

PAST CHAMBER AWARD WINNERS

Recipients of the Chamber Awards have dedicated themselves to giving and helping others. The winners made a difference in our communities.

Over the years, we added various additional awards to recognize more mountain community residents, organizations and businesses which making the mountain communities a better place to live and work.

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

1968 John Dexter The Dexters were pioneers to our area. John was one of the first developers on the mountain, building most of roads and water systems in Twin Peaks. He was instrumental in bringing electricity up to our local area. He moved the Guernsey wagon from Cedar Glen to the Masonic Lodge in Twin Peaks where he restored it. He made much of the furniture that can still be seen at the Masonic Lodge.

1969 Francis Newcombe Francis started as a US Forest Ranger then later became Crest Forest Fire Chief. But his greatest achievement was working with all the water districts to form Crestline Lake Arrowhead Water Agency (CLAWA).

1970 Gyneth Smith Gyna was Postmaster of both Cedar Glen and Lake Arrowhead Post Offices. She was an active member of the Lake Arrowhead Republican Women's Club and volunteered in many other organizations.



1971 Dr. Robert Voy, M.D. As the only medical doctor on the hill, Dr. Voy was instrumental in purchasing the hospital from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange who ran Santa Anita Hospital.

1972 Ernest "Bud" Dowlin Bud was a local real estate agent who was an active community member by volunteering for many organizations. He was past president of the Chamber.

1973 Ray Cenicerros Ray started with the Pilot Rock Conservation Corps, then joined the US Forest Service Del Rosa Shots and later became the Fire Chief for Lake Arrowhead Fire Department. He was an advocate for adding paramedics to our fire department and instrumental for the helio pads at Heaps Peak.

1974 Dr. Richard Anderson, DDS Dr. Anderson was a supporter of the Chamber for many years and became president. He helped form Arrowhead Lake Association and served on the original ALA Board.

1975 Gene Newcombe Gene's life was dedicated to public service. Most notably he was founder and president of Lake Arrowhead Property Owners Association (LAPOA) which served

as a liaison between the Lake Arrowhead Development Company and property owners. He was founder and chairman of Rim of the World Communities Scholarship Council, served on the Watershed Fire Council of So California, and Lake Arrowhead Municipal Advisory Committee.

1976 Audrey MacKay Known as Honorary Mayor of Lake Arrowhead (1958), Audrey worked as administrator of Lake Arrowhead Village beginning with the Los Angeles Turf Club. She was a member of Soroptimist, Red Cross, Friends of the ICU, and Arrowhead Woods Architectural Committee. She was on the committee to acquire a bond for the new dam and served on the Dam Commission. The park behind the hospital is named in her honor.

1977 Ralph Wagner Ralph is a civil engineer with a passion for water. Ralph was part of the steering committee that helped Lake Arrowhead property owners buy Lake Arrowhead from Boise Cascade. Ralph also worked on the merger of Lake Arrowhead Utility Company and the Lake Arrowhead Sanitation District to form Lake Arrowhead Community Services District (LACSD) and Arrowhead Lake Association (ALA). He has served as president of LAPOA, Lake Arrowhead Municipal Advisory Committee, and the MCH Foundation.

1978 Jack Forney As an Edison employee, Jack worked to get lights for our high school's football field. He was a founding member of Rim High's Athletic Booster Club and active in many service clubs.

1979 Lucy Kelley Known as the Popcorn Lady, Lucy was an advocate for the seniors on the mountain. She worked tirelessly to get the Senior Center and Grandview Towers built in Twin Peaks. She also volunteered her time where ever she was needed. The Fireside Room at the Senior Center is named in her honor.

1980 Hal Pearce Hal was among many who helped form the Arrowhead Lake Association and served on its first Board of Directors.

1981 Fay Boileau Fay was part of a group that helped purchase our hospital from Santa Anita Hospital making it into Mountains Community Hospital. As a great fundraiser, he helped to secure a new ambulance when the old one broke down. Fay was a Lifetime Rotarian, served on the Hospital Board for 12 years, active Chamber member and past president.

1982 George Anderson As owner and publisher of the Mountain News, he campaigned to purchase our hospital in '67 through the newspaper. He crusaded for a second dam when the state was going to lower our lake by 70 feet. He also served on the Arrowhead Lake Association Board of Directors.

1983 Ross Johnstone As a volunteer for Lake Arrowhead Fire Department, Ross began the first 24-hour ambulance service. He was very active as a member of the community and served on the Mountain Community Hospital Board, Chamber Board, Lake Arrowhead Elementary School PTA President, and he was very active with the Arrowhead Arts Association



1984 George T. Akin George was a supporter of Rim of the World High School Band and active member of Lake Arrowhead Community Presbyterian Church.

1985 George B. Hessemann George was geologist and known for his reforestation projects. A local teacher for 21 years he dedicated his spare time to making forest space for all ages. The Children's Forest, Keller's Peak, Heaps Peak, Strawberry Peak, and Heaps Peak Arboretum are testimonials of his dedication of the land.

1986 Duane Banner Duane has donated time and energy to build many of our local ball fields. He has been an integral leader of Rim of the World Recreation and Parks District and served on the board for 8 years. He is a member of the Rim of the World Historical Society, Mountain Sunrise Rotary, Rim of the World Interpretive Association and continues to serve on Lake Arrowhead Municipal Advisory Committee. The soccer field at Rim of the World High School is named in his honor.

1987 Jeleane and Dick Nelson Jeleane was Secretary of the Chamber for many years, served as President, and was involved with many other organizations.

1988 Joseph V. Matthews Joe was a schoolteacher who enthusiastically shared his love for books. He was one of the first teachers at Rim High School and later became Athletic Director and Vice Principal. He served on Rim of the World Unified School District School Board and was a Volunteer Fireman for Crest Forest Fire District in Blue Jay. The library at Rim High is named in his honor.

1989 Joe Harich Joe is a community supporter and environmentalist who constructed the Heaps Peak Transfer Station to eliminate landfill and promote recycling. He was also involved in the construction of many local ball fields. The ball field in Twin Peaks is named in his honor.

1990 Ann Stewart Ann was a Skyforest community activist who served on the Chamber Board. She was on the Mountains Community Hospital Board and a member of Lake Arrowhead Republican Women's Club.

1991 Dick Pretzinger Dick was a land surveyor and was on the committee that helped purchase our hospital. He was a Chamber board member for over 20 years, served on the Lake Arrowhead Municipal Advisory Committee, and was a founding member of the Association of Building Contractors.

1992 Cynthia Thomson Altmeyer Cindy held several officer roles with the Chamber, was active with Soroptomists and Rotary, and a founding member of Arrowhead Arts Association.

1993 Shirley Snow After the passing of Proposition 13, all of the social services programs were cut from our area. She was instrumental in starting Rim Family Services which helps pregnant teens, drug addicts, low income families, and the homeless. She was active in Soroptimists and served as president.

1994 Stephen B. Shore Steve spearheaded the “Save Our Hospital” Campaign in the 80s and it’s still in operation today. He also served on the Chamber Board for many years.

1995 Gail Weatherwax Gail served on the Chamber Board of Directors for many years and in many positions including President. She started the Mountain Cancer Recovery Program.

1996 Helen Meyers Helen worked at Mountains Community Hospital and was the facilitator for Mountain Meal on Wheels. She wrote many grants for Rim Family Services to acquire start-up funding

1997 Terry Smith As Battalion Chief for the Lake Arrowhead Fire Department, Terry was instrumental in forming a paramedics response team. He also worked in conjunction with local water companies upgrading our water system for fire.

1998 Pat & JoAnn Welsh Pat’s passion for music lead him to become a founding member of the Arrowhead Arts Association. As civic leaders, Pat and JoAnn have donated to many charities on our mountain. Pat also served on the Chamber Board and was an Honorary Rotarian. JoAnn served on the Rim of the World Communities Scholarship Council. They owned and operated the Royal Oak restaurant in Blue Jay for 36 years.

1999 Gene and Billie Yeager As philanthropists, the Yeagers have helped numerous organizations such as Arrowhead Arts Association. Through their efforts with the Mountains Community Hospital Foundation they started “Le Grand Picnic”. Gene was a public works construction icon who built the 4-lane section of Highway 18.

2000 Don Findley As CEO of UCLA Conference Center, Don secured money to remodel and upgrade the facilities creating numerous jobs for our community. Don also served on the Chamber Board for many years.

2001 J. Putnam Henck Born to a family of mountain pioneers, “Putty” was a contractor and engineer. From his whimsical sketches he built what became a nationally renowned tourist destination Santa’s Village. He promoted tourism and provided an untold number of local jobs. Putty helped form, build, and maintain the Skyforest Mutual Water Company.

2002 Carol Banner Carol has been an active community member throughout her life. She has served on many boards including Rim of World Unified School District, Rim Family Services, Lake Arrowhead Communities Chamber of Commerce, and Rim O’ the World Board of REALTORS. She continues to lead Chamber’s Governmental Affairs Committee meeting every month.

2003 Hon. Michael M. Dest Judge Dest as we all knew him, served for 20 years on the Rim of the World Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team. He was an active Rotarian and a supporter of the Rotary Art and Wine Festival. He served as a Judge at the Twin Peaks Courthouse until it closed in 2006. Today he serves on the bench of the Superior Court of California, San Bernardino County.

2004 Ira Maser After the Old Fire in 2003, Ira helped start "Mountains Hearts and Lives". It was originally formed to help the 300 fire victims and later the 272 victims of the Grass Valley and Slide Fire of 2007. Ira also served as chair of Christmas in April, and through his efforts helped save Rim Family Services.

2005 Kirk Coult Kirk has a passion for music and started the free concert series at the Lake Arrowhead Village which has brought tourism and commerce to our mountain community.

2006 Bob Spoeneman Bob's volunteer work on the Rim of the World Recreation and Park District Board lead him to spearhead what is now Rotary Park in Twin Peaks. Bob also stepped forward and served on a blue-ribbon committee to seek answers to the water issues on our mountain.

2007 Bob and Irene Wirtenberger Along with organizing the Lake Arrowhead Home Tour for many years, Irene brought new life to the Little Gift Shoppe at Mountains Community Hospital. As a couple, they have volunteered with Meals on Wheels, the Mountain Communities Boys and Girls Club, Lake Arrowhead Rotary, Rebuilding Mountain Hearts and Lives, Lake Arrowhead Arts Association, Mountain Santa Project, and Lake Arrowhead Rotary.

2008 Holland Lowe Holland saw a need and started the mountain food bank "Operation Provider". She later expanded its mission to provides clothing, utility funds, referrals, and emergency assistance to those in need.

2009 Dr. Patrick and Jo Bonita Rains Jo Bonita is a Soroptimist and Dr. Rains is a Rotarian. They were key figures starting the annual Rotary Polar Plunge and continue to support the Rim of the World Education Foundation and Arrowhead Arts Foundation.

2010 Butch Baumann Butch is a founding member of the Lake Arrowhead Mountain Sunrise Rotary Club and the Association of Building Contractors (ABC). He has also been a Volunteer Firefighter with the Crest Forest Fire District and a Chamber board member for years. He has been a consistent supporter of Rebuilding Day (formerly known as Christmas in April).

2011 Neale and Patricia Perkins As our local philanthropists, the Perkins have helped our students go on to college through the Mountain Communities Scholarship Fund. Neale has been a vital part of the Mountains Community Hospital Foundation. Neale served Sheriff's Specialized Services Bureau, a volunteer group that offers support to the department. The Perkins have been strong contributors to Lake Arrowhead Ballet Company.

2012 Dr. Hugh Bialecki Along with being President of "Save Our Forest Association", Hugh has served on Rim of the World Recreation and Park District and Chamber board for many years. He is a member of the Lake Arrowhead Rotary, has helped Operation Provider, and Rim Youth Sports.

2013 Harry Sherman Harry helped found the Lake Arrowhead Film Festival and was a member of the Lake Arrowhead Rotary Club. He served on the club's board of directors, in a number of leadership positions, and the club's literacy program.

2014 Tracy Lenocker Tracy has been a driving force behind the Central Mountain Section of the San Bernardino County Emergency Communications Service (ECS) and CERT programs. As a HAM radio operator and trainer, Tracy has been instrumental with the Forest Service and other departments through relay of vital information. He volunteers leadership of Emergency Communications for the community's Blue Jay Parade, every year.

2015 Billie and Harold Weiss Both Billie and Harold taught music in our local schools. Billie helped with the formation of the Arrowhead Arts Association, which she has supported ever since. They both have been active with Mountain Meals on Wheels serving on the board and with Harold serving as a driver. Harold has also volunteered at Operation Provider for many years.

2016 Penny Shubnell Penny is an active member of multiple organizations, always at the forefront of fundraising and truly an advocate for seniors. She has been a Board Member of the Crestline Sanitation District, and continues to spearhead the annual Crestline Health Fair, the San Moritz Senior Nutrition Program, and the Crestline Friends of the Library Literacy Program.

2017 David Caine During the Bark Beetle Infestation of 1999, David persuaded the Governor to sign an Executive Order that resulted in Southern California Edison funding the \$220 million cost of the Bark Beetle Tree Removal Program in the Mountain Communities. David spear-headed the efforts to influence the FAA to re-route airplanes creating the "Quiet Skies" movement. David volunteers in Citizens on Patrol and served as a member of the MAC (Municipal Advisory Council), later as a Commissioner on Behavioral Health, appointed by Supervisor Rutherford.

2018 Ron & Barbara Doutt Together they've been leadership and involved in more than 7 organizations in the mountain communities. Barbara worked on the Mountains Community Hospital Foundation Board. Dedicated to education, Barbara worked on the "Every Girl Counts" campaign during her years with the Soroptomists International Rim of the World. Cultivating students' lifelong love of music, Barbara served over 10 years as President and Treasurer of the Arrowhead Arts Association. Ron was President and Treasurer of the Rim of the World Historical Society, Member of Rotary Club of Lake Arrowhead and on the Finance Committee of the Boy's and Girl's Club of the Mountains.

LEADERS OF THE YEAR

2013 Andrea & Don Willerth Leading the way to strong community giving, they believed that if they donated openly their friends would join them, and so many did. The Willerths believed strongly in MCH and donated funds for a new bone density scanner and digital mammography equipment. Both were active members and donor-supporters of Lake Arrowhead Rotary Club

and Arrowhead Arts Association.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

2013 Jack Cooperman This Emmy Award-winning Cinematographer was instrumental in bringing the Lake Arrowhead Film Festival to our region. His many contributions resulted in volunteer efforts and leadership roles at Rim of the World Historical Society, Arrowhead Lake Association, Lake Arrowhead Municipal Advisory Committee. Jack's greatest joy and reward comes from being a Professional Adaptive Ski Instructor, training both instructors and people with intellectual and physical disabilities. His special work leads the important adaptive program at Snow Valley Mountain Resort.

2014 Dennis Parker Served as President of the Board of the Boys & Girls Club of the Mountain Communities and was involved in the National organization since 1997. Locally, the club grew from 15 children in the beginning to over 200 children at three sites. To keep funding the children's tutoring and after school programs after they lost grant funding, Dennis founded the Cedar Glen Resale Boutique and Home Goods Store. Donations of high quality goods are made to the Boutique and are sold in an exciting retail environment. Dennis and his wife Monica work tirelessly operating the store, giving kids structure.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

2014 Posthumous, John Wood Professionally trained at an auction house early in his career, there was hardly ever a fundraising auction on the mountain that did not have John Wood at the helm. He volunteered as an auctioneer and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Mountains Community Hospital through Le Grand Picnic, Paramedics, Rebuilding Together, Camp Paivika and many others. John was realtor and clients loved him. He was passionate and understated about his work as a "do-gooder".

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

2013 Jensen's Finest Foods Owner Gene Fulton worked his way up starting as a "clean-up boy" at the Blue Jay store in 1957. In 1981, this local hometown boy became the owner of Jensen's Finest Foods and expanded the chain throughout the mountains and SoCal. He credits Jensen's success "our greatest strength is our employees and our greatest asset is our customers". Too many to name, Jensen's consistently supports more than 50 organizations all year long through donations, events and community commitment.

2014 Mountains Community Hospital Having a local hospital makes our region of a community. Under CEO Charlie Harrison, MCH improved its financial position so that it could grow its business of quality care and improving the lives and health of mountain residents. Mountain residents have Emergency Care and a Rural Health Clinic at their disposal. Services offered are constantly expanding and include lab work, digital imaging, radiology, mammograms, even a skilled nursing facility for long-term care. Generous donations from our community help give the hospital the development resources to add equipment and services.

2015 LouEddie’s Pizza Founders Eddie Hillary and Lou York created an experience for the senses in Sky Forest that would land them on Yelp’s Top 100 Best Restaurants in the United States. LouEddie’s is known for a prized brick oven, exhibition kitchen, fresh local ingredients and the warmth of the forest ambience in historic Willow Woods. Their notoriety for the “best pizza” and the first micro-brewery on the mountain rejuvenated the local economy.

2016 UCLA Lake Arrowhead Conference Center General Manager Steve Caloca operates the Conference Center based on the philosophy of “Servant Leadership”, where the leaders serve the team members and guests. A pre-eminent employer of our region, their philosophy and enrichment goes beyond the boundaries of their business as they consistently give back to the community. “Bruins Care...at Lake Arrowhead” are partners with Blue Star Moms and Operation Provider and the UCLA Mountain Bruins Alumni Club raise scholarship funds to send local students to UCLA. UCLA Lake Arrowhead Conference Center takes a leadership role in countless community events, fundraisers and charitable organizations.

2017 Snow Valley Ski Resort

Celebrating their 80th year anniversary, Snow Valley’s owners invested over \$7 million the resort including a new high-speed 6 pack chair lift, the first of its kind in Southern California. Snow Valley employs nearly 400 people in the high season and many mountain residents fondly recall how their children gained valuable work experience in the snow seasons. Snow Valley was named “Southern California’s #1 Family-Friendly Resort” (#3 in all of Ca) according to Liftopia’s 2016-17 Best in Snow Awards.



2018 Coldwell Banker SkyRidge Realty Since 1982 CBSRR has been the largest real estate company in the mountains with 42% of the market share and 60 agents. Owners Steve and Jamie Keefe encourage community service and all of their 60 agents give back to the community, the multiplier effect of all that service is huge. This year they expanded their reach in the mountain communities and opened a 2nd office in Big Bear.

NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR

2015 Rim of the World Educational Foundation Founded in 1989 to meet the challenges that many school districts were facing with budget cuts and reduced state funding. Its mission is to engage parents, business and community partners in support of the local school district and the academic achievement. Retired educator and President Jo Bonita Rains leads with the vision that excellent schools create a strong community, motivating an esteemed team of volunteers to strive and surpass fundraising goals each year.

2016 Lake Arrowhead Classical Ballet Company Artistic Director Sharon McCormick founded the Ballet Company in 1993 to foster, nurture and support the artistic development of our

mountain youth through exposure to dance. Their goal is to cultivate a creative environment where dancers develop and thrive beyond the lights & stage. Their work enhances the community, exposing youth to music and the arts to create lasting love. Many of LACBC dancers have earned major roles with leading dance companies world-wide.



2017 Rim of the World Historical Society is dedicated to collecting, preserving and sharing the history of the western San Bernardino Mountains communities. Volunteers built, install exhibits and operate the Mountain History Museum free to students and entries from all over the country. The Museum Gift Shop sells books authored by our most famous local historians The Society promotes the cultural and historical values of our mountain communities for future generations.

2018 Rebuilding Together Mountain Communities In 1993 the Association of Building Contractors was looking to get involved helping the community. They got involved in what was then the “Christmas in April” program which focused on rebuilding homes of low-income families. The first rebuilding day was in 1995 and its continued for the last 24 years on a total of more than 200 homes! Today, in addition to the once a year event, Rebuilding Together has an emergency program to help low-income homeowners.