Whereas, Angela Birkenbach is retiring after 31 years of dedicated service to the City of Los Angeles; and*

*"Whereas, during her three-decade tenure at the Port of Los Angeles, Angie successfully implemented new technology that revolutionized cargo tracking in the harbor, aiding customers and workers, while boosting Wharfinger morale; and*

*"Whereas, Angie began her City career in 1974 as a Clerk Typist and advanced to the position of Wharfinger in 1980 before promoting to Chief Wharfinger in 1990, and seven years later assumed the responsibility of division director; and*

*"Whereas, she was the first female in Port of Los Angeles history to ever hold the position of Chief Wharfinger, and in 1990 was named 'Women's Equality Day Honoree' by the City of Los Angeles*



*Commission on the Status of Women for serving as an inspiring role model for women in public service; and*  
*"Whereas, she remains an active member of several maritime organizations, Angie was named 'Maritimer of the Year' by the Los Angeles-Long Beach Propeller Club and was awarded the Port's Management Forum Outstanding Service and Committee Appreciation Awards; and*

*"Whereas, she holds certificates in commerce, business, management and leadership from the California College of Commerce, Los Angeles Harbor College, University of Phoenix and University of California, Los Angeles, and completed the Marine Terminal Management Training Program at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y.; and*

*"Whereas, a San Pedro native, Angie belongs to a multi-generational family employed by the maritime industry and is a staunch supporter of the United States Navy; and*

*"Whereas, Angie balanced her busy Hail to the Chief! Port career with community service undertakings, volunteering her own time to support Harbor Area and South Bay youth programs organized by the YWCA and Banning High School:*

*"Now therefore be it resolved, that the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Angela Birkenbach for her service to the City and Port of Los Angeles, and extends to her and her family its best wishes for health and happiness in the years to come."*

Congratulations, Angela, for a great career. Enjoy your retirement!

The Club thanks Cathy Lozano, Rachel Campbell, Jennifer Mosher and Martin D. Chavez for their assistance.



Angela Birkenbach poses with the colleagues who helped organize her retirement reception.



From left: Josetta Spychaj, Lucille McArthur and Julia Tracey all went to high school with Angie.



The Allen family came to help celebrate their Aunt Angie's retirement.



From left: Christine Piechura, guest; Emma Gonzalez, Secretary, Club Member; and Julie Bond, Wharfinger Secretary, 19 years.



From left: Estelle and Bruce Seaton, Interim Executive Director, Club Member; Angela Birkenbach, Chief Wharfinger, Retiree, Club Member; and her husband, Adam Birkenbach, Retired Chief Harbor Engineer.



From left: Mary and Vicki Savage, good friends of Angie



From left: Juliet Garcia and Dominic Portillo, guests.



From left: Sara Portillo-Valencia, daughter; and Carlos Portillo, GSD Building and Construction Superintendent, Club Member



Bonnie and Mike Dino, guests.



From left: Ed Gorman, Retired, Club Member, and his wife, Orpha. Ed Gorman retired 17 years ago as Chief Wharfinger.



From left: Olga Roje, Retired, Port Pilots; and Linda Jimenez, Wharfinger, 30 years.



Angela and her husband of 23 years, Adam, met at the Port of Los Angeles.



Standing, from left: Angela Birkenbach, Retiree; Laurie Strong, Sr. Clerk Typist, 28 years; and Damien Young, former Student Worker. Seated: Margaret Hernandez, Director of Contracts and Purchasing, 24 years, Club Member; and Lajuan Kennedy, Wharfinger II, 23 years.



Margaret Hernandez, Director of Contracts & Purchasing, 24 years, Club Member.



Lonnie Tang, Director of Maritime Services, thanks Angie for a job well done.



Consuelo Rivera, mother of Angela Birkenbach.



Chuck and Cathy Lozano, Assistant Chief Wharfinger, Club Member.



From left: Arlene Baker, Director of Public Affairs, 14 months; Guadalupe Diaz, Management Analyst, Club Member; and Jennifer Zivkovic, Office of Assembly Member Betty Kernet.



From left: Bruce Seaton, Interim Executive Director, Club Member; Ed Gorman, Retired Chief Wharfinger, Club Member; and Bill Stein, past Director of Administration. Bruce told Alive! that this was an important photo, since he was hired by Ed.



Back, from left: Angela Birkenbach, Club Member, Retiree; and Cathy Lozano, Assistant Chief Wharfinger, Club Member. Seated: Linda Vigil, Assistant Chief Wharfinger, Club Member; and Jeanette Argentin, Wharfinger.



From left: Dr. Don Hugh, dentist of Angie and Adam; Joane, spouse; Gat Lum, Retiree, Club Member; and Gerald Lum, Retired, who worked for Adam Birkenbach for 23 years.