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LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Rarely seen without a smile, Golden Rain Foundation Treasurer Richard Moos is being honored as Leisure Worlorder of the Month for December.

News photo by Rod Veal

'Mr. Sunshine' has a serious side

Richard Moos named
Leisure Worlorder for
December

By Cheryl Walker
The News

Most residents know Golden Rain Foundation Director Richard Moos for his humorous straight talk at board and committee meetings.

But only a few realize that he has serious side and may hold a record for serving Leisure World. In the 17 years he's been in community, he's served as a director or officer on three boards, United, Third and GRF, not to mention numerous committees, subcom-

mittees and study groups.

That's why, it's no surprise the Historical Society decided the recently elected GRF treasurer was a natural to be its Leisure Worlorder of the Month for December.

Former United Board Treasurer Charles McLaughlin thinks its long overdue. "I just feel like a person willing to give that amount of time definitely should be recognized by the community."

Former Golden Rain Director Milton Adamson agrees, "He's a fine man."

Background: Moos was born in Berlin, Germany and had the misfortune to be a young Jewish boy during the rise of Adolph Hitler's Third Reich.

For Moos' safety, his family sent him to England where he went to school and, at an early age, entered the work force.

Ambitious, a tireless worker and with a good head for fig-

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Ceremony facts

Who: Richard Moos

What: Leisure Worlorder of the Month for December

Where: Clubhouse 6

When: Wednesday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m.

Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society

MOOS

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ures, the young man decided New York was where he wanted to be. In the 10 years he called the Big Apple home, he took multiple jobs to make ends meet and to assist the rest of his family to get out of Germany.

Moos decided to stay in America after the war and in 1949 relocated to the California where he worked as a controller for chain stores, in the garment industry, until he broke out on his own and designed, manufactured and sold furniture.

Sunshine Designs, his company was called, and "Mr. Sunshine," as he was known, sold his products to major chains like Sears, Penneys and Montgomery Ward's.

Eventually, he sold the firm to a large chain and segued into a new career in industrial real estate where he remained until retirement.

In spite of his busy career, Moos always made time to help children, as strangers had helped him so long ago. Most notably, he was very involved in the Jewish Big Brother program and mentored three young fatherless youths, all of whom have retained contact with him through the decades.

A friend told him about Leisure World and a trial run here as a renter convinced him and his wife Ruth this was the place to buy.

His neighbor, Ted Wasserman, who became United Mutual treasurer, convinced him

to run for the mutual board and the rest is history.

Although Moos is rarely without a smile on his face, he is not afraid to speak out when needed as, for example, when certain board members predict dire things will happen unless the boards sink big money into rehabilitating manors.

Moos thinks those fears are unfounded. "My philosophy fights the concept that Leisure World is an aging, dying community - 40 years in real estate is not old.

"I'm very conscious of the fact that we have a very wide range of financial backgrounds here and have to be sensitive-not everyone has the same means. A handful of people need help and there are a few millionaires ... we've got to find a middle ground."

Moos says one of his primary duties as a member of the board of directors is to control assessments. Yet, he adds, "We also can't neglect the community. We should improve our facilities whenever possible."

And even though he is a member of the Golden Rain Board, he doesn't think GRF should have the upper hand in community decision making. "I have always said the housing mutuals must have input; we (all the boards) can disagree, but we should do it with respect."

Moos says he knows through the years he's ruffled a few feathers but still has more friends than enemies in spite of it.

"It's hard to stay mad with me," he explains. "I don't take myself that seriously."