



LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Activist gets Society's February nod



Virginia Templeton, in front of her building, has been active in many facets of Leisure World life, but really prefers to stay out of the spotlight.

Photo by Rod Veal/The News

Virginia Templeton prefers to stay out of the spotlight

By Cheryl Walker
The News

"Unassuming," "thorough," "conscientious," "hard working" are just a few of the most common adjectives associated with the Historical Society's February Leisure Worlder of the Month.

A resident since 1979, Virginia Templeton has worked for the community tirelessly and with great enthusiasm, but, for the most part, out of the spotlight. Yet, as any mutual or Golden Rain director knows, no one works harder or more efficiently to do a good job in whatever committee, subcommittee, study or research group she is assigned.

She is an earthquake task force coordinator and building captain, has served as president of the Women's Golf Club, was a board member of the Garden Villa Association, has

worked on numerous special assignment tasks for Third Mutual and served on two Third and three Golden Rain nominating committees.

Golden Rain Director Harry Curtis says "I can think of absolutely no one who is more deserving of this honor than Virginia."

Adds Charles Little, president of the Tennis Club and Community Association officer, "She combines common sense with great insight and organizational talent (and) ... richly deserves recognition as Leisure Worlder of the Month and one of our outstanding residents."

And former Third Director Jim Hart points out that there are two kinds of people in the world - talkers and doers - with Templeton definitely falling into the latter category. "If she goes into any organization she becomes one of its pillars, she's

Ceremony facts

Who: Virginia Templeton
What: Leisure Worlder for February
Where: Clubhouse 6
When: 10 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 7
Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society.

ultra dependable—you know she is going to do a good job—there is no one higher in my book."

Background: Templeton enjoyed the rural beauties of her native Golden State in her youth following her dad, a civil engineer, to his various assignments.

She received her bachelor's degree from the UCLA and her masters from the University of Southern California in education and psychology and, throughout a long and reward-

ing career, helped train teachers and develop educational programs for the developmentally disabled, the mentally and physically handicapped and autistic children on local, county and state levels.

Although Templeton lived in Leisure World two years in the mid 1960s, she didn't make it her permanent home until she retired in 1979.

But even though Templeton retired from education, she didn't stop working. "I'm driven to be connected," she explains noting that soon after she moved she decided to become a security guard and was assigned to Gate 3.

She held the job for three years and recommends it to any newcomer to the community.

"It's the best way to know the community, the people and the activities."

Through the years, she also took up golf and tennis, became involved in the Democratic and Keyboard Clubs and Mac Users group, delivered Meals on Wheels (five years), became involved with the earthquake task force and governance and threw herself into causes which she believed in from cityhood to the fight to stop the commercialization of the former Marine Base at El Toro, even when the battles were all up hill. "I'm like a bulldog, I don't like to quit."

To keep fit, she swims, works out at the gym, reads and stays involved.

In spite of her many contributions to the community, Templeton says she doesn't think she's worth all the fuss. "When you live this many years you never expect something earth-shaking like this to happen."

Templeton says she feels humbled by the recognition.

"All I've tried to do is be non-confrontational and honest."