

LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Towers couple get Society's September nod

They celebrated
their 65th
anniversary in July

BY CHERYL WALKER
THE NEWS

Brenda and Matt Ross, Ruth and Doyle Seldon, Betty and Hank Hohweisner are among the husband and wife teams whose efforts as individuals and as a couple for the community were so outstanding that Leisure World's Historical Society awarded them joint Leisure Worlder of the Month honors.

Now Tom and Freda Sullivan of the Towers have been added to that illustrious list as the Society names them its honorees for September, 2005.

Bob Ring, former Golden Rain Foundation President and current Laguna Woods City Councilman applauds the dual honor.

"Freda supports Tom and Leisure World and does a lot at the Towers Library and new resident relations while Tom is the perfect gentleman and a great asset to any project he's on: tackling and solving all the problems by his attention to detail, thoroughness and dependability."

Towers President Janet Schwartz also applauds the Society's picks. "Freda is wonderful: conscientious, considerate, a real joy and Tom is responsible for redoing our (Mutual 50's) articles of incorporation and is a CEO per-



Tom and Freda Sullivan on the balcony of their Towers apartment overlooking Leisure World.

News photo by Rod Veal

sonified -- very meticulous -- but never ponderous ... and a very sweet person."

Backgrounds: Freda, a native of Montana, says she was a stay-at-home mom active in the Parent/Teachers Association, American Foreign Exchange Service and National Assistance League.

After moving to the Leisure World in 1997 she became an active member of the Republican Club, a deacon in Geneva Presbyterian Church and a Towers volunteer in its library and Orientation and Information committee.

The latter was similar to the work she did with AFS where she hosted foreign students and showed them the beauty of the United States and her adopted home, California.

Tom, a native of Los Angeles, has a bachelor of arts degree from Occidental College in LA and additional post graduate credits from the University of Southern California, the University of California at Los Angeles, Cal Tech and Stanford.

He worked as an analyst, senior analyst and manager, and in all aspects of human re-

sources in a 35-year career in the petroleum industry that took him all over the globe leaving him little free time to pursue volunteer interests.

Even so, he did manage to be a lifetime elder in the Presbyterian Church and a director on the board of La Canada School District and Vista Valley Country Club.

After retirement to Leisure World, he decided to run for the Mutual 50 board and won not just a seat but was elected president.

Then the fun really began as he was invited by then GRF President Ring to take a more active role in not just the Towers but Leisure World politics: attending numerous meetings and working with the late George McGuinness (one of the authors of the state's Davis-Stirling Act that regulates homeowners associations) on a rewrite of the GRF and mutual bylaws.

The job was often tedious and hugely time-consuming but he and McGuinness tackled it with relish and infinite patience as they met, often outside the rewrite committee's time slot, to review the subtleties of law and language.

"George and I spent about 18 months trying to make the three resident mutuals articles of incorporation and by-laws more consistent and understandable.

"We met at both our manors and thoroughly enjoyed the job and each other."

Sullivan laments that health problems have forced him to take a less active role in the community and spend more time administering the Sullivan Family Trust.

But, he says he feels honored that he and Freda were singled out for past efforts as a duo.

"I am not one for tooting my own horn," says Tom who already considers himself the luckiest of men for meeting a certain 15-year-old brunette at a church event who became his "lifelong helpmate."

In fact, the two recently celebrated their anniversary in July: their 65th.