

Honoree fostered 'Leisure World' peace

Golden Rain president is society's February pick

By Cheryl Walker
The News

When Milton Robbins took charge of the Golden Rain Foundation Board as president last year he faced a daunting task: the undisguised hostility of many mutual board members and residents who threatened to drastically reduce the power, influence and scope of GRF because of its alleged high handedness and disregard of mutual needs.

However, by the end of his first term, Robbins didn't just turn the situation around so cooler heads prevailed but each outgoing mutual president commended the spirit of collegiality the GRF president had fostered.

Third President George



Looking at and out for the future of Leisure World is the goal of GRF President Milton Robbins.

News photo by Rod Veal

Ratner says he remembers, "not too long ago, when the GRF Board was a very closed board which rarely shared in-

formation with the housing mutual directors but Milt has made a significant change in this attitude.

"He heeded the wishes of mutual board members and opened GRF activities to more public view. I believe this is in the best interest of the community and I applaud Milt for his consistent adherence to this principle."

Bea McArthur, United president, concurs, adding that Robbins "is doing a fine job in a position where popularity is doled out grudgingly: he is easy to approach and willing to explain."

General Manager Milt Johns says he's served with many directors over the years but he doesn't know if any have won the respect and admiration of so many (including himself) as Milt Robbins who "brings to his presidency thorough business experience, savvy and stubbornness to make sure things are done right.

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"Milt does not support an idea unless he has done his homework ... it's guys like Milt Robbins who forge trust and confidence in the community's leadership."

But it is not for these reasons alone that the Historical Society selected Robbins, now serving his second year as GRF president, as February's Leisure Worlder of the Month.

Robbins, a retired certified public accountant, was a prime mover, with former Golden Rain President Leo Minkin, in coordinating the financing and acquisition of the new Community Center.

And, for nearly a decade after making Leisure World his permanent home in 1992, he served both the Golden Rain and Third Mutual Boards as treasurer and was a

hard-working and dependable member of numerous committees, subcommittees and study groups.

In his few free hours, he also served as treasurer of the Community Concerts Association and was active in the Tennis, Golf, Table Tennis and Camera clubs.

Background: Born in Carteret, N.J., he enjoyed working at his Dad's hardware store and with numbers.

He earned his bachelor's degree in economics and accounting from the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania and volunteered in the U.S. Army during World War II where he served with Patton's Third Army in Germany.

After the war, he used his financial expertise in the administrative offices of a demolition contractor and an industrial supply firm.

Then, from 1964-1987, he was a member and partner of a

regional CPA firm. He also taught and lectured on taxation and tax codes to professional, civic and business groups; was president of his temple; and a member of the Rent Stabilization Board in Metuchen, N.J.

He and his wife learned about Leisure World through friends and rented for a short while before they decided to become owners, living half of the year in the community and half in New Jersey.

They decided to make Leisure World their full time home in 1992 and, prophetically, purchased the home of former GRF president Leon Bosch.

Aquadette Margo Bouer he credits with giving him the idea of running for the mutual board. He succeeded his first time out, gaining a seat on the Third Board, and hasn't looked back since.

Robbins, who takes his job as GRF president very seriously and tries to attend as many

meetings as he can, says he has a number of hopes and dreams for the future: "a successful transfer of the TV system, the construction of Clubhouse 7 and fostering the continued cooperation of all the boards.

"People need to recognize that we are one community," said the president, stressing that, while he understands that the housing mutuals must keep up the housing stock, it's important to understand "that the amenities give Leisure World a way of life."

The presidents says that although being GRF president has its ups and downs, he enjoys the job: "You have to give something back to the community, and (being president) keeps my body and mind active — and keeps me off the street."