

Phillip Ow, Employee of the Month



With a County career spanning over 30 years, Phillip Ow is currently a Program Specialist III in the Loss Control and Prevention Section of the Chief Administrative Office's Risk Management Branch. His duties include working with County departments to identify and control their workers' compensation and liability costs, correct workplace safety hazards, and improve employee productivity and well-being through a safe and healthy work environment.



Lily and Phil Ow host a dinner celebrating Phil's accomplishment.

Before it was fashionable, Phil stressed the importance of having properly designed ergonomically correct computer work stations. As a member of the Los Angeles County Joint Labor-Management Committee on Office Ergonomics (a collaborative effort of County management and SEIU, Local 660), Phil fully supports the Committee's efforts to educate County employees on the importance of good workplace design. He was instrumental in producing the Committee's widely distributed educational booklet, "Working Safely with Computers." He has coordinated the Committee's participation in the County of Los Angeles Wellness Fairs for the past several years, and its biannual sponsorship of the Office Ergonomics Vendor Fair.



Phil serves on the Department of Public Social Services' Labor Management Ergonomic Advisory Committee, advising it on instituting its ergonomic program. In introducing the program to the Department, he trained over 150 of their ergonomic coordinators to recognize and understand the need for good office design. Over the years, Phil has trained over 3,000 employees on health and safety topics, including computer ergonomics. During his career, one of his fondest memories is having had the opportunity to meet with many different County employees and learning that teamwork, respect and kindness goes a long way in making the County a better place for all.



Phil serves on the Executive Board of the Los Angeles County Asian American Employees Association (LACAAEA). He has been an active member since 1976, and served as the President of the Association during 1981-82. In recognition of his commitment and dedicated services to the Association, Phil was presented with two awards in 2002, including a Certificate of Recognition from the California State Senate and Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from the U.S. House of Representatives.

Believing that it is better to give than to receive, Phil's way of giving back to the community, church, and helping those less fortunate is through volunteerism. "Let's all work together to make the County and our community a better place for the present and future generations," says Phil.



Having graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in geography from San Fernando Valley State College in Northridge, Ow also holds a Master of Science degree in environmental health from California State University, Northridge. For his current position, he maintains certification in various aspects of asbestos abatement. He enjoys traveling, photography, cooking, and spending time with his wife, Lily, and their two sons, Gregory and Geoffrey. As proud and supportive parents, Phil says “we feel both boys are a blessing to our lives since they provide so much happiness and joy.”

For your accomplishments and dedicated service to the County, a heartfelt congratulations Phillip Ow!



Editor's note: Phillip Ow, Chief Administrative Office, and a LACAAEA Executive Board member, was honored as the County Employee of the Month for November 2004. This article appeared in the December 2004 issue of the COUNTY DIGEST, edited by Martina Abgaryan.