



# LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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## Building Leisure World's future today



## Bob Morton used expertise to enhance projects

Janine Swiatkowski/*The News*

Bob Morton, named by the Historical Society as Leisure Worlder for August, is overseeing the Society's addition to the Leisure World Library.

By Cheryl Walker  
The News

**H**is advice may not always be popular and he has his critics, says Bob Morton, but "I just tell the truth."

For more than a decade, the Historical Society's August Leisure Worlder of Month has made sure the maintenance dollars that command the biggest chunk of carrying charge assessments, are well and frugally spent.

Morton, a civil engineer, spares no effort to see jobs are done correctly whether it means walking the perimeter of Gate 14 to determine the best way to repair a leaning wall or overseeing bidding,

planning and construction of the Historical Society's new home, an addition to the Leisure World Library.

The Third generation native Californian and graduate of the UC Berkeley, began his career in community governance as an adviser to the Third Mutual Board before he was elected a director.

After four years with the mutual, he segued to the Golden Rain Board for another 4 ½ years.

And he plans, even after his term is up this fall, to continue sharing his expertise as an advisor.

His community involvement doesn't stop there either.

He's a past president of Leisure World's Men's Golf

Club and Los Amigos Bowling League, an associate member of Saddleback Hospital and a member of the community's Historical Society, Rod and Gun, World on Film and Jewelry clubs.

It's little wonder that when word got out about the Historical Society's choice it raised a chorus of support.

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### Ceremony facts

**Who:** Bob Morton

**What:** Leisure Worlder of the month for August

**Where:** Clubhouse 6

**When:** 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6

**Sponsor:** Leisure World Historical Society

# WORLDER

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"People have no idea of the dedication, energy and vision Bob Morton has contributed to the Leisure World community during his terms of office on the GRF (Golden Rain Foundation) Board-I don't believe the new Historical Society facility would have advanced as far as it has without him," says GRF President Matt Magidson.

"Bob Morton's career experience certainly did help facilitate the needs and details of the Historical Society's new home-he saw to it that the dotting of 'i's' and crossing of 't's' were properly executed," agrees former Historical Society President Harry Schwartz.

"Bob is a hard worker and a dedicated director who is always willing to share and offer his engineering expertise to help solve maintenance and construction-related problems; and he's always easy to talk to and willing to meet at any time to help in any way he can to facilitate projects," adds Del Mourer, maintenance director.

"His dedication to serving the Leisure World community would be difficult for one person to equal," says John Wheelock, planning and engineering services manager.

"He's unequivocally the best qualified director for M&C," says former Golden Rain President Walter Penn.

**Background** Born in Pomona, Morton credits a 9th grade counselor with steering him towards a career in engineering.

After earning his professional credentials, he took his first job with the U. S. Navy where, as a naval architect, he had a variety of jobs, among them testing new deep submergence submarines to determine how far down they could dive without problems.

After that he served as a shop manager for a manufacturing plant, a structural engineer for heavy construction projects and a senior project manager for Ralph M. Parsons.

A few of his assignments in these posts included producing design documents for sewage treatment plants, a bus terminal, support facilities for

Titan 1, 2 and 3 missile launching activities, shipyards, water pollution control and industrial plants, and airport, nuclear, surveillance and electronic facilities.

One of the most interesting projects, Morton recalls, was while he was at Parsons.

"I had a telephone call asking if I'd like to go to Pitcairn Island . . . it was a trip of a lifetime on board a nice ship for 32 days-it took 10 days sailing to get there and 12 days surveying on the island which required a daily flight by helicopter to shore on an uninhabited, unexplored island.

"The ship served first-class meals every day and movies every night-then back to Hawaii for another 10 days of hardship," he says with a chuckle, "living in a beautiful hotel."

Other assignments were not so plum, like when he was part of a team constructing surveillance facilities in northeast Thailand, 60 miles from the demilitarized zone, where the Air Force worried the group would be threatened by the North Vietnamese.

After calling Los Angeles home for 37 years, Morton retired in 1982 and moved to Leisure World in 1983 with his late wife Alice.

And he started attending meetings where he soon saw that his professional knowledge in developing requirements, preparing cost estimates and schedules, reviewing design documents and monitoring new constructions and repairs could be put to good use.

As he once explained, "My prime interest as a director (would) . . . be to verify that Leisure World gets the best results from the money it spends."

Although not in favor of change for change's sake, Morton says he does want facilities maintained in first-class condition for residents' use.

Although he admits he has his critics, he doesn't let them get to him. He says simply, "I don't argue.

"I try to do my best . . . and I enjoy the challenge of maintaining the facilities, making decisions and giving the prospective of engineering."