

Meet Dennis Bass, 2017 Award of Appreciation Recipient

by Bobbi Powers



Does anybody remember the 1952 classic movie *The Quiet Man*? CMC has its own Quiet Man in the form of Dennis Bass, a real Western NC native. This distinguished-looking, reticent member speaks softly but gets a lot done for the club and has led an interesting life.

The Award of Appreciation is generally given to a member who has done something outstanding for the club in a given year. But since Dennis quietly accomplishes many behind-the-scenes tasks for the club each year, he was given the award in 2017. Initially, Dennis handled the membership data base. This primarily involves collecting the club's mail from the post office, logging member payments and creating new membership records in the club's on-line database. Unfortunately, sometimes things don't work as desired and the CMC Treasurer, the Councilor for Membership, the Councilor for Technology, and the website support/programmer have to be consulted to resolve issues. As if there weren't already enough on his plate, the Communications Committee asks him to coordinate the submissions for each photo sharing program. Adding each individual's name to each photo and then getting the show on the road for the event is a time-intensive project. Thank you, Dennis!

Dennis leads half-day hikes and his hikers appreciate the dark chocolate treats he provides. Being GPS-savvy makes him in demand to help scout hikes.

Dennis has degrees in chemical engineering from North Carolina State University and worked for Exxon/ExxonMobil for 30+ years, primarily in the Houston area. His job took him to the Netherlands for seven months and numerous business trips to the UK, France, Italy (including Sicily), Germany and Argentina. An unforgettable Sicily incident: As he was being passed by a car on a two-lane road, another car simultaneously passed the car that was passing him. Yikes!

Retirement drew him back to the mountains where he stays busy attending OLLI classes and volunteering with MANNA, as well as hiking once or twice a week. He has co-taught a beginning hiking class at OLLI and plans to do so again in the spring term. Dennis is also a student of French, having taken classes at OLLI from beginning French through advanced intermediate and plans to continue at the next level in Spring 2018. In addition, he is diligent about doing a Duo Lingo French class online daily and takes semiprivate French lessons. And he also dabbles in oil painting, having taken a couple of classes at OLLI.

Dennis is fortunate to have family in the area - a sister an hour away and his father at Givens Estate. We are fortunate to have this quiet man as a friend to many of us, as well as a great asset to CMC.