

# Newlywed gets Valentine month nod

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to present JAN NELSON McLAUGHLIN as the



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

Adapted from Cheryl Walker, The News

February's Leisure Worldeer 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."

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:**

Jan was born in the Nebraska town of Osmend. Subsequently her family moved to Lincoln and it was here that our honoree received her primary and secondary education. She spent some time at the University of Nebraska before enrolling in the Nurses Training Program at Lincoln General Hospital where she obtained her Registered Nurse Certification (R.N.) in 1946. Following completion of her R.N. she returned to the University for several more academic years but did not obtain a degree.

Ralph D. Nelson and Jan were married in 1949 and the nuclear family eventually included son Dan and daughters Karen and Kirsten. After the children had grown to maturity, Jan launched herself into a nursing career.

During 19 plus years (1968-87) Jan was employed at Bryan Memorial Hospital starting as staff nurse and ascending the ladder to Assistant Head Nurse, Head Nurse and concluded the final 14 years as Director of Nursing Services. 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.

Community and civic activities were also beneficiaries of Jan’s participatory bent. She was a 4-H Leader, a Den Mother, PTA Secretary, President and Council Member and Church Administrative Board Secretary. In her profession she functioned as a Red Cross “on call” Disaster Nurse and was a member of the American Nurses Association, the Nebraska Nurses Association and the Nurses’ Association of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She was also a member of the University of Nebraska Alumni Association.

Over the span of time the nuclear family grew to include two son-in-laws, a daughter-in-law and 11 grandchildren. Three additional grandchildren came along with Jan’s recent marriage to Charles McLaughlin (1998).

Despite all her activities Jan found time to travel extensively in the U.S. and enjoyed overseas trips to England, France and Hawaii.

In 1987, she discovered Leisure World on a visit to California and thought it heaven in comparison to the cold snowy winter wonderland where she lived. Leisure World became the recipient of Jan Nelson’s interests and activities when she and Ralph moved into the community in 1987.

She became an active member of the Saddle Club as columnist (‘88 and ‘89) and secretary (‘90 and ‘92), She lent her swimming abilities to the Aquadettes and also functioned as vice president (‘91) and president (‘92) before retiring from “active” swimming in 1997. Jan is a member of T.R.P., the Nurses’ Emergency Task Force, American Ballroom Dance Club, the Laguna Canyon Foundation and the Historical Society. She served on the United Mutual Board and was vice president in ‘93 and ‘94. Afterwards she served on the GRF Board and held the offices of secretary (‘96 and ‘97) and president (‘98). During Board membership she was active on a variety of committees. Her enthusiasm was jolted by the loss of her husband, Ralph, in early 1990.

Throughout her lifetime’s experiences family was, and still is, a predominant element. It is no surprise, therefore, to get a “family” response to the question about “most important and personally satisfying things.” In her own words: “My family is most important and what I’m proudest of.”

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."