



Rob Godfrey: Q&A

Can you give us a brief background on your community service?



After graduating from UC Berkeley in 1973, I returned to the Santa Barbara area and was lucky enough to purchase an entry level condo in Carpinteria. In addition to my "normal" work in distance education (truck sales training), I embarked on a full plate of community service activities. I've been the Chamber president (twice), a Rotarian since 1976, 19 years with the Fire Department as an on call reserve, Planning Commissioner for 13 years, and service with CAC for some 32 years now. Since 2000, I've

pared down my activities to concentrate on having personal fun with my wife Frances.

What made you decide to join the CAC Board?

As a Planning Commissioner many years ago, we sat as the hearing body for CSBG applications made by local non-profits. At that time, CAC had an Advocacy department, whose Director had a very abrasive presentation style. While complaining about this to a friend and Council member, he said, why don't you get involved with CAC? I did. I joined the Board without any agenda of my own.

What has been the best thing about serving on the Board?

Meeting the various Board members from all over the County.

Where do you go from here?

Well, for the past 14 years, it's been Swing Dance on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in Santa Barbara. My wife and I are on staff with the instructor (Sylvia Sykes) and we'll be focusing on that. Now, on first Wednesdays, I won't have to choose between CAC and dance!

What advice would you give a new Board member?

Don't come on the Board with some kind of personal agenda. Service on the Board is about serving our public, not furthering a personal or political agenda.

What in your background most prepared you to serve on the Board?

Although relatively young at the time, I had already had served as a board member on a number of organizations. That gave me not only confidence to join CAC, but some expectations as to what my role as a board member would be.

What in your professional life are you most proud of?

For many years, I would be sent on distance education accreditation visits to schools around the country. That was very satisfying work.