

Denise Welch honored by Senior Care Hero Awards™

BY BARBARA POTTER
LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

Laguna Woods Village resident Denise Welch was honored recently as a finalist in the Senior Care Hero Awards™, which recognizes contributions and accomplishments of the unsung heroes who work in the senior care industry in Orange County. Welch was recognized as a Senior Care Hero at Large for her work as a volunteer and community organizer taking a leading role as an educator and advocate on senior issues for more than 7 years.

On Sept. 9 more than 400 guests attended the 2012 Senior Care Hero Awards Gala at the Nixon Presidential Library and Museum. It was first launched in October 2011. The event's proceeds benefit seniors in need served by SeniorServ, the largest Meals on Wheels and senior nutrition provider in Orange County.

Welch brings public and community organizations together on a voluntary basis through the Community Civic Association, Senior Citizens Advisory Commit-



Denny Welch, president of the Community Civic Association, was honored by professionals in the senior care industry.

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tee, AARP, the City of Laguna Woods, Office on Aging and more. Results from her efforts as a community organizer have included educational programs such as the annual Caregiving Resource and Medi-

care Resource Expositions, in partnership with the American Board of Home Care and the Council on Aging OC. Her education publications have included Elder Abuse Awareness Guide, Orange

County Alternative Transportation Options, Orange County Fraud Test Tips, Quick Guide to the Medicare Discount Card, Polypharmacy Issues and Fire Safety for Seniors and the Disabled.

In addition, Welch is the president of the Community Civic Association, vice president and president-elect of the Saddleback Kiwanis Club and second vice president of Third Laguna Hills Mutual.

As a strong advocate for seniors, what propels her to give so much time to others?

"I really want seniors and the disabled to know what their options are, to be able to make an informed decision," she said. "I don't tell them what to do instead I say, 'Here are your options.'

"I also want people to know they are not alone, that there are people out there to help them, and how to get in contact with them."

In January, Welch will take the helm as president of Saddleback Kiwanis. She said her father was president of the Saddleback Kiwanis Club 30 years ago.