



LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Quiet man gets Society's nod in March



David E. Caballero/The News

When not serving on one of the community's many committees, Bob Rapson takes time for a round of golf.

By Cheryl Walker
The News

He's quiet, maintains a low profile, and doesn't like arguments. But he's been a fighter for Leisure World, using facts rather than emotions to sway opinion.

That's why the Historical Society named former United Director Robert Rapson Mutual as its Leisure Worlder of the Month for March.

"I feel very very humble about such an honor," says the widower, father of two and grandfather of six, who served as a mutual director from 1990-93.

But, when his term expired, he continued to serve the community on Leisure World's earthquake preparedness task force, United's nominating committee, Leisure World Residents for Cityhood,

Taxpayers for Responsible Planning, the Bowler's and Men's Golf clubs and Historical Society, particularly the building committee that worked on the new facility at the Leisure World Library.

Although Rapson says he never dreamed the society would so distinguish him, his co-workers say the recognition is long overdue.

Former Golden Rain Director Doyle Selden says he is delighted by the choice. "Bob is a very conscientious, reliable contributor to Leisure World and has been invaluable in assisting me in gathering information to stop (Marine Corps Air Station) El Toro from becoming an airport - we need more people like him."

United President Irving Goldberg agrees pointing out Rapson is a "diligent, dedicated worker."

Former United President

Jim Fox says Rapson never misses meetings, is very cooperative and a good spokesman for the community and has the ability to think through problems even to "unintended consequences."

Former Golden Rain President Peggy Kermer adds he is and has been an invaluable member of United's nominating committee. "He is always there when we need help; you name it, Bob knows it - he's invaluable in my book."

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Ceremony Facts

Who: Bob Rapson
What: Leisure Worlder of the Month for March
Where: Clubhouse 6
When: Wednesday, March 4, 10 a.m.
Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society.

Background Rapson, a native Californian, was born in Los Angeles and received his certificate in accounting/business administration from UCLA where he was, incidentally, in the school's first graduating class in Westwood.

He also took advanced accounting courses at the University of Southern California, banking classes at the American Institute of Banking and real estate appraising courses with the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers.

He also took government-sponsored classes in contract negotiations and purchasing.

Once out of school, he started out in banking but soon sequed into appraising for the state.

When he retired from the State Board of Equalization in 1977 as area administrator for real property valuation he'd been with the state for 30 years.

In 1983 he moved to Dana Point where he became the treasurer and board member of a large homeowners association where, for more than five years, he served on committees dealing with maintenance, landscaping, community relations, security and the upkeep of community facilities.

After moving to Leisure World in 1988 and being elected to the United Board, he worked on similar committees.

Rapson says he learned about Leisure World through a golfing buddy and was drawn into governance through his friend Irving Goldberg.

Rapson, who is a world traveler and used to travel 25,000 miles per year in his state job, says he has no plans to reduce his involvement with the community - but he doesn't see running for the board again as part of the equation.

Said Rapson, "I like being involved with governance and I like Leisure World, there are a lot of nice people here, but I don't like arguments - I like to get the facts out."