

Laguna Woods

GLOBE

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United President O'Brien Honoree of the Month

BY CHERYL WALKER
THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

Laguna Woods Village's United Mutual President Beth O'Brien will be in the spotlight in June as the Historical Society of Laguna Woods honoree of the month.

Her portrait will be unveiled 10 a.m. next Wednesday in Clubhouse 6 where invited guests and well wishers will gather.

News of the Society's choice was met with enthusiasm by those who admired her no-nonsense, straight forward, intelligent style and subtle wit, particularly in difficult situations.

Third residents and mutual committee advisors Allen Cohen and Dan Anglin said when they learned of the Society's choice they agreed "it was an honor that she well deserved, adding:

"We deeply admire her intelligence, wise leadership ability and her wonderful sense of humor - especially her infectious laugh. She has a wonderful ability to unravel complex issues and boil them down to basics. It is always clear where she stands on issues and we have appreciated her forthrightness in stating her opinions to the public.

"Beth has done so much for the community that we are fortunate to have had her as a resident ... more importantly to us is that we appreciate the person that she is and the friendship that she has offered. We consider ourselves enriched to have known her on a personal level."

United Director Maxine



JEFFREY ANTENORE, FOR THE GLOBE

JUNE HONOREE: The Historical Society's Honoree of the Month for June is Beth O'Brien.

McIntosh calls O'Brien an "absolute gift to the community and the other members of the United Board of Directors. "She has brought a very high level of leadership skill to the board meetings, graciously serving all members of the board and of the housing mutual. She is greatly admired for her professional level of preparation for all meetings. She is a brilliant leader."

Another United Director, Linda Wilson, said of O'Brien, "It has been said that 'each of us brings a unique gift to the world'. Beth unwrapped hers and shared it with a grateful community. Her leadership has been a welcome tonic for United Mutual."

Still another United Director, Mary Stone, said of the mutual president: "Under Beth's leadership the United Mutual Board achieved a very high level of professionalism that those following her will have difficulty surpassing. She is an extremely brilliant, hardworking, humble individual, who has taught us the value of process in working efficiently and effectively."

Background

O'Brien was born in Englewood, NJ and graduated from Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. She has a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in education. She worked for five years as a secondary school teacher, but spent the bulk of her career working for the City of Los Angeles in a variety of posts: as a methods and standards technician, as a Quimby administrator, as the liaison administrator to the Bureau of Engineering's architectural division and as a senior management analyst.

Her work for the city garnered not just a City of Los Angeles Career Service Award but various commendations for jobs well done.

She retired in 1998 and became a member of the Historical Society, the Laguna Woods Foundation, the American Italia Club, the Old Pros, the Art Association, the hospital visitors program, and was a Red Cross Nurses' Aide. She also volunteered for the Laguna Woods CERT training program and for the Village's Medicare D pro-

gram to help residents with their applications.

She is best known, however as a director, secretary and finally president of the Village's United Mutual Board.

She said she first got interested in mutual governance in the aftermath of the El Nino storms in the late 1990s when decisions were being made about what to do with residents who suffered major water intrusion damage in cul de sac 67.

She said two people influenced her decision to try out for the board: former United Treasurer Bert Taubman and United nominating committee chairman Stu Venable. When Taubman died, she was given the chance to serve in his stead and eventually she moved into the mutual's president's chair.