

\* A Message From the CEO \*

# Alive! Embarks On City K-9 Series

by John Hawkins  
President and CEO, The Club

I have to say, it was pretty awesome. We were standing in LAX's Terminal 2 with **Officer Tom DeLuccia** of LAPD's K-9 Bomb Squad, watching the airport's security K-9's go through their training exercises. Officer DeLuccia was talking us through it – the K-9's were trained to sit down and look at their master when the K-9 sniffed explosives. That would be their calm signal.

Officer DeLuccia told us it was going to happen. And then, one by one, perhaps six or seven sniffed their way down the terminal, on leash. And then, finally, when they got to the luggage bag that the officers had placed there on purpose – with an amount of inert explosives – every single one of the K-9's stopped immediately, sat down, and looked at their officer.

Does that make you feel safer to fly? It does for me. There are a lot of City K-9's hard at work, doing great things for us here in the City. And over the next several months, we hope to be bringing you more stories just like this month's. (And a quick shoutout to Officers **DeLuccia** and **Donna Odle** of the LAPD, and **Sgt. Blair Lindsay** of the Airport Police, for taking us through this first City K-9's feature.



With Isabella, the new Hawkins family pet, are Club CEO John Hawkins (back) and sons Noah (left) and Isaiah.

In other *Alive!* news, November marks the beginning of the busiest time of the year at the Club. First, we have Club Insurance Refunds, for those of you who have Club life insurance and who are eligible. The check refunds are a tradition with the Club, having missed only three years over our 81-year history. Keeping our insurance strong is the prime goal of our Club insurance plans. But after that, we are happy to return to you the unused portion of our claims pool. Don't have Club insurance? Why not? It's the smart move. Call the Club office for more information. (Oh, and thanks to **Brian Trent**, the Club's Chief Financial Officer, and **Robert Larios**, the Club's Director of Operations, for managing the refund project.)

This is also the beginning of the holiday season. We've got great new features at the Club Store for your holiday needs – great Club apparel and stocking stuffers; a wrapping station (c'mon you Club guys, the wrapping station is for you!); a cool Club Christmas Tree for you to add your own ornaments; a discount during November; and lots more. Start your holiday shopping at the perfect place for the City Employee in your life – the Club Store.

I want to wish a great retirement to **Gina Caguiat**, Clerk Typist, Public Works. Gina is one of the most prolific contributors to two of our popular *Alive!* features – *Picture Perfect*, and *Alive! Around the World*. Gina, we here at the Club will allow you to retire as long as you continue to send us great photos. Promise?

Finally, as Thanksgiving is coming up, I want to pass this on – remember that a happy life starts with gratitude for it. We might be out of this recession, or we might not. But either way, we can turn any challenge into sweet reward if we only say thanks, and truly mean it. I am thankful for you all, and I say, Happy Thanksgiving in the truest way I can. Peace to all of you as this holiday season begins.

**JOHN**

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City Employees Club of Los Angeles

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These K-9's keep us safe at LAX.



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