

Leading lady loves being in spotlight

Golden Rain president named for April honor

By Cheryl Walker Apr 1, 1993
The News

The Leisure World Historical Society opted for a leading lady in the political arena to honor as April's Leisure Worlder of the Month.

When Golden Rain Director Milt Adamson nominated her for the foundation presidency a year ago he said the candidate was the only one of his colleagues that had the four qualifications needed to head the 1992-93 board: financial savvy, sensitivity to residents health and welfare needs, a United Mutual address and the genetic makeup to represent the demographic majority of Leisure World which is 65-percent women.

Peggy Kermer fit the bill and with a record that included service on the Golden Rain board as treasurer as well as membership on the foundation's Earthquake and Disaster Preparedness Task Force and Security Committee she not only won the election but became the first woman Golden Rain Board president in the community's history.

The new president told The News last year the key goals of her administration would be to work towards an amicable solution of the foundation's major pending lawsuits, to support Social Service programs, to re-vitalize Golden Rain's Facilities/Land Planning group to oversee local developments and increase Leisure World property values, and to conclude a study of the Administration Building and propose plans for its future.

Community leaders say the



Don Leach/The News

Golden Rain President Peggy Kermer thrives in the spotlight whether it's conducting a meeting or singing her favorite aria.

checklist's virtual completion is testimony to Kermer's special can-do brand of leadership.

Adamson says of Kermer "If there is a more dedicated person in our community we have never found one.

"Peggy has never hesitated to take a position after careful review of all possibilities. She delegates authority wisely and persists in meeting priorities."

Shirley O'Connor, Golden Rain Health & Social Services chairman, adds of Kermer that "it's been a joy to have a president thoroughly conversant with the problems faced by the community.

"My committee is especially fortunate in having Peggy's support dealing with the many situations that arise from having a community with an aging population."

Kermer admits she "hit the floor running" into her administration and will proceed non-stop to the end in May, "with God's help and the support of Al (her husband)."

Although her post-term plans are sketchy, the 11-year resident of Leisure World says, after she takes a well-earned rest, she hopes to get reacquainted with her first love, singing.

Singing may seem a far cry from chairing a board meeting, but the Italian mezzo soprano from Chicago confides her performing background has proved a plus in her political career: instilling her with confidence and a cool head under pressure.

Although Kermer opted to pursue a career in financial and office management rather than

music, she says she's never regretted the decision since it allowed her the time to raise her family and volunteer for a variety of community service organizations and programs.

After moving to Leisure World, she kept involved, working as a gate guard and later office assistant in Leisure World's Security Department and an advisor and director of United.

Now, Kermer says she's looking forward to different challenges such as taking Elderhostel courses and working on a book of family history.

But husband Al knows Kermer's wish list would fade away if the community called. "She has a very outgoing personality and has a way with people, very receptive. If I had to characterize her in a few words I'd say she was 'love ... love unbounding'."