

The series on "Commissioner Legends" continues...

Douglas "Doug" Morrisson, our fifth President

As told by David Nigel

Douglas "Doug" Morrisson was an elected Board Member of the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District located in the San Francisco Bay Area. Doug was one of the members that comprised our Association's founders and became our fifth President.

The Hayward Area Recreation and Park District, also referred to as "HARD," is unique in addition to parks and excellent recreation programs, they own and operate a Rodeo facility.

One of our CAPRCBM Board meetings was held at the Rodeo site and the Officers and Board Members from all over our State met, conducted their business, and were treated to a truly incredibly delicious barbecue meal. During the business portion of this

gathering, planning for several workshops were prepared and keynote speakers were contacted to be part of the annual CPRS Pacific Southwest Conference that was attended by more than five thousand professionals, commissioners, board members and

more than 1,000 vendors. Delegates came from Hawaii, Nevada, and Arizona. During the 1970s, CAPRCBM workshops and training sessions were really well attended by great numbers who participated at the host city. In those days, cities, counties, and

districts budgeted funding to send multiple Commissioners and Board Members to the CPRS conferences allowing for significant attendance and outstanding learning situations. Unfortunately, this is not the case these days, as many Commissioners attend at

their own expense.

As stated in previous articles, our Founders' vision was to organize, train, and unite Commissioners and Board Members throughout California and establish strong ties with the National Recreation and Park Society located in Ashburn, Virginia.

Doug was a successful President representing northern California and was followed by another Charter member and the last of the organizers, Mary Hernandez of the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Commission.