



# LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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## Honoree helped create lemon laws

Zoffer named first  
Leisure Worlder for  
2001

By Cheryl Walker  
The News

When a major car manufacturer sold what came to be known as a diesel V-8 "lemon" to customer Chuck Zoffer they learned a bitter truth: they picked the wrong man to squeeze.

This customer not only lobbied lawmakers, he testified in New York, Connecticut and Florida for Lemon Law passage and became a volunteer charter member of "Lemon on Wheels" a consumer group which fought for the recall of General Motors cars that functioned poorly since they were not engineered properly for diesel engines.

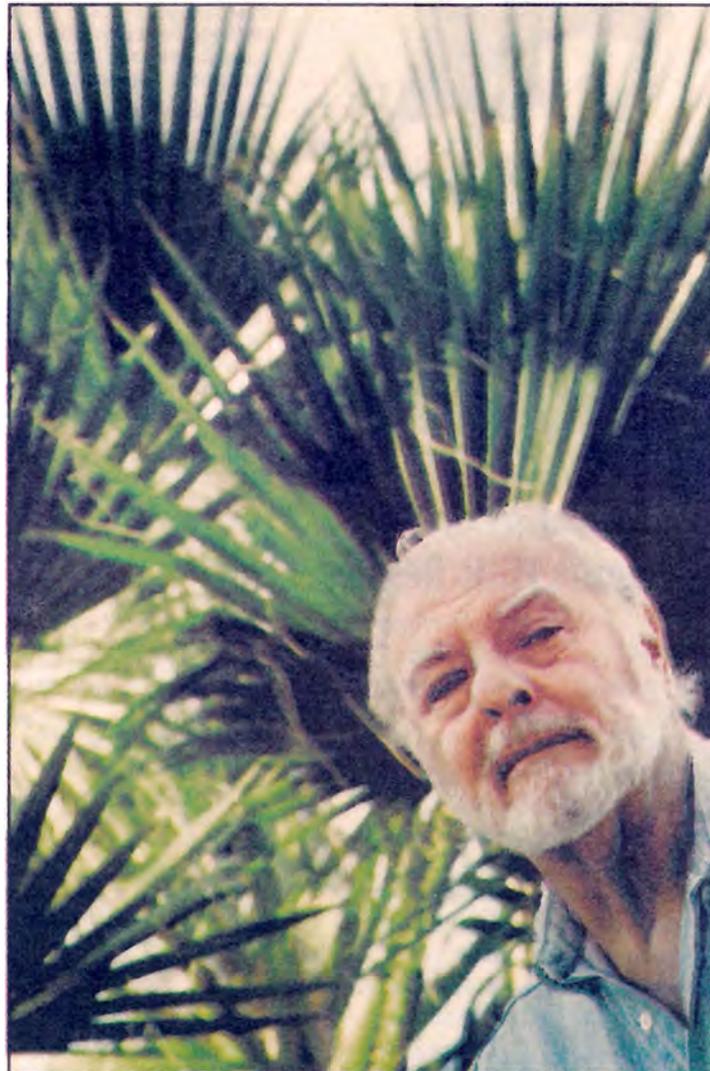
The result was the passage of the first Lemon Law in New York State.

But consumer advocate is only one of the hats Zoffer has worn in a long and varied career developing an expertise that he placed at the beck and call of United Mutual and Golden Rain committees for the last six years.

Which is one of the reasons why this man of many talents was selected by the Historical Society for Leisure Worlder of the Month honors for January, 2001.

He's served on United and Golden Rain maintenance and landscaping committees, Golden Rain subcommittees on the restoration of the clubhouses and United subcommittees on asphalt, original manor equipment refurbishment (916 program), carpports, shutters, laundry renovations, the Carlotta Wall, paint, and street and cul-de-sac/directional lighting.

He is a member of the Bon-



Chuck Zoffer will be honored as Leisure Worlder of the Month for January. Among his many avocations, is creating bonsai.  
Rod Veal/The News

sai Club, a magician with the Magic Castle, a jewelry maker, sculptor, art collector, sailboat racer, trap shooter, and serves on the Commission on Aviation Land Use for Orange County.

Former United Director Rhea Saylor said he had "nothing but good" to say of his former co-worker on United maintenance. "He was very cooperative, knowledgeable,

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### **Ceremony Facts**

**Who:** Chuck Zoffer

**What:** Leisure Worlder of the Month for January

**When:** 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3

**Where:** Clubhouse 6

**Sponsor:** Leisure World Historical Society.

# HONOREE

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fair, unbiased and a thorough investigator.”

Former United Maintenance Chairman Jack Bassler called his former advisor a “real thinker.” “He’d bring up things nobody would think about and he was very instrumental in working on United’s lighting program.”

**Background** The Brooklyn native and one-time Olympic 1,500 meter swimming event alternate, excelled in sports but had to be the breadwinner in his family at an early age due to the untimely death of his dad. Two jobs were often the price he had to pay to make ends meet while attending college.

He eventually segued to government work with the state of New York where he was a trouble-shooter in various agencies: landscaping, utilities/drainage, highways and parkways, transportation, planning, reviewed and recommended grant applications, aviation, noise abatement, nuclear power plant closures, consumer affairs, to name just a few.

He also became head of the Civil Service Employees Union, taught engineering in high school, lectured in college and instructed in Cornell University’s School of Industrial Labor.

He also developed an interest and expertise in arbitration and mediation becoming an arbiter with the American Arbitration Association.

He worked with the Better Business Bureau to resolve auto disputes, worked as a mediator between banks and their clientele, even arbitrated divorces.

“I was judge, jury, prosecutor, defense attorney, cross examiner, accepted and rejected

evidence and testimony and then rendered the final decision,” says Zoffer. “I like to see a logical procedure.”

Zoffer, who is also a parliamentarian, said ethics have always been important to him. “If I say it’s a deal and shake your hand, it’s a deal: I will honor it, or I will die.”

Zoffer’s career was cut short by a heart attack which forced him into early retirement. He credits former United Mutual President Lester Orvis with getting him into committee work and his own interests in keeping him engaged for six years in the workings of the corporations.

Married for 43 years, he said he looks back at his life and calls it good with the challenges he had to overcome making him even stronger.

So why, after working so hard in his career did he decide to keep working in Leisure World?

“Because I’ve always wanted to give back to the community, my family has always done it.”

When asked what he thought when he was told he was the Society’s January choice, he replied, modestly, “I think this is a very great honor.”