

** A Message From the CEO **

Love Can Mean Kisses, or Boxing

by **John Hawkins**
President and CEO, The Club

Ah, February! The month for love ... and boxing!

No, I haven't lost it. Of course February means Valentine's Day. And boy do we have them this month! Every year in February, *Alive!* devotes space for Club Members to express their forever love to their sweetie. And this year, we have more than ever. I love seeing that!

So, where does boxing come in? Well, we spent some time with Retiree **John Bogdanoff**. And I know, as a guy, I might not be supposed to say this – but there's no other word for what he did for so many young people who were at risk for falling into the wrong crowd; he gave them a passion. He gave them discipline. He gave them something to work for. When he put those gloves on the thousands of young people he mentored, he might have been the difference between a wasted life ... and a life of meaning and purpose. That's pretty amazing. John Bogdanoff, we salute you!



Club CEO John Hawkins and City Retiree John Bogdanoff.

In other Club news, it's great that so many Club Members have taken advantage of our great new discount on a yearly 24 Hour Fitness membership. And I want to thank Club Member and City Employee **Loretta Quenon** for giving us the idea. It was a great idea, Loretta; if Club Members have other ideas, let us know: talk-back@cityemployeesclub.com

There are just so many awesome things in this month's issue, it's mind-boggling: the annual Quality and Productivity Awards – there are some great projects here (thanks to **Tyler Munhall** for his hard work putting this together); there's a big City election coming up; the Club Operations Center is moving Feb. 1; we bring you more holiday party pics; we feature **Angel Gomez** "Being Alive" in Malibu; and we say goodbye to one of our favorite Club employees, **Jessica Segura**, who's moving on to other opportunities. Jess, we love you, we wish you well, and we're going to miss you!

And finally, what can I say about your amazing submissions for "Alive! Around the World?" *Awesome!* We are stunned and excited about how Club Members have taken this feature to heart. If you keep 'em coming, we'll keep printing 'em!

Happy Valentine's Day to all those people who make our lives so rich and rewarding. I send mine to Hannah and Kelley, and I remind you to do the same.

JOHN

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