

AEROGRAMME

NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF LOS ANGELES WORLD AIRPORTS

Final Step Taken to Upgrade Airport Police Status

The final step has been taken in giving Los Angeles Airport Police officers the same policing powers as municipal law enforcement agencies, such as the Los Angeles County Sheriff's and City of Los Angeles Police departments, as well as other major commercial airports in California.

Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners (BOAC) and Los Angeles Police Commissioners have approved a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to fulfill the requirements of Assembly Bill 128, the last condition necessary to meet the requirements of AB 128.

AB 128 was approved by the California State legislature and signed by Governor Jerry Brown in October 2013. The MOA enables the BOAC to request the Los Angeles Police Commission's Inspector General to conduct audits of some Airport Police functions. These audits will be for the sole use of the BOAC.

Airport Police Chief **Patrick Gannon** said, "The passage of this important legislation was a direct result of broad-based support received from labor and management and especially from State Assembly Member Steven Bradford,

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles World Airports Executive Director **Gina Marie Lindsey**, the Los Angeles Airport Police Officers Association, and many law enforcement leaders."

"The traveling public deserves no less," Gannon added.

AB 128 provides Los Angeles Airport Police officers with enhanced peace officer powers to protect the millions of passengers who travel through Los Angeles International, LA/Ontario International, and Van Nuys airports each year.

The new law will enable Airport Police to seize firearms or other deadly weapons in domestic violence cases; remove unsafe vehicles from public roadways; transport bomb-detection training aids; and enhance additional laws necessary to protect the City's airports against the threat of terrorism in a post-9/11 world.



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My Best Shot

PUP Program Celebrates First Year at LAX



Len Taitan

PUP AND FRIEND – Pets Unstressing Passengers (PUP) therapy dog **Finn** greets a traveler at LAX.

Passengers inside Terminal 3 at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) were wary and tense on November 2, 2013, as **Finn** strode in just one day after a gunman had opened fire, killing a Transportation Security Administration screening officer. As Finn moved in and out of the boarding gate areas, the mood quickly shifted as passengers began to relax and smile at the giant therapy dog.

Finn is an Irish Wolfhound and one of the largest members of the LAX Pets Unstressing Passengers (PUP) program, which is celebrating its one-year anniversary this month. LAX's PUP

LAWA Hosts Environmental Coalition

Nancy Price
Environmental Services



Nancy Price

*DISCUSSING ACTIVITIES – LAWA Environmental Affairs Officer **Carolyn Lin** discusses airport environmental activities with South Bay Business Environmental Coalition attendees during LAWA-hosted mixer at the Flight Path learning Center and Museum.*

Los Angeles World Airports Environmental Services Division recently hosted the South Bay Business Environmental Coalition's first quarter Mixer at the Flight Path Learning Center and Museum with more than 30 attendees.

The featured speaker, Environmental Affairs Officer **Carolyn Lin**, presented an overview of LAWA's environmental, educational and outreach programs and covered some of the challenges LAWA faces when implementing environmental programs. Attendees also toured the facility.

The successful event made local business representatives more aware of LAWA's environmental programs and ways that have enabled it to overcome many challenges.

In addition, it inspired attendees to become more involved with LAWA; some attendees wanted to volunteer to help remove non-native plants in the LAX Dunes while others wanted to become involved with its recycling efforts.

Flight Path Board Elects Nancy Niles As New President

Nancy Niles was elected president and board chair of Flight Path Learning Center and Museum during a recent meeting of the nonprofit organization's board



Nancy Niles

of directors. Flight Path operates an aviation museum and learning center in the Imperial Terminal at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

Niles, a resident of Pacific Palisades, previously served as Flight Path's corporate secretary and is a longtime member of the board. She is the former director of LAX's Community Relations Division and has long been active in LAX-area community organizations.

Named to chair standing committees are **Ethel L. Pattison** of Manhattan Beach, museum operations; Vincent Migliazzo of Westchester, flight simulator training programs; and Robert Acherman of Torrance, electronic communications. Continuing in office are **Lee Nichols**, executive director and former director of public relations at LAX, and Beverly Migliazzo, recording secretary. Bill Miller of Virgin Australia Airlines was approved as a new member of the board.

LAWA Calendar Photo Contest is Underway

The annual LAWA Calendar Photo Contest is underway with a deadline for entries set for October 17.

The winning entries will be prominently featured in an official LAWA 2015 calendar, as recommended by employees through Project LIFToff. Submitted photos must have been taken in 2013-2014.

The contest is open to all active and contracted employees of Los Angeles World Airports with a maximum of six entries per contestant.

For additional information and rules regarding the contest, go to: http://insidelawa/uploadedFiles/Project_LiftOff/2015%20LAWA%20Photo%20Calendar%20Contest%20Rules.pdf

PUP Program

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Program is one of the nation's largest airport-run, therapy-dog programs.

Finn's owner, Brian Valente, has been a part of the PUPs since its inception and recalls how Finn's mighty presence and gentle strength comforted passengers the day after the shooting.

"When people normally see Finn, they are taken aback by his size. On his hind legs, Finn can stand taller than some men," said Valente. "I think after the shooting, Finn attracted attention because he represented something comforting. As passengers asked questions about Finn and started to pet him, I could see their bodies relax and their demeanors change."

In celebration of their one-year anniversary and last week's National Volunteer Week, the PUPs was recognized at the Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners meeting on April 21.

Brian and Finn are one of 30 PUP volunteer-and-pet teams that have joined LAX's customer service efforts to enhance the passenger experience. PUP volunteers and their dogs roam airline boarding-gate areas, greeting passengers and helping reduce travel anxiety.

PUP volunteers see an immediate impact and transformation of passengers ranging from the well-versed frequent traveler to a first-time novice. Anecdotes about the PUPs' impact on passengers range from reducing the anxiety of those with a fear of flying to comforting those who may have just lost a loved one or even a beloved pet.

All PUP volunteers and dogs are registered with Therapy Dogs, Inc., a national organization that registers, insures, and supports members involved in volunteer animal-assisted activities. These activities include visits to hospitals, special needs centers, schools, nursing homes, and airports.

The dogs and handlers – both in red vests with the PUP logo – supplement the LAX customer service team that includes 300 Volunteer Information Professionals (VIP) and 150 Customer Service Representatives, all part of an effort to create a positive and friendly airport experience.

To learn more about the PUP or VIP programs, contact the VIP Office at (424) 646-8471 or e-mail vip@lawa.org. Applications for both programs can be found at www.lawa.org/VIP.

These Employees Help Keep LAX Facilities Green

Melissa Altamirano
VNY Public Relations Division

If you see an e-car with a vase of roses inside, you'll know it's being driven by **Ionela Martinescu**, an LAX landscape maintenance employee. "I'm the Rose Lady," she says.

Martinescu, an eight-year employee with LAWA, came to the U.S. 25 years ago. She is one of the employees responsible for keeping LAWA's buildings' plants green.

She grew up on a farm in Romania and was taught to grow food organically. So, as she grew older, she naturally gravitated toward horticulture and plant maintenance. Her father, a former forest engineer with plenty of knowledge on the subject, taught her how to propagate and multiply garden and plant foods, and her knowledge and passion for horticulture blossomed.

Prior to joining LAWA, Martinescu took on casual jobs, including one as a junior accountant when she realized

that wasn't what she wanted to be. "I liked gardening," she said. "That's what I like to do."

She then enrolled in classes at Cerritos College in horticulture. From courses in landscaping to irrigation and pesticides, she sought the knowledge she needed to enable her to find a career in her life-long hobby of gardening.

At LAX, she maintains indoor and outdoor vegetation in the Clifton A. Moore Administration areas, the two atriums in Terminal 1, the mezzanine in Terminal 2, as well as other locations.

Martinescu also maintains a full garden at home filled with fruit trees, grapevines and roses. She also spends time with her grandchild teaching him the names of trees and plants in her garden. Her other hobbies include reading, crafting, needlework and traveling. She travels to Romania and Canada every five years.



Melissa Altamirano

Ionela Martinescu

Dorla Baptist has been with Los Angeles World Airports for 32 years and is completing her last year at LAX before retiring. She worked 11 years at LA/Ontario International Airport and 21 years at LAX in plant maintenance. Her duties take her to the Administration West area, the Airport Police station and other locations.

With so many years of service, Baptist has witnessed many changes and growth both in and around LAX.

"I've seen it all," she says. "That In-N-Out used to be a Taco Bell or Del Taco. That parking lot used to be a shopping area."

"I've seen so much change, that's how I know it's time for me to go!" she jokes. Baptist will retire in spring 2015 and is looking forward to enjoying time with family and traveling.

Her traveling plans include visiting her native Belize to see family and for the peaceful green environment, clear blue waters, and fresh air.

"I also plan to spend time watching my grandkids grow up and enjoy them for a little while," she said.

Other travel destinations include Las Vegas to see her son, and Hawaii and Jamaica. If she's not visiting family abroad, you can find her playing bingo. "It's gotten big" she said, and has become a favorite fun time for her.



Melissa Altamirano

Dorla Baptist

LAWA Runners Compete in L.A. Marathon

Five members of Los Angeles World Airports responded to the Aerogramme's search for employees who participated in and completed annual Los Angeles Marathon on March 9. They were:

- **Kim Fietes**, Commercial Development Group, 4 hours, 17 minutes and 46 seconds.
- **David NwaChukwu**, Office of IT Project Management, 4 hours, 27 minutes and 55 seconds
- **Nigel Smith**, Airport Police, 5 hours, 22 minutes and 53 seconds
- **Paul Panagiotidis**, Maintenance Services-Ontario, 5 hours, 23 minutes and 54 seconds.
- **Kevin Breslin**, Office of IT Project Management, 5 hours and 52 minutes

The 26.2-mile marathon, with its scenic "Stadium to the Sea" route, took runners from Dodger Stadium to the Santa Monica Pier.



Airport Police Softball Team Takes First Place

Bravo Tango, Airport Police Division's softball team, took the first place trophy in the first annual Southwest Airlines Softball Tournament in Los Angeles. Southwest Airlines teams from throughout the United States travelled to Los Angeles for the tournament. Bravo Tango was the only non-airline team invited to participate.

"We're pleased to have participated in the tournament," said team captain **Shane Young**. "It allowed us to build a stronger relationship with the aviation community."

Bravo Tango has played in numerous softball tournaments, including the local "Guns and Hoses" tournament involving police officers and firefighters, and the Las Vegas Police Games, in which Bravo Tango won a bronze medal in 2011.

Team Bravo Tango, established in 2009, consists of 10 sworn and civilian members of Airport Police Division.

Airport Police sworn and civilian employees interested in joining team Bravo Tango are urged to sign up by contacting Young at (714) 401-3517 by e-mail at syoung2@lawa.org.



WINNING TEAM – Bravo Tango softball team members are, pictured from left, front row: **Javier Parga, Erik Perez, Robert Gallegos, Shane Young, Richard Flores, Albert Carlos, Santiago Sanchez, and Anthony Ortiz**. Back row, from left: **Mike Rasmussen, John Lopez, Daniel Gardea, Frank Cortinas, and Brian Lopez**.

AEROGRAMME

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My Best Shot



EXISTING PEACEFULLY – This photo was taken by Management Analyst II **Lisa Kim** in Accounting Operations at Gold Harbour in the sub-Antarctic region of South Georgia (UK), a British overseas territory in the southern Atlantic Ocean. The landscape features a colony of King penguins and their molting chicks during the southern summer. The penguins exist peacefully among Antarctic fur seals and southern elephant seals that were breeding during this time. In the background is a hanging glacier.