

* A Message From the CEO *

Old Habits Very Draining to Ocean

by John Hawkins
President and CEO, The Club

When I was a kid, I used to think that the storm water drain in the street was like a trashcan.

During our *Alive!* interview this month, I remembered thinking that. And it came neatly to the point of this month's cover story – emerging threats to our oceans include a lot of stuff that we shouldn't be throwing down the drain, like steroids, pharmaceuticals, pesticides and the like. When I was a kid, that's what I used to think, too.

But thank goodness not anymore.

The team we focus on this month – Sanitation's Toxicity Unit, part of the Environmental Monitoring Division of Public Works – is in the early stages of tracking all that stuff. It's so new to the monitoring industry that the federal government hasn't issued measuring standards for what's acceptable, and what isn't. But the City team, lead by newcomer **Dawn Petschauer**, Water Biologist, engages in special studies from time to time to see what's out there, and report her findings to research collaboratives. Let's hope the research dollars pick up to allow Dawn, **Stan Asato**, good friend **Curtis Cash** and their crew to continue tracking this bad stuff, and letting everyone know the environmental dangers tossing stuff down the drain, or through runoff, etc. (And a special thanks to Dawn for helping us brush up on our chemistry. Wow, that was a lot of syllables! Great stuff!)



Club CEO John Hawkins and Dawn Petschauer, Water Biologist I, in the Public Works labs at Hyperion Treatment Plant.

As I write this, we just had a great annual meeting downtown. You can read the story in this month's issue, but suffice it to say, the Club is in excellent health, with a large, solid membership base; strong financials; a great board of City Employee leaders; and terrific service. Those have been the administrative goals of the Club for 83 years now and counting, and I'm happy to report nothing has changed – we're still the excellent, model association we were set up to be. Thank you to all of our members, for your continued confidence in the way we're celebrating your lives. And thank you, too, to our Chief Financial Officer, **Brian Trent**, whose chief responsibility is to keep us financially solid. And we are very much that. Good job, Brian!

Here's a big Club shoutout to regular *Alive!* contributor **Ken Kochakji**, Retired, Transportation, who regales us with his running and charitable adventures; we include his content in our Best Years section as often as we can. This month, Ken has submitted his military memories, and we're going to see if others out there are interested in submitting theirs, too. We think it's a terrific idea; send in some snippets, and we'll see how much we can print.

Meanwhile, **Rachael Brecher**, **Arlene Herrero** and the Club gang are cooking up the usual collection of great Club events, offers and promotions. We have another awesome Magic Mountain party – a Club exclusive night – coming up in May. We have another Long-Term Care Open Enrollment period coming up, this time for DWP Employees (our first one, for City Employees last year, was a huge hit). And don't forget about that Club Cruise. The reservations are coming in now, and I can tell you that I will be there with my wife, Kelley, and the Hawkins family. It's going to be great, with all that culture – and food! What are you waiting for? Put that deposit down now.

It's almost spring now, and that means more Club softball and basketball, and all sorts of other Club activities. Keep on living your lives, and thank you for letting the Club celebrate them!

JOHN

(jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com)

IN THIS ISSUE

Alive! March 2011

The newspaper of the City Employees Club of Los Angeles



Page 24

Cover Story:

24 Tracking the New Threats

Dawn Petschauer, Public Works, is the City's best weapon in tracking new threats to ocean water, including steroids, pharmaceuticals and pesticides.

9 St. Baldrick

The LAPD and LAFD plan another year of shaving heads for a good cause.

15 Long-Term Care

The Club is gearing up for its second Long-Term Care open enrollment – this time for DWP employees.

30 Club Cruise!

Don't wait – the Club's giving back to those who reserve their seats early.

31 Black History Month

Public Works/Sanitation presents an exhibit for African American Heritage Month.

41 Nabbed!

Port Police catch counterfeit ring.



Page 31

City Department Coverage:

The Club

- Annual Meeting 11
- Exclusive Club Cruise Deal! 19 & 30
- DWP Long Term Care Open Enrollment 15
- Mountain High Ski Deal! 6
- Valentine's Day Tributes 21

Airports

- Police Graduates 34

City

- The City Parties* 2010 16

Harbor

- Port Police Uncover Counterfeit Operation . . . 41

LACERS

- Personal Finance Workshops 40-41
- Thomas Moutes named General Manager . . . 37

LAFD/LAPD

- Firefighter Glenn Allen Memorial 31
- St. Baldricks Annual Charity Event 9 & 20

Public Works

- African-American Heritage on Display 31

Rec & Parks

- Banning Museum Annual Fundraiser 41

Zoo

- Big Bunnies Spring Fling 19

Sections & Columns:

- Adventures With Hal 36-37
- Alive!* Around the World 17
- Be *Alive!* 22-23
- Births 13
- Claims Monthly 4
- Classifieds 45
- Club Store 46
- Coloring Contest – Winners 18
- Cooking With the Club 43
- Deaths 12
- Graduations 13
- History Comes *Alive!* 33
- Letters 5
- Peace of Mind 12
- People We See 39
- Pet Club 9
- Picture Perfect 8
- Question of the Month 5
- Retirees Column 35-38
- Retirements 13
- Reviews: Movie, DVD Books & Theatre 42
- Special Achievements 13
- Sports 7
- Ticket and Gift Order Form 47
- United Agencies at the Club 5

Advertiser's Index

- AMC Theatres 44
- Bay Alarm Company 21
- Blind Children's Center 37
- DWP Federal Credit Union 2
- LEGOLAND 44
- LA Galaxy Soccer Team 32
- Ricchiuzzi Aviation 9
- Rosebud Marketing 34
- Sprint 14
- United Agencies Inc. Insurance 14
- WallyPark Airport Parking 32

Alive! Behind the Scenes

Alive! Cover Photo



Angel Gomez,
Director of Member
Services, The Club

Kneeling on a Public Works/Sanitation research vessel docked for the day in San Pedro, Club Photographer and Member Services Director Angel Gomez snaps a photo of Dawn Petschauer, Water Biologist I.

