

\* A Message From the CEO \*

# Green's the Color Of Spring in City

by John Hawkins  
President and CEO, The Club

Here's something you might not know about me – I'm fascinated at helping save the environment. I had a blast when we toured the house of Ivan Forbes, Retiree and Club Member; he has this amazing setup where he actually dumps more power into the grid than he takes out of it (we covered it in *Alive!* about two years ago). And I've even hooked up my own photovoltaic cell at home and rigged it to power a light or two.

But something as big as the Convention Center? Whoa, no way. But that's what **Rey Castro, Pouria Abbasi** and their crew have done, and the team received the coveted LEED Certification for existing buildings. That's an awesome achievement, and as Rey gave *Alive!* a tour, from the deepest parts of the Convention Center, to up on that amazing white roof (my eyes are still trying to adjust to normal light!), I couldn't help but think what an achievement this is. I'm glad the mayor put forth his Directive 10, to lead the City's buildings toward sustainability, but the Convention Center started their project before Directive 10 came to life. So, even more shout-outs to them.



Rey Castro, Chief Building Engineer, and CEO John Hawkins on the roof of the Convention Center.

Speaking of shout-outs, this one goes to **Hal Danowitz and his wife, Evelyn**. They conclude their monster five-installment, 6,000-mile adventure across the United States for Hal's 50th high school anniversary. This sequence was mighty entertaining – who can forget meeting Hal's first girlfriend, the windshield bugs, the subtle arguments between Hal and Evelyn about the joys (or otherwise) of Super 8 motels ... or Evelyn's unimpressed attitude about crab Rangoon, a Midwestern staple. Hal and Evelyn, you are gems.

We've been running the feature *Everyday Heroes* for a few months now, but I think this month's photo by **Harry Garvin**, courtesy the LAFD, is one of my favorites. It looks to be right out of a movie, almost like it took them weeks to get all the props just right. But of course it's as real as the danger the Firefighters face every single day. That reality makes it even more powerful.

There's a lot going on this month with the Club, too. First, normally we begin offering Club Scholarships in May. But we've had so much interest because of the challenging economic times, that we decided to start a month early, and to keep the number of awards high. That way, Club Members might be able to plan a little earlier how to pay for the education of their children, or themselves. So download the app from the Club Website, or pick one up from **Rachael** at the Club Store.

Let's talk some fun, too! The Club is hosting an awesome "private" party at Magic Mountain at the end of the month, and **Ticket Guy** has set the whole thing up for only 15 bucks per person. Tickets are limited, so don't wait. See the back cover for more details.

Don't forget that Mother's Day is next month, so send those tributes to Mom in, and we'll print as many as we can. Send 'em in!

Meanwhile, enjoy your spring. See you next month!

# JOHN

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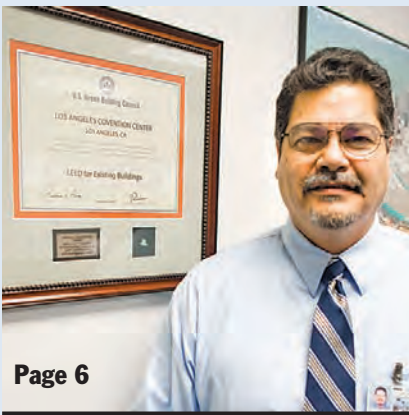
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City Employees Club of Los Angeles

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