



LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Linda Wilson has been named Leisure Worlorder of the Month for July by the Historical Society.
News photo by Rod Veal

Linda Wilson gets July honor

In 4 years, she has amassed a long resume of service

By Cheryl Walker
The News

Four years ago, The News interviewed a new resident, recent retiree, former home health nurse and Golden West College nursing instructor who looked forward to taking a well-deserved break from a high-pressure career and following her heart's desire: collecting and outfitting beautiful doll houses.

But Linda Wilson quickly found she wasn't ready to "let the rest of the world go by."

Instead, she found herself becoming more and more interested in and involved with Leisure World politics, policy making, protection and preser-

vation.

In July, the Historical Society will recognize the many contributions of Wilson with its highest distinction, Leisure Worlorder of the Month.

"I was sitting there feeling old and useless on my 70th birthday, when Harry called," recalls Wilson, who received the message of the Historical Society's selection from Harry Schwartz.

Wilson says she was surprised, but her friends think the recognition is well deserved.

Denise Welch, Third Mutual director recently selected volunteer of the year by the Orange County Board of Supervisors, says Wilson "has brought happiness into many lives. She is quick to help when needed, cares about the people in Leisure World and brave enough to fight for the causes

and people she believes in."

Bob Miller, former United Mutual president and Golden Rain Foundation director, says Wilson has become "probably the most informed resident in Leisure World regarding its governance and other issues. She attends nearly all board and committee meetings,

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Ceremony facts

Who: Linda Wilson

What: Leisure Worlorder of the Month

Where: Clubhouse 6

When: 10 a.m., Wednesday, July 7

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

WILSON

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doesn't hesitate to make most intelligent contributions at meetings, serves on city of Laguna Woods committees and exhibits her outstanding charm in whatever she does."

Burton Taubman, United director and former treasurer, commends Wilson's open-mindedness. "She came to board work with pre-determined ideas but soon showed she had the ability to learn and grow."

And Libby Marks, GRF security advisor and city transportation committee member, adds that the community is lucky to have Wilson. "She's honest, courageous, has no hidden or personal agenda, doesn't let anyone walk all over her and is only interested in the good of the community."

Background The native of Pittsfield, MA. has a bachelor's degree in home economics and nursing from Kansas University, a master's in health sci-

ence from Chapman University and a lifetime California teaching credential.

She enjoyed acting in her senior class play, as a vamp because she could do a mean Charleston (though she claims now she "can't act, sing or dance") and was an early advocate of equal pay and job access for women.

She raised a family of four children while gaining extensive experience as a home health, rural and staff nurse; a professor of nursing education and instructor (for 30 years); and as a producer of nursing education films.

Wilson says when she decided to retire she opted for Leisure World because of its "small town atmosphere" and the opportunities to enjoy new projects and activities and contribute to the community.

In fact, she says one of the community's main selling points for her was that it fostered a continued learning atmosphere and gave many ways to make new friendships and chances to offer service.

Since coming to Leisure

World she's served on the United Board as secretary and landscape chair, on the Disaster Task Force as coordinator for Gates 1-4 and as a member of the Theater Guild, Art Society, Philharmonic Society, American Association of University Woman, Macintosh Users Group, Retired Nurses Association, Republican Club, GRF bus utilization committee, Historical Society, the city's transportation committee, and as an AARP community liaison.

Wilson says she got interested in Leisure World governance because she wanted to make a difference.

"I make sure I do my homework, I try to be factual and not be intimidated when nobody listens." She says she's dismayed when people make derogatory statements without knowledge, experience or historical perspective.

But that doesn't stop her from trying to set them right.

"I enjoy every single day here," she says, and adds with characteristic good humor, "And I'm having too much fun!"