

Have Fun
in 2014!

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City Employees Club of Los Angeles | Vol. 13 • No. 1 | January 2014

Serving over 30,000
City and DWP Employees

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Adventure
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Alive!



Convention Center

A Job Well Done

As the City (mostly) privatizes the Convention Center, *Alive!* looks back at the many successes of its employees.

SEE PAGE 22

BONUS:
Photos from the
Conv. Center
farewell party.
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City Employees Club of Los Angeles
120 West 2nd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The City Parties!

An *Alive!*
tradition!

— See page 28

Convention Center

A Job Well Done

Veteran Convention Center employees say goodbye to their former workspace, and then to each other with a final farewell party.

Most Convention Center staffers spent the final months of 2012 moving to their new assignments within the City, or elsewhere. On Oct. 9, the City Council voted to move management of the Convention Center to an outside contractor, AEG, for at least the next five years.

The decision was said to have been made to better connect the center with AEG's worldwide network in the event and trade convention industry.

The Convention Center remains a City facility, and a small skeleton crew of City Employees – and Club Members – will remain on hand to help

manage the facility and look out for the City's interests.

It's clear to anyone who reads *Alive!* that the Convention Center staff has done an awesome job over the years of updating the plant and keeping its offerings fresh. Here, as a tribute to the men and women who ran the Convention Center, *Alive!* looks back at our Convention Center stories... and the good things its employees achieved.

The Club congratulates all the former Convention Center employees for the job you did, and wishes you good luck in your new endeavors.

NEXT PAGE:
Memories of the Conv. Center



At the farewell party, from left: Sharon Dean, Clerk Typist; Maria Reyes, Special Projects; Dinna Jean, Management Analyst I; and Meredith Gaines, Clerk Typist.



At the farewell party, from left: Myrna Pietri, Event Manager; Michael McCarthy, Principal Clerk; and Jacqui Davis, Event Manager.



BELOW: Enjoying the farewell party was Josie Serrano, Clerk Typist. Behind her is Officer Jose Verduzco.



ABOVE: At the farewell party are Luis Aguilar, Secretary, Club Member; and Brittani Kauf, Clerk Typist, and now a Customer Service Rep from the DWP.

BELOW: Club CEO John Hawkins and Adria Ybarra, Executive Administrative Assistant III, Club Member, at the farewell party. Adria remains as part of the small City crew at the Convention Center.



Alive! Feature

Thank You!

The Club thanks Adria Ybarra and Luis Aguilar for their assistance with this story.



The Farewell Party

Convention Center employees both veteran and new threw a farewell party Dec. 6 at El Compadre downtown. More than 160 people attended.

The Convention Center employees would typically raise funds throughout the year to pay for an end-of-the-year holiday party. This year, the employees decided to host a farewell party instead. There was no formal program, except that Executive Director Bud Ovrom spoke briefly to those gathered.

Here are some photos from the event. The Club thanks Adria Ybarra, Club Member, who's remaining as part of the skeleton crew at the Convention Center, for her assistance in producing this article.

BELOW: Rey Castro, Chief BOE, with Club CEO John Hawkins at the farewell party.



BELOW: At the farewell party, from left: Monica Shelton, Principal Clerk; Annett Anderson, Payroll Supervisor; Rose Watson, Sales Manager; and Rosetta Mackenzie, Systems Manager.



At the farewell party, from left: Adria Ybarra, Executive Administrative Assistant III, Club Member; Jacqui Davis, Event Manager; and Myrna Pietri, Event Manager.

At the farewell party, from left: Carlos Pulido, Electrician; Pat Hermosillo, Sr, Clerk Typist; and Kevin Rodriguez, Plumbing Supervisor.



ABOVE: At the farewell party, from left: Monica Shelton; Karen Won, Clerk Typist; and Inda Salazar, Parking Attendant.



RIGHT: At the farewell party, from left: Jose Orozco, Clerk Typist; Michael Bernard, Maintenance and Construction Worker; and former Assistant General Manager Phillip Hill.



At the farewell party, from left: Victoria Law, Chief Accountant; Claudia Brett, Sr. Sales Manager; and Pam Hirneisen, Vice President of Sales.

RIGHT: Enjoying the farewell party is Marta Rivas, Event Attendant.



A Job Well Done

Convention Center Memories

Employees of the Convention Center share their memories with *Alive!*

My reign was just short of three years with LACC. However, from day one I felt like part of a big, big family! Thank you so much for all your help, kind words and just a simple smile to make my everyday workday a pleasure. I'm moving on to Sanitation and will take a piece of all of you with me! Again, I will not say goodbye but see you later as I know our paths will cross again!

— Meredith Gaines, Administrative Services

24 years ago, at the tender age of 18, I began employment here at the Los Angeles Convention Center. In that time I have learned so much, accomplished a lot, and made many friends.

I have spent more than half my life here at the center, so this departure is near and dear to me. I want to thank all of you for your support, being that I was an extreme introvert. Some of you identified that and helped me through the meetings and other public speaking events. In my old age I have finally conquered that fear.

Anyway, I will greatly miss this place, not only because I have learned so much and enjoy the work but for the people that I have developed relationships with and truly became family.

I will be reporting to Public Works, where I begin my new chapter.

Until we cross paths again God bless and good luck!
— James Simon

I have enjoyed many things in my 29 years here at LACC, including challenging projects, great clients, the South Hall and Concourse expansion, creation of new events, etc... but the thing I have enjoyed most is the fellowship and camaraderie we have shared over the years. The "things" we accomplish can be rewarding, however, the human connection and interaction and the "who" we are doing these things with is everything. Once again, it has been a sincere joy, honor and privilege working with you.

To those of you venturing off to other City departments, I wish you all the best in your new job. May you make the most of your new opportunity, and be blessed with many rewards.

To those of you continuing with the remaining group, and those transferring to AEG, I look forward to continuing our working relationship and in our continued effort to make LACC all it can be.

— Thomas Fields, Chief Operating Officer, Assistant General Manager

It's been a pleasure working with you beautiful people of the Convention Center. I'm happy that my first job here in America is in the Los Angeles Convention Center.

I'm proud to be a member of this "world-class facility" serving people from all walks of life. As Mr. Ovrom said, "As you leave the building, you should hold your head up, for you did an outstanding job." Thank you! Until next time.

— Josephine Serrano, Clerk Typist/Timekeeper, Security Services

I've served the Los Angeles Convention Center for the past 19 years of my life. There are several of you that I've been there with from my beginning and others I've met along the way. I look back over the years and I have many fond thoughts of the fun we've shared as we cranked out our "World Class Service."

The many nights spent here, working late just to ensure that we had all aspects of our shows ready. The birthdays we've celebrated, the babies we've all waited for with excitement to arrive and ultimately come into the fold. The marriages, Christmas parties, contractor parties and events. It's all been such a wonderful ride. I thank you all for being a part of that ride and welcoming me into the fold that became family.

I will miss my Convention Center family more than I have words to express. Farewell my friends/family, I so hope to see you all again in our futures.

— Jacqui Davis-Frazier, Event Manager

From February 1984 to December 2013 – I have spent more than half my life here at the center; it's been a good run.

I will be reporting to General Services/Piper Tech. Until we meet again, God bless.

— Stephen Alderete, Sr. Mechanical Repairer II, Fuel Coordinator

During the last couple of months I have been very touched by all of the "farewell" messages I have seen from departing LACC employees.

Although I have only been with you a few months, it is very clear what a great sense of "family" the Convention Center has had.

In this one last message to that family, I want to again express my great admiration for the outstanding work all of you have contributed to the Convention Center during your time here. Particularly during these last few difficult months of transition, your dedication and commitment has been nothing short of heroic.

As I have said before, the decision to "privatize" was based on broader considerations and is *not* a reflection on your personal work. As you leave the building for the last time, I hope you hold your head high

— you did an outstanding job!

Each of us will now head down different paths – some to retirement, some to other City departments, some to AEG and a few staying here. To each and every one of you, I thank and congratulate you for your outstanding service to the City of Los Angeles and to the L.A. Convention Center. You will forever still be a part of the LACC family. If there is ever anything we can do to help with your transition, please do not hesitate to contact us.

My very best wishes.

— Bud Ovrom, Executive Director

I have enjoyed working here for a little more than 13 years. It has been a good ride. From the glory days when we had money and staff, to recent times understaffed, figuring out a way to make it work. I have learned a lot during my stay here. I will carry those experiences to my new City adventure at Rec and Parks. I wish you all the best.

— Thomas Turner, Sr. Plumber

APRIL 2009



SEPT. 2008



Alive! Feature

A look back at the Convention Center in the pages of

Alive!

Employees at the Convention Center have been great Club Members for decades. They've done admirable work keeping the facility up to date, and in doing so they've formed a family with their coworkers. It's been the pleasure of *Alive!* to report on their achievements and celebrations. Here are some of them.

Success, Sustained

The Convention Center is the first building in the city to be LEED Platinum certified. It's also the first building in the world to be LEED Platinum certified.

A Tour of Key Elements in the LEED-EB Certification

The LEED process was one of the hardest projects I've ever dealt with before.

Taking the Lead On LEED

ROY CASTRO SPEAKS AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ABOUT THE CENTER'S IMPRESSIVE SUSTAINABILITY ACHIEVEMENTS.

ROY CASTRO, CHIEF BUILDING OFFICER, CONVENTION CENTER, EMPLOYED WITH THE CENTER'S SUSTAINABILITY SUCCESS AS A LEADER IN THE LEED EB CERTIFICATION PROCESS.

Eboné at the Auto Show

New Club Counselor Eboné Moses visits the Convention Center during the Auto Show.

Getting the Gold

LEED Green Building, awarded through the GreenSource program, LEED EB Gold certification.

Student Guidance

Convention Center uses Auto Show to help high schoolers 'Get in Touch' with their future.

Award Winning ... and Green

Convention Center is the first in the United States of its size to be awarded with Level Green Building Certification.

DEC. 2007

JAN. 2009

APRIL 2011

Forever Green

Sustainability is key at the Convention Center, with a new effort towards a higher LEED EB certification, and a recent focus on solar power.

OCT. 2009

Putting on One Really Big Show

Show set-up needs 14 days around the clock.

LA Auto Show at the Los Angeles Convention Center

Alive!

How Will You Spend Your Refund Cash?

Party Time For Harbor's 100th Birthday

Putting on One Really Big Show

Convention Center goes all out to produce one of its biggest events of the year, the annual Los Angeles International Auto Show.

Club Holiday Gifts!

