



www.ocreger.com/lagunawoods

LEISURE WORLD NEWS

Thursday
July 29, 2004



Sy Wellikson, Leisure Worlder of the Month for August, strikes a relaxed pose at home.

News photo by Rod Veal

Renaissance man Society's choice

By Cheryl Walker
The News

If you invite Sy Wellikson to a party, be prepared for a song. Wellikson has been known to parody his friends at birthdays, anniversaries and even at Leisure Worlder of the Month ceremonies.

The Leisure World Historical Society's August honoree is a satirist, scholar, teacher, painter, singer, actor, organist and chef. One of his favorite creations he calls "Beef Wellikson."

Add to the mix he's a bridge player, golfer, traveler, grammarian, parliamentarian, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

He is a director on the Golden Rain Foundation and a for-

mer director and president of Third Mutual. And he is a volunteer for local arts and civic organizations.

And, as if that is not enough, add membership in six clubs (Nifty 50-60s, New York, Theatre Guild, Keyboard, Community Civic and British American Theater) and a local

Ceremony facts

Who: Seymour Wellikson

What: Leisure Worlder of the Month for August

Where: Clubhouse 6

When: 10 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 4

Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society with funding by Renaissance at the Regency and at the Wellington.

religious group.

Wellikson truly deserves to be called a Renaissance Man.

Wellikson says he has "a sense of social consciousness and civic pride" which motivates him to serve the best interests of any community of which he is part.

"I love what I am doing, giving back to the community," explains Wellikson. He says he can not understand those who don't care about the next generation and questions where this generation of Leisure Worlders would be if it weren't for the foresight of past boards and dedicated volunteers.

Wellikson says he is a "performer" in every sense. "I don't take myself seriously, but

Please see **SOCIETY** Page 10

SOCIETY

FROM 1

I take what I do seriously.”

That means, Wellikson likes to see meetings that strictly follow Robert's Rules of Order - even when he takes the heat for digging in his heels.

“I never was a yes man -- I always stand up for principal and never to something just to be popular.”

While his wife Miriam is organized and work-oriented, he is more of a dreamer quite a “happy-go-lucky” guy who enjoys doing the New York and LA Times crosswords each morning at 7.

But GRF president, Maury Kravitz, says Wellikson is no slouch. “Whatever task you ask him to perform his answer is ‘I'm ready, willing and able.’”

Mary Fegraus, executive director of the Laguna Canyon Foundation, singles out Wellikson's enthusiasm as the community's representative on the LCF Board. “He asked a lot of questions, followed through on things he was concerned about, learned about the (Laguna Coast Wilderness) park and nature center, went out on site with us ... and was just a pleasure to have on the board.”

Former United and Golden

Rain Board member Bob Miller says he appreciates Wellikson's lighter side: “his wonderful sense of humor, creativity and fine singing voice.”

Background: Wellikson was born in Wilmington, Del. and obtained his bachelor of science in journalism and master's in education from Temple University plus an associate of accounting from the University of Pennsylvania.

During his career, he was president and owner of Sage Folding Box Co., a real estate broker and for a decade was a vocational teacher for the developmentally handicapped.

He also found time to volunteer for various service and social clubs and religious organizations, political and school groups and the Special Olympics committee.

He moved to Leisure World in 1989 and once again got involved until urged to run for the board, which he did successfully for Third, becoming president in the year 2000.

He then segued to the GRF Board where he currently sits and acts as parliamentarian -- although he's been known to share his expertise with other boards. (He's been a Robert's Rules expert since he was 10.)

Wellikson says as a board member, he wants to serve the community, communicate effectively and respond to residents' needs and concerns.

“My only agenda is that which benefits Leisure World, in its entirety.”