

Amazing Women of SBWC

A glimpse of the women who contributed to our club's history...

This is a series of interviews chronicling the women of SBWC, a background of their lives and contributions to women's clubs. The SBWC board has chosen several members to interview and these narratives will be posted monthly in the Buena Briefs then archived on the club website.



Eleanor Tillquist

Eleanor Tillquist was born in Chicago and grew up during the depression. She met her husband George during her high school sophomore year and have known each other for 71 years, married for 64 years. She went to a technical school to become a lab technician then worked for a professional blood bank. Also, she helped open

a blood bank in a Chicago hospital. They moved five times around the United States because of George's career in the chemical oil industry then retired in Ventura. She has 4 children, 10 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Eleanor had a long and illustrious career in the Federation of Women's Clubs. In 1959 she first joined the Emerson Women's Club at New Jersey. She was the club president from 1968-1969 and continued her membership with the club even after moving to Philadelphia. From 1973-1976 she joined the Rolling Hills Women's Club in Palos Verdes where she volunteered for fundraising. From 1976-1979 she joined the Newton Square Women's Club at Radnor, Pennsylvania. She kept her Pennsylvania membership while living in Glendale from 1979-1986. In January 1987 she joined the San Buenaventura Women's Club. As a member for 30 years, she served as Ways and Means Chair three times, Treasurer three times, Federation Secretary two times and President from 1998-2000. In 1996-1998 she served as Treasurer for the Tierra Adorada District. In 1998-2000 she along with Linda McNutt organized two TAD conventions. Presently she is chair for the annual Card Party and organizes the Christmas Boutique.

Eleanor joined women's clubs to meet new people and become active in her new communities. Her proudest moment was helping to organize the SBWC Scholarships at Ventura College Foundation in 2000. The scholarship fund started with an existing \$5000 certificate of deposit from the membership; members donated another \$2500 and Eleanor matched the \$2500 for a total of \$10,000. The fund has helped to educate 16 women over age 23 entering the teaching profession since 2000. Her biggest challenge was overcoming negativity when organizing a fundraiser. She tended to ignore it with the saying, "You can do anything that you put your mind to." She truly loves all of the women in the club and is very proud of the new members who have jumped in to support the club. Her message to young women joining the club now, "If you don't give you won't receive...so join something...get involved and always stay positive."

Written by Katherine Freibergs

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