

LAGUNA WOODS

GLOBE



CARINE NADEL, FOR THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

Barbara Leeper, a 19-year resident of Laguna Woods Village, is involved in several clubs, and is currently the president of the Aliso Club. She advises newcomers to join in, through clubs, trips or theatre, as a way to meet other people.

HONOREE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF LAGUNA WOODS
TO HONOR BARBARA LEEPER ON MAY 2. PAGE 3



For newcomers to the Village Barbara Leeper, here in her home, suggests inviting people over for coffee or joining a club.

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WOODS GLOBE

Honoree says life in the Village is paradise

BY CARINE NADEL
FOR THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

Barbara Leeper is the Historical Society of Laguna Woods' second quarter honoree for 2012. A ceremony for Leeper will be held on Wednesday, May 2 at Clubhouse 7. The reception will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the ceremony will be held at 10 a.m.

Originally from Michigan, Leeper moved into the Village 19 years ago after a successful managerial career with AT & T that began in 1951. It was her years with the company that involved transfers to many cities within Michigan as well as transfers to Hawaii and Alaska, plus time in England, Germany, the Netherlands and Saipan.

"I've always loved to be involved and I enjoy being around people, so I jumped right in. When I made the move here, the first thing I did was join the Ebell Club. That was in 1994. I was appointed membership chairman right away. By 1996, I became president of the group," she said.

Leeper is also a member of the Bowling League, the Shuffleboard

Club. And as if all this doesn't keep her busy enough, she's made time to be part of the Aliso Club, where she held the job of publicity director from 2009-2011. This year she's holding onto the presidency until the elections in 2013.

"I've got something going all day, every day. I love it," she said.

Leeper also volunteers her time at the Laguna Woods City Hall as a receptionist and as a trainer to the new volunteers, as well as being a greeter at the Corpus Christi Catholic Church.

On the personal side, Leeper is a widow and mother of five adult children. Her children have made it possible for her to be a grandmother to nine and a great-grandmother to eight and a great-great-grandmother to one.

With such a large family, Leeper says that she's thrilled that those on the west side of the country will be making the trip to be with her during her ceremony on receiving the honoree award.

Leeper has some suggestions on how to meet people when you first move into Laguna Woods.

"We have so many clubs, so go to

conversation," she said. "I went to Clubhouse 3 when I first got here to buy some tickets. I literally told some of the people in line that I just moved here and I was going to host a coffee. I invited them all and asked them to bring a friend with them. It was quite a success and 19 years later, I'm still friends with many of them. So when someone asks you to join in, don't say no. Even if it may not be something you think you'd enjoy, give it a try. I have so many things on my calendar that I enjoy, you can too. There really is something for everyone here. Not just clubs either. We have trips to go on and our own theatre," she said.

In addition to all the clubs and activities that Leeper belongs to, she is also in a "red head group" and with her significant other, Morrie Shamaly, is an avid pinchle player.

For the most part, Leeper explains her solo move from Michigan to the Village as one of the best things she ever decided to do. "I love it here." In fact, she bought herself a red car and her license plate? You've probably guessed it; it reads "PARADISE."