

LAGUNA WOODS

GLOBE



JUNE HONOREE

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NAMES BOB SELLARDS
HONOREE OF THE MONTH
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Laguna Woods Historical Society's Honoree of the Month Bob Sellards stands next to a shelf of computer parts in the PC Club's Workshop room in the Community Center. Sellards helps tutor seniors on using computer programs to write emails, compose documents and use the Internet. > JEFFREY ANTENORE, FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Bob Sellards Honoree of the Month for June

BY CLAIRE WEBB
LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

Bob Sellards could be a member of the Geek Squad.

The retired management consultant spends his weekdays coordinating services for the PC Club, which offers computer tutoring to Laguna Woods Village seniors, and making house calls for residents who need troubleshooting.

“I’m not a genius, but I know my way around computers,” he said.

Sellards, 71, will be honored by the Historical Society of Laguna Woods in June for his work in the community and his commitment to the PC Club for the past six years. The Honoree of the Month ceremony takes place at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 2, at Clubhouse 6.

Sellards grew up in Topeka, Kansas and attended the University of Kansas. He served in the Marines during college and as a Marine Reserve volunteer for seven years. Following his graduate work at Northern Illinois University, Sellards began teaching elementary and junior high school children in the suburbs of Chicago.

However, after finding a teacher’s sal-

ary and demanding schedule wasn’t cutting it, Sellards harnessed his managerial skills and made a career transition. He spent the next 25 years working in human resources consulting, primarily helping employees transition when a company made cuts. Sellards spent eight years working in the east bay of San Francisco at Spherion, a human resources consulting firm.

“We did what we could to make that transition work for people,” Sellards said.

His main piece of advice to employees facing a lay off: “It’s not the end of the world.”

Sellards and his wife of nearly 25 years, Ronnie, moved to Laguna Woods Village in 2004.

After retiring to the Village, Sellards soon found out about the PC Club from articles in the Laguna Woods Globe. He volunteered to be a supervisor to help residents navigate using computers to write documents, send e-mails, attaching pictures to send to grandkids and use the Internet.

The club helps operate the PC Club Workshop, a facility on the third floor of



Bob Sellards, left, helps fellow Laguna Woods resident Jack Noonan troubleshoot computer problems in the Computer Lab on Tuesday. > JEFFREY ANTENORE, FOR THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

the Community Center with 33 computers, three of which are set up as digital camera stations. Sellards said roughly 75 residents come in each day, pull up a seat at a computer and ask for assist-

ance.

Sellards is now the Workshop coordinator for the PC Club, which also offers seniors classes in Microsoft Office software, Picasa, basic computing and digital scrapbooking. He said although many residents still get frustrated if they do not type well, people are still willing to learn.

He said he is usually in the workshop at least once a day, and he works as needed helping residents. Sellards also helps coordinate Special Interest Groups that focus on teaching residents certain skills during weekend sessions, such as social networking websites.

“Everybody now wants to know about Twitter,” Sellards said. “We all hear all of this from our grandkids.”

When he isn’t helping residents in the computer room, Sellards can be found in one of his two garden plots in the community garden center. Sellards has served on the Garden Club Advisory Board and he said he grows everything from squash to lettuce, carrots and beets—but his first love is tomatoes.

“Nothing like a BLT with your own tomatoes,” he said.