

# \$10,000 to be Awarded to Clubs by Foundation this Spring

by Paul Eisenhour

The Foundation of Leisure World will award a total of \$10,000 to Leisure World organizations this spring.

Foundation president Paul Eisenhour and the nine members of the Foundation's board voted unanimously in February to give 2023 Foundation Service Excellence Awards to eight organizations for recognition of the positive impact they have on residents' quality of life.

The eight groups receiving the award are the Book Club Network, Center for Lifelong Learning (CLL), Club Helping the Homeless and Working Poor, Fireside Forum, Friends in Sickness and Health (FISH), Lions' Vision Research Foundation (the research arm of the Lions' Vision Support Group dedicated to those losing their vision), Living Better with Parkinson's Support Group and the Rossmoor Library Guild.

Each of these groups will receive \$1,250 this spring to encourage their continuing contributions to Leisure World. In most cases, the officers of the selected groups have requested that the award be presented at a date they have chosen, so that their members can share in the recognition.

## About the Foundation

These eight groups reflect the mission of the Foundation. Created in 1981 to provide support to groups whose activities center on charitable, cultural, health, public affairs and educational purposes, the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization. It's supported entirely by private donations and receives no funding from Leisure World Community Corporation or assessment fees.

Years ago, a resident willed all the proceeds of the sale of a condominium to the Foundation. And in addition to a steady annual stream of ongoing donations, the Foundation recently

received a \$40,000 bequest from the estate of a former resident.

## Meeting Residents' Needs

In some cases, the Foundation's board specified a particular program or activity to receive these funds. For example, money was awarded to CLL to support its one-day programs, since longer classes are supported by participant fees.

The CHWP received the award for its contributions to an ongoing food program for needy residents. The CHWP works in conjunction with the Social Work Department.

Susan Montgomery, director of the Social Work Department, and Ann Johnson, LCSW, recently spoke to the Foundation's board. They noted that in a recent two-week period, they and their colleagues addressed 204 resident requests for services. Many indicated a need for assistance because of the rising cost of food and prescription medication or asked for help accessing transportation to medical appointments.

## About the Recipients

In recent Foundation board subcommittee sessions, participants urged that these awards be publicized widely, in part to assure that many groups with suitable projects will know that local funds may be sought. "Brief descriptions of award-winning groups may encourage others to apply in the future," said board member Ruth Nybro.

- Established in 1967, Fireside Forum offers excellent informative and/or cultural programs, without charge, on the first Sunday of each month except in mid-summer
- FISH is a volunteer organization that accepts donated assistive equipment that it then lends to residents
- The Lions' Vision Support Group helps residents who have vision loss, but fully sighted residents are also welcome to be involved. Information on visual aids and assistive technologies are

- discussed in detail
- The Rossmoor Library Guild loans to residents a wide selection of books, DVDs and audiobooks. All offerings are current and focus on the interests of residents

The other four award recipients will be discussed in a future article.

## Foundation Website

Get to know the Foundation and its members by checking out the Foundation's website at ([www.lwfnd.com](http://www.lwfnd.com)). There, residents will find the Foundation's 2022 annual report as well as 2022 donors. The website lists the Foundation's

officers and directors and includes a "donate" button to offer easy ways to make donations.



From left, Larry Cohen, president of the Lions' Vision Support Group, receives a check from Ruth Nybro out the Foundation's website at ([www.lwfnd.com](http://www.lwfnd.com)). There, residents will find the Foundation's 2022 annual report as well as 2022 donors. The website lists the Foundation's



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