

A Message From the CEO

# Thankful for the Years We Have

by John Hawkins,  
President and CEO, The Club

My first thought was, wow, he was way too young. That's what I thought when I heard the shocking news that Club Board Member **Martin Chavez** had passed away.

And then I started thinking about how much he gave of himself, whether it was through his job in Personnel at the Harbor, or managing the annual perfect attendance recognition event there, or putting together the Harbor's impressive high school summer internship program. I can only imagine how many people were affected by those last two activities. They seemed like personal missions of his, and when I would see him, which was at least every month, he often would be talking about them.

He brought that same dedication to the Club, making sure the Club was well represented in the Harbor Dept., and in other ways. If you think about it, the Los Angeles City Employees Association doesn't belong to us. It belongs to you, the City Employees who believe it in and keep it strong. Since 1928, City Employees have banded together for the betterment of all of them. That's what the Club is all about.

Martin took that challenge, and that reward, personally. He worked hard to make the Club strong. We will all be better off for his dedication, as will City Employees in the future. He was too young to pass away, but Martin made sure that his years counted. Thank you, Martin Chavez, from all of us.

In a way, proof of what Martin believed in was evident in the great letter from Club Member **Richard Cardenas**, LAPD. Go ahead and skip a few pages ahead, and read it. We'll wait! The Club offers lots of services, some big, and some smaller. Richard talks about one of his favorite Club offerings, our cheap movie tickets. Seems pretty simple, doesn't it? Who doesn't like cheap movie tickets? But Richard mentions why they really do matter – he uses them to create some family time and to enjoy the world more than he normally would be able to. In the business world, that's known as "proof of concept" of the Club. And that's the kind of thing that Martin would have loved to hear. The Club might have started in 1928, but it keeps City families strong to this day. So great to hear, Richard! And keep writing those reviews, even if we can't print all of them each month.



From left: Club CEO John Hawkins with Martin Chavez at ClubFest in 2007.

I was also moved when I read this month's story about the annual Fallen Firefighters Memorial ceremony at the LAFD Historical Society. Club Counselor **Gedina Bergstrom** did a good job of capturing the emotion of what this very special ceremony is all about. The Club is a big fan of the work being done by Frank Borden and everyone at the historical society.

I can't finish up here without wishing a great retirement to another good Club Member, **Capt. Al Rosario** of the Port Police. All the best, Capt. Al!

And so we enter November, which is evident by looking at this month's stories about the holiday happenings in the City. Can you believe it? The holidays already! I recommend you take part in some of these events, especially the awesome Victorian Christmas party at the Banning Museum in Wilmington. You might not always think of the Harbor area for good holiday fun, but the museum always looks great at this time of year. When you go, tell **Melanie Streitfeld** we said hi.

As we approach this Thanksgiving, I'm reminded of losing my friend and business colleague, Martin, and also, more personally, my brother, Ed, who passed away earlier this year; we wrote about him in these pages a few months ago. Both Martin and Ed were just way too young to go. So let's be thankful for the things that really matter – Martin, **Ed Hawkins**, our families, weddings of friends and family, our children, and the time that we spend together. It's so, so precious.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.

**JOHN**

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# HOLIDAY HEADQUARTERS!

Head to the Club Store today!

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