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### A Message From the CEO

## Glory Is in The Details

by John Hawkins,  
President and CEO, The Club

I remember exactly what I was doing when I stepped back and said, whoa, this ELC is awesome.

Our new good friend **Ron Mayuyu**, Manager of the Los Angeles Environmental Learning Center at Hyperion (the ELC for short), was giving us a tour of this new educational facility. I was checking out the Sanitation refuse truck in one of the exhibits – the green truck you can see behind us in the photo at the bottom of pages 26 and 27. I was looking at a hinge on the back of the truck, thinking, wow, this is a brand new truck, all clean and detailed. And then I remembered – this thing isn't real at all. It's only a scale model, and yet for a moment, I had forgotten. I was completely lost in the details of the ELC!

That's just one of the things I love about the ELC. Yes yes, the message is strong and clear, that we will all have to be more aware of our precious resources (at home, the Hawkins family is already more aware, thanks to the ELC). But the craftsmanship in the ELC is truly incredible, and the attention to detail is astounding. My hat's off to the team that made it happen.

I encourage everyone to visit the ELC and learn about being better stewards of the environment. Because it's designed mostly for students, it's open only on weekdays. And you have to make reservations in advance. But it's all worth it for the important message. And for the craftsmanship. Nice job, Public Works!

Visits like the one I made to the ELC are fun for another reason – we get to catch up (sometimes by surprise) with Club Members showing off what they do. We caught up with all-around great guy **Paul Blount**, who graced our cover several years ago. And then we ran into **Chermaine Fontenette**, who's the self-proclaimed "Princess of Sanitation" and always a blast of fresh air. Here are a couple of photos that help explain what I mean.



Chermaine Fontenette, showing off her custom Sanitation Jacket.

The ELC has just begun, but this issue marks the ending of a couple of things. First, which is not news by now, is that the City has given management of the Convention Center to an outside organization. A lot of years of great work by City Employees are now relegated mostly to the past. We checked in with good Club friends **Rey Castro**, **Luis Aguilar** and **Adria Ybarra**, and it seems like they will all land on their feet. That's good news. But it's still a little sad. We'll do more on this in the future.

It also seems to be the end of the fun Griffith Park Travel Town Train Museum trip to the North Pole for Christmas. I've loved Travel Town since I was a little kid growing up in the Valley. We don't know why this holiday attraction is not running this year, maybe somebody can tell us. Unfortunately this goes along with the DWP ending its annual Holiday Lights display, also in Griffith Park, a few years ago. I'll make an early Christmas wish now that they both come back sometime soon.

Speaking of that – it's the Christmas season again. Can you believe it? Honestly, I loooove what **Mariana Guevara** and the crew at the Club Store have added this year – ticket bundles. Prepackaged, pre-priced at the great Club discount, and ready to go. What's not to love? It's an awesome idea. I always need stocking stuffers, and these are perfect! They're available at different prices (always with the Club discount), and for different theatre chains. And they're pre-packaged in cool Christmas boxes. So stop in, pick up a few, and make your life a whole lot easier.

Oh, and before I forget, I want to wish a happy birthday to our favorite Councilman and Club Member, Mr. **LA Tom LaBonge**. I wish I could bundle his energy and enthusiasm. All the best, Tom... we wish you many, many more.

Things that are new, things that have ended; important birthdays that pass by, and holidays on the horizon: Time marches on for us all, doesn't it? Let's be thankful for those things that we have right now, in this moment. Friends and family, roofs over our heads, and enough to get by – being happy is often as simple as being grateful. When we say thanks, we breathe easier and we smile more.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.

**-JOHN**



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### *Alive!* Behind the Scenes



Here's Ron Mayuyu (left), Environmental Engineering Associate IV and manager of Sanitation's Los Angeles Environmental Learning Center at Hyperion (ELC), being photographed at one of the ELC's outside exhibits by the Club's Summy Lam.

### *Alive!* Cover Picture

