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LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Dorothy Bilecki, May's Leisure Worlder of the Month, helped organize the community's new bus routes.

News photo by Rod Veal

A quiet spokesperson

May honoree makes sure she knows what's going on

By Cheryl Walker
The News

She is frequently seen seated near the post toward the back of the Administration Building Board Room. If it's a Golden Rain Foundation or Third Mutual meeting, city of Laguna Wood Council meeting, or any one of a number of committees, Dorothy Bilecki is there

She doesn't often speak, but she listens, and she acts.

The Leisure World Historical Society's May honoree is proof you don't have to be an insider to garner attention.

Dorothy Bilecki is first and foremost a concerned resident and in the 26 years she's lived in Leisure World she's demonstrated that concern on numerous committees and ad hoc groups, in particular those regarding transportation.

Bilecki will be honored as Leisure Worlder of the Month Wednesday, May 1 at 10 a.m. in

Clubhouse 6.

Although Bilecki says she is

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<p>Ceremony facts</p> <p>Who: Dorothy Bilecki What: Leisure Worlder of the Month Where: Clubhouse 6 When: 10 a.m., Wednesday, May 1 Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society</p>
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HONOREE

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astounded she was selected by the Society for her activism, those who have worked with her over the years say the distinction is long overdue for their competent, hard working and always upbeat colleague.

Bert Posthill, former United Mutual director and Community Civic Association president, says he's known Bilecki for many years and has been impressed by her dedication, interest and help. "She's been a real stalwart and a good person in many, many ways."

Another outstanding volunteer in her own right and a former Leisure Worlder of the Month Virginia Templeton adds that Bilecki brings a lot of history to any undertaking. "She's what we'd hope all good residents would be: informed, caring, always doing her share of the work; a person of real integrity."

And volunteer and friend, Grete Rothschild, is thrilled that the Society has singled Bilecki out. "She is so fast thinking, has an absolutely great mind, and I think it's wonderful

that she's getting the recognition she deserves."

Background: Bilecki, an Illinois native, says she was basically a stay-at-home mom before she moved to Leisure World, participating in the usual community organizations one would expect for the mother of school aged children, such as the PTA and Girl Scouts.

She and her husband moved from the Windy City in 1954 to Los Angeles which was their home for 22 years before they moved to Leisure World in 1976.

Bilecki credits former Third Mutual and Golden Rain Director Dixon Trueblood with getting her involved in Leisure World activities. After Laguna Woods incorporation (which she worked diligently for) she also got involved in city activities because, she says, "Leisure World must live in the world as well."

Her activities list includes the Golden Rain community relations committee (for 14 ½ years), the Third Mutual nominating committee, the Community Association and subsequent Community Civic Association, Laguna Woods transportation advisory group,

Leisure World's transportation subcommittee and Leisure World earthquake and disaster preparedness task force.

In fact, she and other dedicated volunteers helped fine-tune the new Leisure World bus routes that will premiere May 22.

She also regularly attends key meetings.

"It's so important to attend meetings. You can't understand what's happening if you're not properly informed," explains Bilecki.

When she's not attending meetings, Bilecki is far from idle. She loves to walk and is a contestant in the Laguna Woods Exercise Challenge this year.

She sews clothes and makes quilts for relatives and friends, does crosswords, reads, crochets lap robes for invalids, listens to music and gives blood ... that is until she had to quit doing so because she made herself anemic.

Asked what makes her so attentive to the business of the city and community, Bilecki says it is part of her upbringing and what makes her tick.

"It's just part of my values to be strict, disciplined and fair."