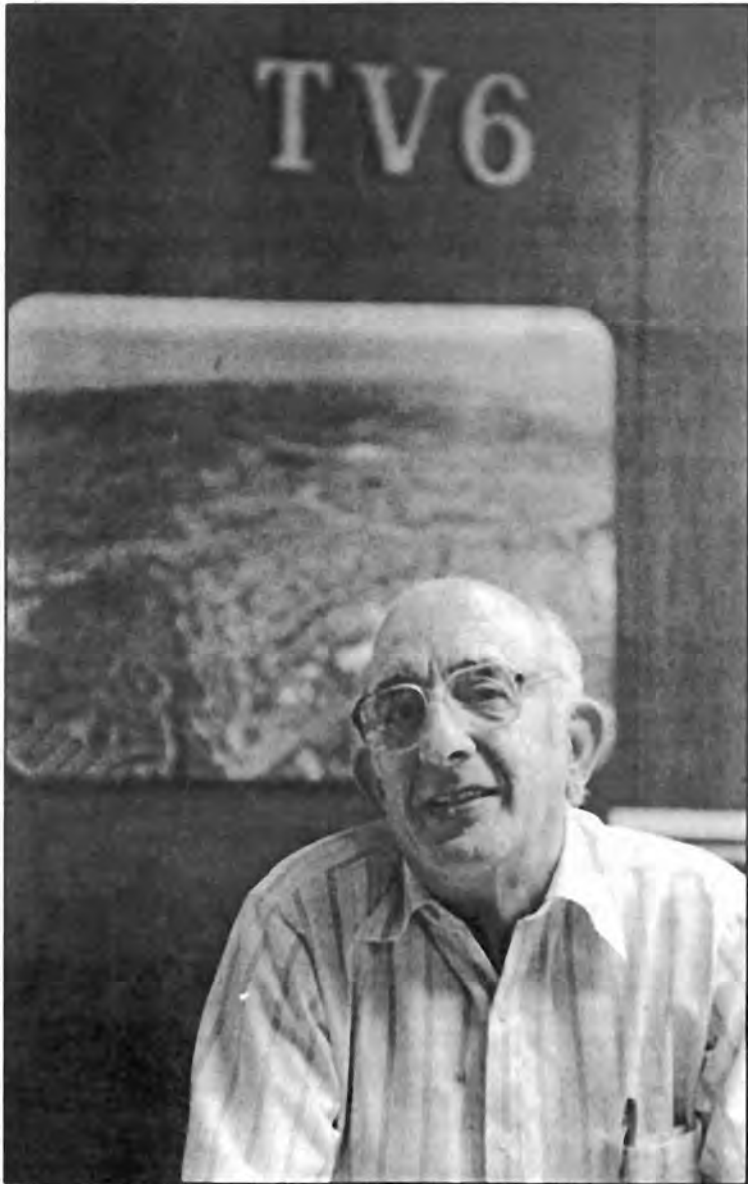




# LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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## Volunteer finds giving best reward



David E. Caballero/*The News*

For a least a few hours every week honoree Charles Nahas can be found in one of his many volunteer activities, answering questions at Channel 6.

By Cheryl Walker  
The News

**P**eople come from all over the world to live in Leisure World for the recreational and club activities, to be near relatives

and friends or simply to enjoy the year-round perfection of the Southern California climate.

But when Charles Nahas came to the community in 1991 the single factor that really impressed him - in fact, he says

### Ceremony facts

**Who:** Charles Nahas  
**What:** Leisure Worlder of the Month for December  
**Where:** Clubhouse 6  
**When:** 10 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 2  
**Sponsor:** Leisure World Historical Society

he was "ecstatic" about it - was the number of volunteer opportunities.

And serving others is what he has done in the eight years since he's called the community home. And that is perhaps, the prime reason in December, the month of giving, that the Historical Society decided he'd be the perfect choice for Leisure Worlder of the Month.

His volunteering activities occur both inside and outside the gates of Leisure World.

He serves meals at the Laguna Hills Senior Center, teaches in Clubhouse 2's Computer Workshop, assists residents at Channel 6, coordinates disaster preparedness operations in his cul-de-sac for the Golden Rain Earthquake Task Force and sifts through applications for board candidacy as a member of United Mutual's nominating committee.

He is also a member of the Historical and Audubon Societies the Hikers, Sunday Discussion and Backgammon Clubs.

To keep aware and informed about his community he regularly attends board and committee meetings.

Even so, Nahas says he was totally surprised when the Society chose him. "I just love Leisure World, it's like living in a small town with a lot of nice people and stimulating activities (but if you want privacy you can have all that you want too)."

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# HONOREE

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His colleagues, however, were not surprised at his receiving the Society's distinction based on their dealings with Nahas in a variety of volunteer activities.

Burns Nugent, United nominating chairman, recalls he was "particularly anxious" to have Nahas on his committee because of his experience and attention (as a "board watcher") to governance issues.

Explains Nugent, "As expected, his searching questions of applicants made them think carefully about their answers and this was extremely helpful to the entire committee."

Martin Hoffman, Laguna Hills Senior Center director, called Nahas a "very dedicated and caring volunteer who leads by example."

"His commitment to serving and helping others is greatly appreciated by members of the center, fellow volunteers and staff members."

Joe Schwarz, PC Computer Group president, adds that Nahas is an "extremely good teacher, a very devoted supervisor and a delightful man - he really deserves the honor."

Nahas, however, says doing things for others is simply part of his makeup and upbringing.

He remembers that when he was a boy his dad would routinely supply the needy with free food from the family grocery store.

That's because the Nahas family had also known hard times.

**Background:** Nahas, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., says the Great Depression of the 1930s necessitated major adjustments in their family, including a move to Jamaica in the British West Indies, where his mother's brothers lived.

Nahas said that during the years he lived there (1932-45) he was struck by how the Jamaican people helped one another. It was a lesson he took to heart.

The family moved to the City

of Angels after World War II and teenager Nahas joined the Army and was sent overseas to Germany where he worked as a radio communications technician for a tank company.

When as a staff sergeant he returned home, he was offered a job with AT&T which he happily accepted, staying 32 ½ years until the upheaval in the telephone industry after deregulation forced him into early retirement.

Retirement from work, however, meant to Nahas more time for volunteering.

Even before moving to Leisure World this included much dedicated effort.

For example, he spent more than five years as a volunteer in the accounting department of the U.S. Center for World Missions and participated in civic activities as a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America, a leader for Boys Clubs, an active church member, a volunteer at a food bank

and an English tutor for foreign speaking students.

Nahas says he always had an interest in governance as well, even assisting a man who ran for a district council seat in Los Angeles.

Recently, Nahas has been persuaded to toss his hat in the ring and has taken out papers from the Orange County Registrar to run for a city council seat in Leisure World, if the community votes to incorporate next March.

Although running for public office seems a natural for someone who loves to be involved, Nahas says he isn't doing so for his own ego.(He says he thought those who prodded him were joking when they even suggested it).

He says, though, he will happily serve - if people want him.

"I can promise an open heart and an open mind," says Nahas. And, he adds, "I won't make any promises I can't keep."