Anybody that has lived in this community for some time knows that Bert Sherron's shoes are big ones to fill. Here's one person that's dedicated, skilled, and courageous enough to tackle that role. His name is John Lee Hendricks, and he has just been appointed the next-to-newest Board member-at-large. This is his story.

John Lee Hendricks, who goes by Lee, is a native New Yorker. Born to a photo engraver father and homemaker mother, Lee grew up in Queens. He joined the Marines in 1962 and barely got out before the Vietnam War expanded. While many of his former classmates were in Vietnam, Lee was lucky enough to attend Queens College of CCNY and graduate with a degree in Economics. In 1966 he began a sales career with the Procter and Gamble Company working in the Toilet Goods division (Crest, Scope, and Pampers). After tying the knot with his wife Connie (Brooklyn) in 1969, he was recruited by Howmedica, a global medical technology corporation that manufactured orthopedic implants (such devices as knee and hip replacement components as well as trauma appliances). After 2 years in sales he was promoted to the position of Product Manager, Internal Fixation in the marketing division. In 1977 he began work with Hancock Labs, an innovative company that manufactured porcine heart valves for human implantation, which is now a division of Medtronic, the world's leading medical technology manufacturer. A promotion to National Sales Manager brought him out to Dana Point, CA, in 1977. He left Hancock Labs in 1981 and established his own medical marketing company which contracted with small innovative companies in the medical field and handled their sales and marketing. His company worked as independent agents, and sold ventilators, neonatal syringe pumps, heart & respiration monitors, and nasal CPAPs (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure), a proven treatment for sleep apnea. After almost 20 years, Lee shut down his business and was back at Medtronic, this time handling sales of insulin pumps and continuous glucose sensing for the Diabetes Division. After 35 years in the medical technology field, Lee finally retired in 2004 and has been happy ever since.

The Hendricks began contemplating a move from Dana Point to Irvine in 1980. Proximity to work and the desire to start a family were their goals. Irvine was known for its excellent schools and the Vistas proximity to these schools made it the ideal choice for them. They settled here in 1981. They were blessed with two children, Laurie and Christopher. Obviously the Irvine schools lived up to their reputation; their son, Christopher, after
completing U.C.S.B with honors and U.S.D. Law School with honors, is now an attorney with Reeder, Lu, & Green in Los Angeles. Their daughter, Laurie, went on to earn her B.S. from BIOLA University with honors, a Master's degree in English Literature from Claremont University with honors and is now working on achieving Teacher Certification from U.C.I. She has just earned an internship at Lathrop Middle School in the Santa Ana Unified School District.

His wife Connie was also a graduate of Queens College, and St. John's University for her masters and finally a PhD. from Fordham. She was a psychologist with a private practice in Orange. Her love of education and learning was passed on to her children. Her passing in 2002, after a long bout with illness, was a great loss for the family. Lee, who is a natural athlete, playing basketball and baseball in high school, ran his sorrows away. Today he is still an avid runner and puts in 10 to 20 miles a week. He has also completed four full marathons, the most recent of which he ran in Susanville, California, with his daughter. Lee is also an ardent traveler, who has just returned from Ottawa, Canada and has enjoyed visiting such beautiful places as New Zealand, Australia, and Fiji, among others. Recently, meeting Sharyn Gaither of Huntington Beach has renewed his passion for traveling. The couple looks forward to taking a tour of New England during this foliage season and Hawaii in December. When he's not on the road or pounding the asphalt, he can be found working out at the Community Center or entertaining his many friends at home.

After his retirement in 2004, he found himself with a lot of time. That’s when he decided to give back to the community that had embraced him and his family for over 25 years. The first thing he did was to attend Board meetings in order to become familiar with the community goings-on and Board procedures. He is very impressed with Eldon Ferguson’s leadership and by the dedication the Board has shown over the years, even during the toughest of times. It was a no-brainer for the Board to appoint him to the Board when Bert Sherron resigned. Lee has been a quick learner, and his monthly attendance of Board meetings already proved his dedication to the community and the Board.

Lee is confident that he will be able to help the Board continue to enhance the community while also keeping costs as low as possible. He talks about it as if it’s no big deal. "I hope that I am able to follow in prior board member's footsteps and make a difference" - he says with a relaxed smile.
Filling Bert’s shoes is a tall order, but it’s quite obvious Lee is more than up for the task. If the genuine smile is any indication, he will surely make a wonderful Board member, and he will soon be making a difference in the community. Thank you, Lee, for dedicating your time and effort to the Vistas. We are lucky to have you!

Here is a brief message from Lee Hendricks:

_Oscar Wilde once said, “A cynic knows the price of everything but the value of nothing”. It is necessary that this community have more volunteers for the work that is being done by so few people. Everyone’s input and volunteering is important for the Vistas to continue to grow and remain a place of beauty and refuge. We all must participate to keep the properties up and the Home Owner’s Association dues down. The Turtle Rock Vista HOA belongs to you. Please value it and participate._