

A Message From the CEO

RLACEI Retirees: Let The Celebration Begin

by John Hawkins,
President and CEO, The Club

It's been a long time coming. And I couldn't be happier to say:

Welcome, RLACEI Members to the Club!

As two great associations with a lot in common, the City Employees Club and the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) have been friends for a long time. The Club has taken part in many RLACEI official events over the last decade, and we've sponsored door prizes, tee prizes, attendance prizes, entertainment, and so on.

In the same way, here at *Alive!*, we've worked really hard to promote RLACEI news and activities. We've published the RLACEI's monthly retirees column for much of that decade, put together now by **Ed Harding**, **Michael Karsch** and **Mary Beetz**. We've published the winners of the annual **Phil Skarin** poetry contest, as we do in this issue. RLACEI's **Hal Danowitz** has written his great travel column for us for many years. RLACEI and the Club have been unofficial partners for the nearly 10 years the Club has existed, and for a lot longer than that in the 84-year history of the Club's parent organization, the Los Angeles City Employees Association (LACEA).

It was time to make it official.

I have a feeling that you're really going to enjoy this new arrangement. All RLACEI Members in good standing will receive this newspaper, *Alive!*, as part of your RLACEI Membership, every month. We are your official newspaper now. You'll get lots of RLACEI news in every issue.

If this is your first time reading *Alive!*, I expect you will notice how big, detailed and fun this newspaper is. We take pride in publishing a paper that's not just for City Employees and Retirees, but *about* you, too. We cover your good news. We publish photos of your life events. We put your pictures in the paper. *Alive!* is all about you, and not us. That's the way it should be, and that's the way we've been doing it for years now. Get used to being pampered!

But that's only the start. Here's the best part: As of June 2012, all RLACEI Members become Club Members through May 2013, subject to change. That means you get to take advantage of all the famous Club benefits, including:

the Cheapest Tickets in the City, tickets to great Club events and Club-Exclusive parties, purchase high-quality City apparel at everyday low prices, get quotes for insurance, and many, many more.

And if you haven't experienced the legendary Club Customer Service yet, you're in for a treat. If you call us, we'll take the call right then, or call you back almost immediately, even if you call us after hours. Your emails will be returned. And our Claims staff is second to none. After all, it's your association. We insist on serving you really well.

We take pride in being honest with our Members, so I'll tell you that your automatic Club Membership lasts until May 2013, subject to change. After that, to continue your access to all the great Club benefits, you'll need to contribute the regular membership fee, discounted for Retirees. Currently, that fee is \$2.50 per month, and has been very stable.

Honestly, it's a great deal. Once you experience all the Club benefits and customer service, you will find that our small fee is a bargain and can save you money.

Let me take a moment and thank **Ed Harding**, RLACEI President, and the RLACEI board for their hard work in putting this deal together, and for their confidence in the Club and our products.

This is normally the part of my column where I mention other important stories that we're covering this month. We have some great things for you to read, trust me, but I've run out of room! Our news about welcoming the RLACEI Members was too important to shorten. I'll resume the usual content next month.

So, welcome, RLACEI Members. In the words of Humphrey Bogart from one of my favorite movies, and probably yours, too, this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

JOHN

jhawkins@cityemployeesclub.com

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9 Club Scholarship

Applications are due at noon June 29, 2012, for the Club's Joannie Mukai Scholarship Program.

13 Autism Symposium

LAPD participates in event that helps officers deal with autistic people.

14 Father's Day

It's an *Alive!* annual tradition – honoring Dads on Father's Day.

25 National Dispatchers Week

Alive! helps celebrate this annual high-five to the LAPD's 911 emergency operators.

28 Baker to Vegas

Alive! is there for all the action as the City participates in this long-range footrace challenge cup.

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While *Alive!* was photographing this month's cover shot near City Hall, Mr. LA, Councilman Tom LaBonge, Club Member, was driving to his office. He recognized us and greeted us in his usual, passionate way. Hello right back, Tom! – Ed.