

A Message From the CEO

Your Suggestions Become Our Stories

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

A few months ago, I picked up the phone, and it was **Tom Apzdernik**, Club Member. He was calling because he wanted to say he liked *Alive!*, and he wanted to invite us to check out what he and his crew do.

If you've seen the cover, you now know what they do. They drive the buses that handle more than a million LAX passengers every year, taking those passengers from their international flight to U.S. Customs. We had a great time producing this story, and I want to thank Tom, and **Ken White, Marie O'Kelly-Green, Harold Johnson** and **Nancy Castles** from Airports for making this story happen.

Here at *Alive!*, we research and then produce all of the cover stories that you see highlighting the front of our newspaper.

But, with a City as big as ours, and with City Employees doing so many interesting things, we can't know everything. That's why we love when you invite us into your working world, so that we can share what you do with the rest of our Club Members. This month's story is a perfect example of that. Over the last six months or so, we've produced a couple of others that came in via phone or email – our feature on the Port's LAFD dive team came in from great Club Member **Steve Meiche**, and last month's story on the new contaminants threatening our ocean was suggested by another great Club friend, **Curtis Cash**. We're working on a bicycling story suggested to us **Karl Guder** that we hope to bring you this summer, or soon. I invite you to drop us a line and let us know the interesting things that you do. Please know that I can't promise we'll cover everything. We have to make sure it's of interest to the most number of people, and that it's the right size for us. But give us a shout, and we'll see what we can do.



Club CEO John Hawkins with Luis Manrique, LAX Airfield Bus Operator.

Meanwhile, 2011 is moving forward at an alarming clip – April already? – and that means it's time for our annual **Joannie Mukai** Club Scholarship. We're accepting applications now. Every year I'm amazed at the quality of the children of our Club Members (and some Club Members, who also apply). The academic achievement and extracurricular service that these young men and women produce is incredible. I'm just happy that the Club insists on supporting as many of them as we can. Whether you're a scholarship winner or not, keep up the awesome work. Our world is grateful.

And for all you DWP employees, come out to one of our seminars and find out about the Club's Long-Term Care insurance (open enrollment for DWP employees begins May 1). I'm happy that so many City Employees took advantage last fall. Those who did are really smart, if I can be so bold. They value protecting themselves and their families in case something really bad happens. So come to a seminar and find out just what a smart – and affordable – move it is.

As I write this, the weather might finally be turning nice, so I might be spending a lot of time outside. But don't worry – I'll be seeing you at the upcoming Club-reserved night at Magic Mountain, or at the Renaissance Faire, or the fantastic Club Cruise this fall, or at any other great event with a Club benefit. What?? You don't have your tickets yet? Well, get on it now! These are really great Club benefits we know you will enjoy.

JOHN

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Alive! Behind the Scenes



Alive! Feature Picture

Angel Gomez, Club Member Services Director, photographs three Bus Operators from LAX Airfield Bus Operations.



Angel Gomez,
Director of Member
Services, The Club