



LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Newlywed gets Valentine month nod



David E. Caballero/The News

Jan Nelson McLaughlin, the immediate past Golden Rain Foundation president, has taken up the cause of cityhood.

February honoree will concentrate on fighting for cityhood

By Cheryl Walker
The News

February's Leisure Worlder honoree, the immediate past president of the Golden Rain Foundation, can claim a distinction not duplicated by any other Golden Rain Foundation president.

She started her term of office as Jan Nelson, and ended it as Jan McLaughlin.

McLaughlin is also a former Aquafollies star, United director and only the second woman in the history of Leisure World to become the president of Golden Rain.

A Nebraska native who a few months ago, married former

United Director Charles McLaughlin, has lived in the community 11 years and contributed to its welfare and growth by serving on the governing boards for six-and-a-half years and participating in the popular synchronized swimming group for seven.

She also is a member of the Saddle Club and Taxpayers for Responsible Planning which is fighting the commercialization of Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro.

McLaughlin says she was "dumbfounded" when the Society called.

But colleagues say the distinction was definitely in order.

Golden Rain Secretary Cynthia Chyba says she misses

McLaughlin's presence on the Foundation Board (which she left in 1998). "Jan is able to digest complex issues and make them simple; she also has a way of getting her point across without offending and listens carefully to opposing views."

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Ceremony facts

Who: Jan Nelson McLaughlin
What: Leisure Worlder of the Month for February
When: 10 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 3
Where: Clubhouse 6
Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society

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Former Golden Rain President Jim Etter agrees, "She was a good, level-headed director and I respected and enjoyed working with her."

Former Golden Rain President Matt Magidson says McLaughlin "is bright, articulate and really deserves the honor."

While Jean Jeffredo, Aquadettes president, adds her voice to the chorus of agreement saying McLaughlin is "a very hard worker who excels in everything she does."

Background: Born and raised in Lincoln, McLaughlin is a product of the University of Nebraska and the Lincoln General Hospital School of Nursing.

The mother of three says she was a part-time worker for 20 years, until her children were grown, then worked full time for 20 years retiring as director of nursing services at Bryan Memorial Hospital.

She discovered Leisure World on a visit to California and thought it heaven in comparison to the cold snowy winter wonderland where she lived.

After moving to Leisure

World, she joined several clubs, in which her leadership qualities didn't pass unnoticed.

McLaughlin says she never thought about running for the boards, but, since she already had some concerns about the upkeep of facilities and wanted to give something back to the community she'd grown to love, she decided to accept the challenge of a directorship.

The experience, she says, was very rewarding since one can really effect positive change. "Plus, you meet such nice, interesting people.

She admits, though, that being a director, particularly on the Golden Rain Board, requires having a thick skin - but that wasn't the reason she decided not to run for another term. "I feel like I gave it my best shot."

Besides her new marriage, McLaughlin says she wants to concentrate on other interests; in particular, cityhood.

McLaughlin says incorporation holds a lot of possibilities for residents like El Toro sound walls, improved senior services, control of permits and eligibility for disaster aid and federal and state grants only available to cities.

"We don't have an option," she says, contending that Aliso Viejo is "incompatible."

"They would only want us for our tax base so we'd stay the same way we are now with the county - giving more than we get."

"That's why I am so strong for cityhood - our own."