

Fall 2019

Ventura County Community College District Retirees' Association

# The Monitor

## Mark Your Calendar

## ANNUAL FALL SOCIAL BEACH PARTY/BBQ

*October 1 (Noon – 3:00 p.m.) Ventura Marina Park*

BY MARIE SOO HOO

It's that time again folks! Only instead of just a BBQ, get ready for a Beach Party too!! This year the Social Committee has planned a fantastic event to be held at the Ventura Marina Park in Ventura at the BEACH!

The results of a recent email survey we conducted earlier this year revealed that most of our members have enjoyed the great barbecues.

Lester Tong will once again delight us with his culinary barbecuing skills. The meal will include barbecued tri-tip, chicken, chili beans, salads, desserts, and beverages – non-alcoholic (water & soft drinks) included with meal – alcoholic beverages (beer & wine) will be available for sale.

The Ventura Marina Park is located at the end of Pierpont Boulevard in Ventura. It offers plenty of parking, and easily accessible walkways around the park and the grassy knolls. If you prefer the warm sand between your toes, the beach is just steps away as well as views of the Ventura Marina harbor.

We encourage everyone to come and bring your beach chairs, towels, blankets, flip flops, whatever you like, and to relax while enjoying a refreshment and an appetizer and visit with friends and colleagues. We are hoping for a warm sunny day, so don't forget your hat and sunscreen in case you decide to take a stroll along the shore.

Here is the information you need so you won't miss out on the fun:

**Event:** VCCCDRA Beach Party/BBQ

**Date:** Tuesday, October 1, 2019

**Place:** Ventura Marina Park - End of Pierpont Blvd. in Ventura, CA

**Time:** 12:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

**Social Hour: 12 pm-1pm (Beverages/Appetizers)**

**Food service: 1 pm**

For those of you who have indicated in the past that you would like to donate items to be raffled off, please contact Becky Hull via email at [bhullandus8@gmail.com](mailto:bhullandus8@gmail.com) or Marie Soo Hoo at [masoohoo@twc.com](mailto:masoohoo@twc.com) or leave a message and your number on her answering machine at (805)765-4745 and your call will be returned). Any and all items donated (gift cards, home-made baked goods, campus athletic wear (i.e., t-shirts, sweatshirts), gift baskets, bottles of wine, etc., or anything else you want to donate, are greatly appreciated.

### Directions to Ventura Marina Park

From 101 North take Seaward Avenue Exit (exit 68) on the right. Keep to the left at the fork to continue toward S. Seaward Ave.

At the stoplight turn left onto S. Seaward continuing straight down to the stop sign at intersection of Seaward & Pierpont Blvd.

Turn left onto Pierpont Blvd. and continue all the way down to the entrance of Marina Park.

From 101 South take Seaward Avenue Exit (exit 68) on the right.

Turn left at the light onto Harbor Blvd. Turn right at the corner of Seaward Avenue straight down to the stop sign at intersection of Seaward & Pierpont Blvd.

Turn left onto Pierpont Blvd. and continue all the way down to the entrance of Marina Park.

The cost to attend the event is \$20 per person. The completed reservation form that you will find in this newsletter should be cut off & returned along with

your check **payable** to **VCCCDRA** by the **deadline date of September 24, 2019**. Mail your reservation form and check to Pat Gage, 427 Fernwood Drive, Oxnard, CA 93030.

Looking forward to seeing many friends and former colleagues once again. If you've never attended one of these events, you don't know what you're missing!! Come and see for yourself!!

## Retirees Encouraged to Attend Trustees Meeting on Sept. 10

BY GARY JOHNSON

Chancellor Greg Gillespie has strongly proposed to AFT, SEIU and the VCCCDRA Executive Board that the District **ABANDON** its past 47 year practice of directly contracting for health care benefits with long familiar providers, and instead contract with CalPERS to provide the benefits at an estimated savings to them of more than 10 million dollars. The **consequence** would have Tier II retirees receive Medicare and a Medicare supplemental plan as contract language provides for, and would also have **Tier I retirees** (hired before July 1, 1990 for faculty, and July 20, 1990 for classified) **receive the same Medicare and a Medicare supplemental plan**, which is a substantial change that does not conform to contract language.

Significant concerns (of many) are:

- The use of CalPERS as the benefit provider
- The removal of Anthem/Blue Cross and replacement with a mid-level Medicare plan that is inferior to what we currently have

- The removal of Dual coverage for employees who earned benefits but are legal partners in the same household
- The length of the agreement (3 years) with no guarantees that benefits will not be challenged or lessened at the end of that date.

Obviously there are an abundance of issues and concerns involved in this proposal and the District thinking is still in the process of being revealed. The retiree Executive Board is closely monitoring Union negotiations, has good relationships with both unions, and Board of Trustee members, and is actively exploring all options available for a retiree response.

AFT is urging a large turnout of active employees and retirees to show their concern by attending and speaking at the open session part of the next District Board Meeting and **WE URGE YOU TO ATTEND AND EXPRESS YOUR CONCERNS ALSO**.

**Tuesday, September 10, 6:00 PM (arrive early)**  
VCCCD District Office  
761 East Daily Drive, Camarillo

## ABOUT THE VCCCDRA BLOG

BY CARMEN GUERRERO

Welcome to the VCCCDRA Blog, which you can find online at [blog.vcccdra.org](http://blog.vcccdra.org). The vision for the Blog, is to be "for the good and enlightenment of retirees."

A few changes are coming to the Blog, where we are working to assemble information for you in one place. Often the members receive a variety of bulletins that are sent by email. Information sent by e-mail now will also be uploaded to the Blog and organized by category. Uploading to the Blog will enable you to find it quicker than having to work your way thru numerous emails.

For example, notices of the passing of our members will be in the Obituaries category. We will also be uploading past Annual General Meeting Minutes, and these will be in a similarly named category, Annual General Meeting Minutes.

You can find the Categories listing on the right side of the screen by scrolling to the bottom. It is the last section on the right side.

You can also search the Blog as follows:

- thru the Archives by selecting the month you need, or
- by scrolling the Categories and making your selection.



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VCCCD RETIREES ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL FALL SOCIAL EVENT  
BEACH PARTY—BARBEQUE  
Marina Park – Ventura



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A fun packed day at the Ventura Marina Park right on the Beach and a delicious barbecue is planned for our Annual Social Event this year. Grab your beach towels, flip flops, chairs and a nice big hat to keep the sun off and join in on the fun. The park has plenty of free parking with accessible handicapped parking and concrete walkways in addition to a large grassy area, so you won't need to be in the sand if you don't want to. Tables, chairs and canopy covers will be provided for shade and comfort for those nice long conversations to catch up with former colleagues and old friends! We look forward to seeing you all there!!

**Date: Tuesday, October 1, 2019**

**Place: Ventura Marina Park - End of Pierpont Blvd. in Ventura, CA**

**Time: 12:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. Social Hour: 12 pm - 1 pm (Beverages/Appetizers); Food service: 1 pm**

*Directions: From 101 North take Seaward Avenue Exit (exit 68) on the right. Keep to the left at the fork to continue toward S. Seaward Ave. At the stoplight turn left onto S. Seaward continuing straight down to the stop sign at intersection of Seaward & Pierpont Blvd. Turn left onto Pierpont Blvd. and continue all the way down to the entrance of Marina Park. From 101 South take Seaward Avenue Exit (exit 68) on the right. Turn left at the light onto Harbor Blvd. Turn right at the corner of Seaward Avenue straight down to the stop sign at intersection of Seaward & Pierpont Blvd. Turn left onto Pierpont Blvd. and continue all the way down to the entrance of Marina Park.*

**Menu: Tri-tip, chicken, salads, chili beans, bread, appetizers and desserts. Vegetarian item also available. Water & soft drinks provided. Beer & wine available for purchase. (Remember this is our fundraiser folks, so plan to spend a few bucks!)**

**Cost: \$20 per person (please complete & submit reservation form by deadline date as indicated below)**

We hope you will be able to join in for an afternoon of good food, 50/50 raffle & prizes, camaraderie and for sure plenty of laughs with former colleagues and friends!! Hope to see you there!! (If you are interested in donating items for the raffle, contact Becky Hull ([bhullandus8@gmail.com](mailto:bhullandus8@gmail.com)) or Marie Soo Hoo ([masoohoo@twc.com](mailto:masoohoo@twc.com))).

*Cut Off Here and Return Bottom Portion with Check*

**Reservation/Payment Form**

Retiree's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ If spouse/guest attending, provide name below:  
Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one: Spouse Guest

**Make checks payable only to: VCCCD RETIREES' ASSOCIATION**  
\$20 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ total amount of your check

**Vegetarian meal desired: \_\_\_\_\_ (please check if yes or indicate how many if more than one)**

**Mail completed reservation form and check to:** Pat Gage  
427 Fernwood Drive  
Oxnard, CA 93030-4032

**RESERVATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019**

## Tier 1 Retirees Need Not Enroll in Medicare Part B

BY HARRY CULOTTA

It has been brought to the attention of the VCCCD Retirees Association that selected Tier I retirees of the District have received written communication from Anthem Blue Cross that unless the retirees enroll in Medicare Part B by a certain date, their insurance coverage will lapse.

There have been no reports to date of similar communication from Kaiser, the District's other medical insurance carrier.

Any such communication is not correct as it pertains to Tier I retirees. By collective bargaining agreements or Governing Board policy, Tier I retirees who meet the eligibility requirements (e.g. a specified combination of age and years of service) to qualify for lifetime District-paid insurance coverage when they retire from the District are not required to enroll in Medicare Part B as a condition of receiving the insurance coverage.

Who is a Tier I retiree? You are part of the Tier 1 cohort if you are:

- An instructor who was hired on or before July 1, 1990, or
- A classified employee who was hired on or before July 24, 1990, or
- A manager or supervisor who was hired on or before August 8, 1990.

If you are a Tier I retiree and have received a letter from Anthem Blue Cross as described above, please notify Human Resources at the Ventura County Community College District

and ask that Anthem be given the correct information that applies to your situation – i.e., as a Tier I retiree, you are not required to enroll in Medicare Part B to keep your Anthem coverage.

The persons in Human Resources who can assist you are:

—Janice Endo, Employee Benefits Technician, (805) 652-5531. You can also write to Janice at [Janice\\_endo1@vcccd.edu](mailto:Janice_endo1@vcccd.edu)

—Katy Lyon, Employee Benefits Analyst, (805) 652-5533. You can also write to Katy at [klyon@vcccd.edu](mailto:klyon@vcccd.edu)

Tier I retirees who are covered by the Settlement Agreement that was approved by Ventura County Superior Court in January 2010 are required to enroll in Medicare Part A in order to be included in the settlement class. This requirement, however, does not extend to Medicare Part B.

Anthem has given erroneous information to retirees in the past about issues of Medicare. For example, it has sometimes insisted that retired instructors who were hired before April 1, 1986, and who never paid into Medicare during their careers, must enroll in Medicare.

When VCCCD has given Anthem the correct information, it has backed off. From previous history, we know the District will not relent until Anthem corrects this problem.

# Membership Report

BY JOY KOBAYASHI

**Please join me in welcoming our valued colleagues to the VCCCD Retirees Association and in wishing them a long and satisfying retirement.**

Katherine Lewis	Moorpark College	Karen Osher	Ventura College
Celia Rodriguez	Ventura College		

**Please join me in welcoming our new lifetime members as of 1 January 2019.**

Steven F. Arvizu	Carol Baughman	Gina Brenner
Diane Costabile	Richard De La O	Dave Fuhrmann
Margaret Hahn	Alicia Long	Irene Miller
Sandra Pack	Daniel Reyna	Kathy Rojas
Paula Spencer	Pete Tafoya	Rosalie Wasef

Dear VCCCD Retirees,

As many of you know, I have been trying to obtain email addresses for all members in an effort to reduce our newsletter costs. Periodically, I list the names of those retirees for whom I am missing email addresses. This has been very successful and I will continue to do this in the future. A big “thank you” to those of you who have sent in your addresses or the addresses of other members.

An unintended consequence of my lists have been that we have been made aware of retirees who have passed away. Unfortunately, sometimes we don’t know of their deaths for years. Our “In Memoriam” section in this issue is especially long because my lists have generated several notifications of members who had passed.

If you know of any fellow retirees who have died, please let us know. We want to be sure that they are memorialized and that their other colleagues know that they are gone.

Joy Kobayashi  
Membership Chair  
[tandemstoker@roadrunner.com](mailto:tandemstoker@roadrunner.com)

P.S. Some members mistakenly think that the Association dues increased this year. That is not the case. Our dues are still \$10 per year or \$100 for a lifetime. This will increase to \$20 per year or \$200 for a lifetime on 1 July 2020.

## MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

The Executive Board of the VCCCD Retirees Association consists exclusively of volunteers who donate their time and energy to keep you informed on matters affecting your retirement. Printing and mailing these newsletters is our biggest expense -- over \$2,000 in the last year.

Your Association depends on your membership dues to cover these and other necessary expenses. PLEASE consider joining the Lifetime Members listed above by mailing a check for \$100 (or \$10 per year) to:

VCCCD Retirees Association  
P.O. Box 6216  
Ventura, CA 93006-6216

VCCCD Retirees Association  
P.O. Box 6216  
Ventura, CA 93006-6216

Place  
Postage  
Here

**The Monitor**

**Fall 2019**

### In Memoriam

*We honor the memory of our departed colleagues and extend our sincerest condolences to their families, friends, and associates.*

Edith Bennett	McCallian Blain	Gary Brinkman	Carl Burkert	Jeri Chandler
Connie Drusen	Lucille Edgar	Marijane Farley	Miriam Gunderson	Betty Hill
James Jarvaise	Helen Larmon	Antonio Mariscal	James Pardee	Arthur Rahm
Daniel Rios	Howard Schiller	Virginia Sommerhauser	Carmen Taylor	George Wymer

### 2019-2020 Executive Board

<b>René G. Rodriguez, President</b>	<a href="mailto:vcccdra@yahoo.com"><u>vcccdra@yahoo.com</u></a>
<b>Harry R. Culotta, Past President</b>	<a href="mailto:hculotta@outlook.com"><u>hculotta@outlook.com</u></a>
<b>John Woolley, Vice President</b>	<a href="mailto:jwools37@gmail.com"><u>jwools37@gmail.com</u></a>
<b>Marie Soo Hoo, Secretary</b>	<a href="mailto:masoohoo@twc.com"><u>masoohoo@twc.com</u></a>
<b>Patricia Gage, Treasurer</b>	<a href="mailto:pgage5545@roadrunner.com"><u>pgage5545@roadrunner.com</u></a>
<b>Gary Johnson, Benefits Committee Chair</b>	<a href="mailto:freevcnet@aol.com"><u>freevcnet@aol.com</u></a>
<b>Joy Kobayashi, Membership Committee Chair</b>	<a href="mailto:tandemstoker@roadrunner.com"><u>tandemstoker@roadrunner.com</u></a>
<b>Larry Manson, Educational Issues Committee Chair</b>	<a href="mailto:lmanson@west.net"><u>lmanson@west.net</u></a>