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SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE

GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION BOARD CANDIDATES REPLY TO THREE QUESTIONS

by Jo Harberson

David Kwok and Diane Mader, candidates for the GRF Board, submitted answers to three questions I posed to them. Here are their complete and unedited answers.

(1) What is the most important skill a person must have to be an effective member of the Golden Rain Foundation Board of Directors?

David Kwok: To be an effective GRF director requires a combination of skills. An ideal director must be a good listener, open minded, objective, analytical, a creative problem solver, and a long-range planner for the entire community. Given that GRF operates in a corporate-like structure, it is necessary that directors, serving on this board, have prior board experience and be financially savvy. Of equal importance, the candidate should demonstrate a strong dedication to civic activities.

Diane Mader: You need to be able to work with people to solve problems and make decisions. This means you come to the Board with no hidden agenda, no special interests, simply a willingness to explore problems thoroughly and listen carefully to determine how to arrive at a consensus. In short, you come to the Board with an open mind. But being open-minded is not the same as being empty-headed. You must know

what is happening here, both in your District and in Rossmoor as a whole. The test of good listening is *how* you respond to other Board members. It isn't enough to let them know you hear what they're saying; you must also build upon what they're saying. To do this, you yourself must have knowledge that contributes to moving things ahead.

(2) How have you used this skill in your volunteer or professional life in the past five years?

David Kwok: As Vice-President and Treasurer of the Mutual 68 Board in Rossmoor, I have worked with other members of the board to address numerous issues we, as a newly established mutual, had with Shea. This required us to understand the issues that Eagle Ridge residents had, raise them objectively to Shea, and identify creative solutions. In planning for the future, we have also commissioned a study on our financial reserves that will help us proactively plan for future expenditures. To address our security needs, I organized and implemented an Emergency Preparedness program that will enable Eagle Ridge residents to respond swiftly in the event of an emergency.

In addition, I have also served as a board member on a 43-unit condo association in Vail, Colorado, for the past nine years. As part of this board, we deal with similar issues that Rossmoor faces in preserving the value of our homes. We recently developed a comprehensive plan on how to finance and renovate all the units and amenities within the condo complex, which was widely accepted and endorsed by the community.

These critical skills, that I have demonstrated, were built on 40 years of working experience that includes holding management positions in a Fortune 500 company, holding senior executive posi-

tions in a family-owned conglomerate, and serving on several boards. As for volunteer work, I served as a Vice-President and member of the Rotary Club for 27 years.

Diane Mader: College courses that I taught for thirty years in interpersonal communication, group communication, and intercultural communication emphasized learning how to cooperate with others. But I also tried to practice what I preached. I'll give you two examples.

First, I was chair of our College's Assessment Committee. The committee was set up to devise ways of evaluating whether courses did what they said they did. Our immediate problem was that some faculty members believed such evaluation was impossible; others differed regarding what should be learned in a course, and still others feared being evaluated. These differences made our task all the more challenging, but if we ignored the differences we would have gone nowhere.

Second, I spent a sabbatical year in Tokyo the year before I retired. I was a research professor at Sophia University working on how Japanese "argue" with each other. While there I joined the East-West Discussion Group and the Eigo Dojo Group, both of which wanted not only to improve their English but also to understand the perspective of people from English-speaking cultures. The Japanese experience was extremely satisfying because the Japanese place such great emphasis on consensus, and this requires people to be sensitive to one another. I don't know how much I taught my Japanese friends, but I learned a lot!

(3) Why should a District H resident vote for you?

David Kwok: I believe I have the right qualifications, broad experience, and strong desire to serve and to represent you on the GRF board. Firstly, I will work to foster good communication between the Board and District H residents. Secondly, I will focus on preserving the value and competitiveness of our properties in Rossmoor through sound and prudent investments in upgrading our services and amenities. Finally, if elected, I will strive to strengthen our community within District H.

Diane Mader: I believe that my experience, interest, and enthusiasm would enable me to be a good Board member, but this does not deny anyone else's qualifications. I think I've said enough about my experience. As to my interest and enthusiasm, I have attended and have spoken at GRF meetings and the GRF monthly Community Forums. I was interested in finding out how the GRF Board functions because this is my first experience in a planned community, one in which Mutual Boards and the GRF Board greatly influence the quality of life we have. Because of the many meetings I've attended here, I decided I would like to participate in influencing that quality of life, not because I think I have the ultimate answer to all our problems but because I feel a responsibility to offer my services to the community.

THURSDAY MAY 9TH DEADLINE FOR GRF BALLOTS

by Jo Harberson

You should have received from the GRF office a package containing ballots for the 14 by-law amendments and the two candidates running for the GRF board. Candidates' statements, pro and con positions on the bylaw amendments, and a return envelope are also included in the package.

If you didn't receive an election package, call the GRF office to request one (988-7700). Completed ballots must be mailed or delivered to the GRF office at Gateway. All ballots *must* arrive at the GRF office by 4 p.m., Thursday, May 9th. You may deliver your ballot to the GRF office or put it into a special mailbox in the Gateway complex. Ballots received after 4 p.m. will not be counted.

The Sacramento firm of Moss and Adams, auditors, has been retained by the GRF Board to conduct an independent count of ballots for the two candidates from District H and for the bylaw amendments. The winning candidate and results of the vote on bylaw amendments will be announced at the annual meeting on May 13.