

ROBERT BANES

Robert E. Banes was the main motivator and organizer of CAPRCBM, in lieu of his significant work towards the establishment and setting the goals for our Association. Robert Banes served as a Southeast Recreation and Park District (including the cities of La Mirada and Norwalk) elected official as a very successful and innovative Board Member. Bob was one of four Park and Recreation devotees with the idea of organizing Commissioners and Board Members throughout our state. The other three included J. Richard Teague of La Mesa, Sheila Hyman of Pacifica, and Everett Greenberg of Temple City. A strong balance of representatives from southern and northern California.

Bob was an intelligent and excellent organizer as well as an executive of a southern California Oil Company. Another advantage in the creation of our Association was the strong financial position of Bob's District that strongly supported his vision and ideas. This all began in 1968 with in-depth planning, much letter writing, many meetings and negotiations with C.P.R.S. (California Park and Recreation Society). Bob served as our Association's first President from 1969-1971 and his leadership was impeccable. He also had strong support and commitment from the three forementioned charter members plus many more including Doug Morrison of the Hayward Area Park and Recreation District and Mary Hernandez of the Santa Monica Mountains Commission.

Bob received strong professional advice from his District's General Manager Carl C. Fry who had many professional contacts and consulted with Bob with helpful strategy and actions.

The four main charter members, plus many others, worked hard towards to establishment and success of C.A.P.R.C.B.M. This writer first met all them attending my first California and Pacific Southwest Conference held in San Francisco in the early 1970s. So impressed with the leadership and training, a commitment was made to strongly involve myself in the Association.

Two other strong groups organized simultaneously with our Association with strong programs and leadership. These included the Los Angeles Basin Association of Park and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members and the San Francisco Bay Area Park and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members. Many leaders of both groups became leaders in C.A.P.R.C.B.M.

Our Association owes a great deal to Bob Banes for his foresight and strong leadership. He retired from the Southeast Recreation and Park District in 1978 but continue to advise many of our Presidents and Board Members until his passing in the 1980s.