

BIOGRAPHY

MARY ENGLAND

Mary England is a native Californian, born in Los Angeles and moved to San Diego at the age of 5 years old. She was raised in San Diego, attending public schools in the North Park area and graduated from Hoover High School. Mary worked for Pacific Bell for over 30 years, traveling throughout the State of California in the customer service and public outreach field; identifying exemplary customer service, as well as all avenues of public relations. Throughout her tenure she created and trialed various programs that expanded services to customers, increased employee satisfaction and generated increased sales and revenue. These programs were then implemented throughout the State of California.

She established her marketing business while employed, to enhance her involvement in the field of marketing and creative fund raising. Upon her retirement, she became involved regionally with various organizations, including the Lemon Grove Chamber of Commerce. She was the Executive Director of the Lemon Grove Chamber of Commerce for 2 years, serving as Secretary and Vice President 2 years prior to that assignment. When Mary took the helm of the Chamber, there was no funding to pay her salary. She was tasked with implementing programs that infused the coffers with funds, while stabilizing the finances of the Chamber, as well as creating her salary. She implemented various programs and events during her tenure, but none that pleased her Board of Directors more, than the recruitment of 86 new members in her first 6 months of employment. Mary created the Leadership Awards in 1998. This annual event continues today and recognizes those that make contributions to the Lemon Grove community and celebrates their accomplishments at an annual dinner. Included in this celebration is a partnership program with the Lemon Grove School District, which allows students to participate and be awarded savings bonds during that same evening. Mary was asked to co-chair the local school bond initiative, (Proposition LL) which spanned 5 months. The project energized the entire community and passed with an overwhelming acceptance rate of 81%. This acceptance rate allowed the Lemon Grove School District to set San Diego County records for a bond passage and received the 3rd highest voter support/acceptance in the State of California during that election cycle. This involvement strengthened her passion for education and created a strong bond with the educational community.

Mary continues her active community service by being a Founding Member of the local Kiwanis Club, is a Board Member of the San Diego East County Visitors Bureau, served on the Board of the San Diego Justice Center Foundation and is a Board Member of the East County Economic Development Council. In 2004 she created a first time fund raising event for this organization, raising over \$50,000 in one evening and continued their fund raising efforts for an additional year. Mary served for 4 years as the President of the Lemon Grove Education Foundation. She created "Tee It Up Fore Education," the Foundation's annual golf tournament; with the long term goal of raising \$100,000 to establish an educational endowment fund for the community. The Foundation completed it's mission and raised over \$140,000; creating the endowment as well as

awarding an additional \$15,000 in educational scholarships. Now people of all ages from within the Lemon Grove educational community may apply for educational grants to enrich their lives. Through her business, Mary England Public Relations, she raises funds for local political leaders, creates marketing strategies for various businesses and continues to take a leadership role in various regional activities. She has written a column for the past 8 years, "Applause & Accolades" for a local newspaper. Her column shares information on activities that happen throughout the East County, as well as recognizing those that make our communities so unique and strong.

Mary ran for public office and unseated an incumbent in the March 2000 local election, joining the Lemon Grove City Council. She had no opponents when running for her second term and is currently seated as a Council Member. As a community leader and an elected official, Mary participates in local legislative forums, as well as many community service projects. She is active in the downtown Redevelopment Project and served as the Chair of the Marketing Committee. This project refurbished 40 storefronts, planted new trees and created new signage. The project positioned the Downtown merchants to be competitive in their respective fields, by creating events and activities that highlight the local merchants and bring shoppers and new businesses to Lemon Grove. She has been recognized for her various endeavors throughout the region, with the highlight of her volunteer efforts, being named the 77th Assembly District "Woman of the Year" by Assemblyman Steve Baldwin. Mary received her award in Sacramento, with the other 79 women chosen from throughout the State. Mary was awarded the Lemon Grove Chamber of Commerce, "Lifetime Achievement Award" and was recognized by the Kiwanis International Foundation as a national leader, earning her a place in the Kiwanis Leadership Society. In honor of her leadership accomplishments, \$1,000 was donated in her name to a worldwide youth foundation. Mary was recently chosen as the "Woman of The Year" in the field of Government, by the San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce

Mary has lived in Lemon Grove since 1963 and makes her home there with her husband, Dennis