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A Message From the CEO

Alive! Honors The Best of LA

by John Hawkins,
 President and CEO, The Club

It's not often we here at *Alive!* have cover stories in consecutive months that are related to each other. We try to spread things out. But this month (and last) – that's what's happened. And it makes sense.

We developed the two stories – last month's highlighted the ITA, and this month it's the Quality and Productivity Awards – independently, and they had something in common. It wasn't intentional, but it's not coincidence, as we like to feature the good news of the City.

That applies to both stories.

I'm not surprised that ITA's MyLA311 phone app, developed by ITA last year and featured here last month, is one of 21 projects chosen by the CAO's Quality and Productivity Commission as a great, innovative project that showcases the best the City has to offer. (It's showcased on page 28 this month.) The app is awesome. I use it a lot. How about you? You should! It's that good, and getting better. (Congrats again to **Steve Reneker** and his crew from ITA and the other departments involved, including the DWP and Public Works, for winning a Quality and Productivity Award.)



Club CEO John Hawkins (left) displays the award-winning MyLA311 app, developed by ITA General Manager Steve Reneker (right) and his crew.

Of all the subjects the Club features in *Alive!* each year, the annual Quality and Productivity Awards is one of our favorites. Why? Because it does exactly what we do – we celebrate the lives of City employees, and the amazing work they do. Just check out some of this year's winning projects:

- there's our Club friend **Tony Pratt** and his Public Works surveying crew, solving a time and budget crunch;
- a cool new remote pipe clearer device devised by Public Works/Sanitation that we must do a story on;
- the LAPD Crime Lab's hard work and innovative thinking for getting through its backlog of DNA kits, which we've covered;
- Sanitation's program to better manage the wire trash bins throughout the City;
- A General Services/Animal Services collaboration, including **Armando Navarrete** and **Mark Salazar**, that uses the Animal Services vehicles more efficiently; and
- projects by Aging, the Harbor, Finance and on and on that are really impressive.

In fact, it's kind of amazing how many of the winners are people we've covered recently here in *Alive!*, either for their winning project or something else, without even knowing it. That tells me we're definitely on the right track.

We're also glad that the Quality and Productivity Awards are permanent again, and well produced. CAO was forced to suspend them during the budget crunch, and that was understandable but sad. These projects need to be recognized, and we're glad the awards are rock-solid again. The awards take up a big chunk of our paper this month, and that's just fine with us. Telling the great news of the City is what we do here!

I want to thank **Freddy A. Carrillo** of the CAO Office, who worked hard to get us all the background information and photos for our story. It seems like he would not go to bed without making sure all the photos were transmitted correctly for that day! Thanks, Freddy.

Speaking of good Club friends, let me send a belated congratulations to Club Member **Geraldine Knatz**, Ph.D., who recently retired from being the General Manager (actually Executive Director) of the Harbor. Geraldine oversaw some pretty big changes at the all-important Port, including lots of projects to reduce pollution in a major way. On a more personal note, she was also part of one of our best *Alive!* photos ever (taken by the Club's **Angel Gomez** and art directed by *Alive!* editor **John Burnes**), and she was a great sport to be a part of it. Perhaps we'll run that next time.

I'm delighted that our newish History Comes *Alive!* columnist, City Archivist **Michael Holland**, is now narrating some of his pieces on one of the City's public radio stations, KPCC. I like that kind of connection across media. Look to the end of his column on page 36. (And keep up the good writing, Michael! I'm enjoying them.)

Don't forget to send in those photos! Send us your Mother's and Father's Day tributes, graduations, weddings, the photos with your pets, and on and on. We want to share your good news, so send 'em in!

So is this finally going to be the year for the Dodgers? It was close last year, and the Boys in Blue have retooled for an even deeper playoff run in 2014. Check out the Dodgers deals that **Mariana Guevara** and the Club Store staff have put together for you.

Which means it's now spring. Take advantage of the many great deals the Club has for you to get outside and enjoy our amazing weather. See you next month.

JOHN

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DODGER BLUE!

Great Club deals on Dodger tickets.

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