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LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Club activist gets Society's nod

Former Kiwanis president likes doing things for others

By Cheryl Walker
The News

"I love Leisure World," says Mary Arine-Beer. And in the 14 years she's called the community home she's proved she's willing to do her part to keep it "the best place to retire."

"I have met so many wonderful people here."

In May, the Historical Society will recognize her work in the community as an active participant in a variety of clubs, with Leisure Worlder of the Month honors.

In spite of her contributions, Beer says she was surprised when the Society called. "I couldn't get out of my seat!"

"I just like service clubs which do things for other people," explains Beer.

To that end, she's been very active in Kiwanis as well as Ebell, the California Club, the Dutch Club and World on Film (she and her husband love to travel).

She's also a spiritual leader at Lake Hills Community Church and heads a "Kindness Circle" at the religious institution for seniors.

Third Mutual Director John Dudley, who sponsored Beer to enter Kiwanis when the service club opened its doors to women, says Beer brought enthusiasm and new ideas to the organization. "She's always thinking of how to give back to the club and the community."

Another Kiwanian, Ward Payne, says the former president of the club, has been active in many club committees "and brought in many new members too."

And, he added, she received the Hixon Fellowship Award for outstanding leadership in Kiwanis.



Mary Arine Beer was named Leisure Worlder of the Month for May by the Historical Society.

News photo by Rod Veal

Background The native Texan and retired executive secretary in Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley's office says her former job put her in contact with people from all over the world in every kind of endeavor.

"Mayor Bradley was great to work with and for too," she adds, noting that she spent 15 years overall working with the city, four in the mayor's office where she also was executive secretary to Deputy Mayor Grace Davis.

And she enjoyed day to day city work mightily, a high point being when the Olympics came to town in the 1980s. There

were bad days, though too, she'd like to forget, such as during the "burn, baby, burn" days of the L.A. riots.

But, there were many more good days than bad. And it was a joy to meet and greet politicians like Ronald Reagan, the president of Mexico "and many influential Spanish leaders"; numerous celebrities; and those who came everyday to the mayor's office for advice, assistance and help.

In high school, Beer discovered she had a knack for office management and took top marks in all secretarial, organizational and bookkeeping studies. After graduating, she took additional courses in business college as well.

But she didn't delay too long getting into the real world fray, starting in insurance adjusting and continually advancing in her responsibilities until her retirement in 1990.

But, now, she laughs at the word "retirement" explaining that between her club work and her travel (she's been to more than 60 countries), "I'm busy all the time."

Beer says that volunteering has historically been a part of her life, "I was always into something." In fact, she started at age 17 selling tickets to a horse show as a fundraiser.

Then there was the usual Parent Teacher Association, Girl Scout and Sunday School teaching stints. But, she adds, now that her time is not limited by a 9-5 job so she does not hold back from donating it freely, especially when it comes to working with youth groups, like the Kiwanettes and Key Clubs.

Volunteer work, she explains, in many ways is its own reward.

"You get back even more than you give, she explains. And though she rarely has a moment free, she says she would not change a thing. "What are we here on earth for but to help others?"

Cemetery facts

Who: Mary Arine-Beer
What: Leisure Worlder for May

Where: Clubhouse 6
When: 10 a.m., Wednesday, May 5

Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society with funding by Renaissance at the Regency and at the Wellington.
