**Message From The President**

On August 14th The FOHP Board of Directors held their Monthly Board Meeting and choose the occasion to pay tribute to one of Los Angeles Counties very own. Kimel Conway, Regional Operations Manager, who has been a strong and loyal supporter of this organization is retiring from County Service after 37 years in Governmental Service. Kimel, a native of Maryland, has served the last 14 years and 8 months with Los Angeles County and will leave behind an impressive legacy, especially here at William S. Hart Park. It was only fitting that a man who is so well loved here at Hart Park be given a proper retirement send off. The board choose the August meeting to thank Kimel for all of his support by treating him to a Lasagna Dinner followed by presentations which included an original autographed copy of Bill Hart's Autobiography "My Life East and West" from 1930. He was also presented certificates and made a lifetime honorary member of the Friends of Hart Park.

Kimel started his service with Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation back in 1999 where he began as Chief of Planning with the Department and later became Deputy Director of the Capital Projects Agency, and following that was the Chief of Grants for the Department. In this capacity Kimel's responsibilities included oversight of project planning, design, environmental reviews, open space land acquisitions and competitive grant awards for the department. In June 2005 Kimel was appointed Regional Operations Manager for the newly created "Regional Facilities Agency" where he was in charge of overseeing the operations of seven nature centers, four botanic gardens, three historic properties and fourteen wildlife sanctuaries. Kimel's many job responsibilities covered an area that spanned from Catalina Island to Castaic, and of course the William S. Hart Park and Museum.

Everyone here at Hart Park got to know Kimel as a friend and a man who is as genuine as they come . He leaves behind some really big shoes to fill. We wish Kimel a very happy retirement, which he surely does deserve. Here at Bill Hart's Horseshoe Ranch, Kimel will be remembered as one of the "Good Guys" and will be sorely missed.

*Laurene Weste is the Friends of Hart Park President, and Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Santa Clarita*