

LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Late bloomer blossoms



HONOREE

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Bea Gometz, has lived for the last 19 years.

An anything but retiring retirement: Since Chyba's arrival, she's found Leisure World the perfect spot to take on and meet new challenges such as serving as a member of the United Board, mutual and Golden Rain committees and special study groups.

She's also become an active participant in the programs of various community clubs and organizations including the Harmonaires, Theatre Guild, American Italia Club, Women's American ORT, City of Hope, Nature Conservancy and International Folk Dance, Foreign Film and Saturday Night Dance clubs.

To judge how well she's met her challenges, one need only ask those who know her.

"Everybody loves Cynthia, she's a very talented young lady, a roll-up-the-sleeves kind of person: everything she does, she does well," says Charles Handler, a fellow thespian and member of Leisure World's Theatre Guild.

Former United Board President Jim Fox agrees Handler's assessment of Chyba is right on target. "She's such a

bright person-I worked with her two years on the board and she always does an outstanding job; she thinks through problems and is not afraid of taking a position and sticking to it."

Current United Board Director Bob Miller explains further that Chyba clearly analyzes problems and puts them in perspective and, on male-dominated committees, such as United's capital improvements, adds invaluable insights, particularly those from a women's perspective.

Another United Director Bert Posthill says, frankly, that Chyba is his favorite member of the board for her professionalism, knowledge of issues and constructive criticism and comments. "She also always has a cheerful, positive attitude-it's a pleasure to be around her."

Former Golden Rain and United Director Shirley O'Connor, who takes the credit for convincing Chyba to become involved in Leisure World governance, says when she met the (then) new resident she saw "an extremely sharp, astute business woman, the kind of person who knows what it means to run a multi-million dollar corporation, and she's been a very good, conscientious board member.

"It takes commitment of an

awful lot of hours to be a good board member-and Cynthia has that kind of commitment.”

Background: Chyba admits she's a good organizer-“but I'm a really a jack-of-all-trades, I can do everything pretty well but nothing very well.”

Chyba adds, however, that she does have a talent for working with people-and her career success provides the proof.

The New York native, who attended both Brooklyn and Queens College and the Eastman School of International Business, won certification as a compensation specialist from The American Compensation Association; captured four awards for administrative management from her employer of 25 years, photographic equipment manufacturer Agfa-Gevaert, Inc.; and, in 1982, garnered the New Jersey Tribute to Women in Industry Award.

She also honed her talent doing extra-curricular activities such as becoming an active member in her condominium association in New Jersey, serving as president of the Flushing (N.Y.) Business Women's Organization and teaching high school girls resume writing and job interviewing skills.

Enjoys helping others: Now, she says her favorite part about her board job is solving resident problems, especially during twice monthly resident information sessions where she gets to do just that in one-on-one meetings with mutual members.

Chyba says the most satisfying aspect of her career was “affecting individual lives in a positive way” and feels as a board member she can continue to do just that and help keep Leisure World “the wonderful community that it is.”

“This is the first place I have ever been where we-individuals-can make a difference.

Chyba says she enjoys being on the board even when the discussions get heated. “Other people have a right to their opinion-how boring if everyone agreed with everything.”

And Chyba adds she doesn't find the extra work a hardship. “I love this place, Leisure World is as close to heaven as we're likely to get-if we can stop people from sniping at each other over nothing and start treating our employees as friends.

“It's not us against them,” she points out. “It's only WE.”

To nominate someone for Leisure Worlder of the Month honors, write to the Leisure World Historical Society, PO Box 2220, Laguna Hills, 92654.