

# Toasting Three Years



## Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters celebrates its third anniversary.

Photo courtesy  
Christian Balthazar,  
Public Works



**PUBLIC WORKS** — The Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters club celebrated its third anniversary in style, with a party March 21 in the sixth floor conference room of the Public Works Building downtown.

The club has come a long way in the past three years and has helped numerous Public Works and other department employees improve their public speaking skills. Toastmaster members invited everyone to share some refreshments and support fellow Public Works members in their quest to improve their public speaking skills.

Thanks to Sharat Batra, President of the Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club, for assisting us.

Celebrating the Pioneers Toastmasters' third anniversary were, first row, from left: Ivan Gerson, Management Analyst II, Bureau of Engineering; Kola Ajibola, Civil Engineering Associate II, Bureau of Engineering; Maria Martin, Environmental Specialist II, Bureau of Engineering; and Chelsea Li, Civil Engineering Associate II, Bureau of Engineering. Second row: Jeannette Hall Smith, Clerk Typist, Bureau of Sanitation; Kari Iwai, Management Analyst II, Bureau of Sanitation; Art Khachikian, Civil Engineering Associate I, Bureau of Engineering; Carleen Marquez, Sr. Mgmt. Analyst II, Bureau of Street Lighting; Dominic Buenaventura, Civil Engineering Associate IV, Bureau of Engineering; Majed Harb, Civil Engineering Associate II, Bureau of Engineering; and Marnelli Tabbada, Electrical Engineering Associate II, Bureau of Engineering. Last row: Sharat Batra, Mechanical Engineering Associate I, Bureau of Engineering; Bob Gallagher, Geotech Engineer 1, Bureau of Engineering; Michael Sloss, Personnel Analyst II, Bureau of Engineering; Brian Schreiber, Civil Engineering Associate I, Bureau of Engineering.

## Newsbrief

### CITY CLEANUP:

Public Works and Keep Los Angeles Beautiful announced that more than 10 tons of litter and recyclables were collected March 3 at Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup.

"On the day Los Angeles kicked off the City's community improvement projects, we registered 1,502 volunteers, picked up 9.6 tons of trash, one ton of recyclables, removed 32,450 square feet of graffiti and planted 1,129 trees," said Board of Public Works President Cynthia M. Ruiz. "Angelenos clearly responded with their

community and environmental stewardship to take action for a cleaner and greener Los Angeles, and we are extremely proud of their hard work and dedication to improve the quality of life for everyone."

The kickoff results illustrate Los Angeles' first contribution to the nationwide Great American Cleanup community improvement program that will continue through May 31.

Keep Los Angeles Beautiful is a local affiliate of Keep America Beautiful and has recently formed to draw public attention to litter prevention, waste reduction and beautification. This public education and participation campaign aims to promote volunteer cleanup action and beautification to support Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's goal of making Los Angeles the cleanest and greenest big city in America.

For more information on the Great American

Cleanup and Keep Los Angeles

Beautiful, call the Board of Public Works Office of Community Beautification at (213) 978-0228, e-mail to [communitybeautification@lacity.org](mailto:communitybeautification@lacity.org) or visit [www.laocb.org](http://www.laocb.org).

### ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES:

The Board of Airport Commissioners has approved the purchase of an additional 21 compressed natural gas (CNG) pickup trucks and two liquefied natural gas heavy-duty (LNG) trucks with 4,000 gallon water tanks as part of its Vehicle Replacement and Alternative Fuels Vehicles programs.

Nineteen of the CNG trucks are being purchased to replace similar vehicles at Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) that have reached the

end of their useful lives, as well as two additional ones. All will be used by various divisions at Los Angeles International (LAX), LA/Ontario International (LA/ONT) and Van Nuys (VNY) airports.

The LNG water tank trucks are needed to replace two similar diesel-powered vehicles used at LAX and LA/ONT that have reached the end of their useful lives.

Officials at Airports, the City department that owns and operates four airports in Southern California, including LA/Palmdale Regional, believe that alternative-fuel vehicles are important elements in meeting California's future energy needs. Plans are under way to convert all of Airports' fleet to alternative-fuel use.

# New Choppers for LAFD

■ Fire Dept. purchases two new firefighting helicopters. It's the first time these models will be used to fight fires.



The Agusta/Westland AW319, of the type purchased by the LAFD. This photo is not the actual helicopter purchased by the LAFD.

**FIRE DEPT.** — The Los Angeles Fire Department has awarded a contract for two Agusta/Westland AW139 medium-twin helicopters to perform fire-fighting missions in the area.

These are the first AW139 aircraft to be purchased by the LAFD, and the selection also marks the beginning of the AW139's deployment as a firefighter worldwide. This new role follows a

wide range of tasks, including search and rescue, emergency medical service and law enforcement.

"The Los Angeles Fire Department is pleased to announce the acquisition of two new AW139 helicopters," said Doug Barry, Fire Chief for the City of Los Angeles. "Through design and development, the LAFD/AgustaWestland partnership has created an aircraft that will meet our

Department's current needs and those well into the future."

"The AW139 helicopter will provide greater performance through its increased air speed and allow for a greater margin of safety through engine performance. Its easy convertibility for fire, EMS or rescue-related incidents, and cutting-edge technology, will bring the Los Angeles

Fire Department to the forefront of 'fire service' aircraft design. Ultimately, the greatest benefit will be enhanced emergency services to the City of Los Angeles and its citizens. We look forward to the arrival of the first AW139 Airship in 2008," Barry added.