

**VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
RETIREES' ASSOCIATION**

**MINUTES
Annual General Meeting
March 17, 2021, 1:00 p.m.**

Via online Conferencing - Zoom

1. Call to Order

The 27th Annual General Meeting of the VCCCD Retirees' Association was called to order by President Rene Rodriguez at 1:05 p.m. Rene welcomed everyone to the first online conference meeting of the General Membership. Rene reviewed the process and functions that would be followed during this meeting for the approximately 109 retirees in attendance.

2. Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report

a. The Minutes from the 2020 Annual General Meeting prepared by Marie Soo Hoo, secretary, were presented for review and approval. It was moved by Barbara Cogert and seconded by Gerry Olsen, that the Minutes be approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by those in attendance.

b. The Treasurer's Report for the period March 11, 2020 – March 12, 2021, prepared by Pat Gage, treasurer, was presented for review. Prior to reviewing her report, Pat stated that due to sensitivity of pending legal actions, this report would not reflect any information on the Legal Fund. If anyone had any questions, they were asked to contact her. In the General Fund her report reflected a balance on hand of \$13,270.55 as of March 11, 2020. The report further reflected annual expenses totaling \$3,894.93 and an annual income of \$9,518.65. The balance on hand as of March 12, 2021 was reflected as \$18,894.27. The report also reflected current assets in the form of Forever Stamps with a total of 9,700 stamps and 2,800 stamps used during the year. This leaves a balance of 6,900 stamps as of March 12, 2021.

3. Membership Committee Report

Joy Kobayashi, Membership Committee Chair, reported a total of 1,110 members since the establishment of the Association. Of that number there are a total of 739 active and 371 deceased members. Joy also reported that there are 359 paid Lifetime Memberships and that some of the remaining 380 members, are not current with their dues. She reminded them that dues are \$200 for Lifetime and \$20 annually.

4. Introduction of the First Recipient of the VCCCDRA Sponsored Don B. Medley Scholarship: Angela Duran

Prior to introducing Angela Duran, the first recipient of the VCCCDRA Sponsored Don B. Medley Scholarship, Rene gave a brief history of Don's pioneering efforts in private industry and his career with the VCCCD at Moorpark College and as the first administrator of the District in the Information Technology department. He then introduced Angela Duran and asked that she give a brief description of her educational career and educational goals for the future. Angela

commented that she was a fulltime student at Ventura College and a 2019 graduate of Oxnard High School. At Oxnard High School she participated in the Robotics Club competitions and that her team won and was selected to participate in the final competition in Texas. Through her computer skills she hopes to make the environment a better and safer place.

5. **Business Action Items**

- a. Executive Board Recommendation of Amendments to the Bylaws
President, Rene Rodriguez, reminded the membership that the idea of having at-large representatives was proposed by Carolyn Dorrance at the 2020 Annual General Membership Meeting. He asked her at that time if she could write up and present an amendment for consideration by the Executive Board which she did. At the meeting Carolyn read the proposed amendments to the membership which were recommended for approval by the Executive Board:

Amend Article IV – Officers, Section 4.c – by adding text in bold: “To appoint, subject to approval of the Executive Board, the newsletter editor, **the At-Large Representatives** and the chairs of all committees except the Nominating Committee,

Amend Article IV – Officers – by adding new section in bold: **Section 8. At-Large Representatives, Three (3) members of the association shall be appointed by the President as At-Large Representatives to serve on the Executive Board with a general portfolio for a two-year term to run concurrently with the two-year term of the President.**

Amend Article VI – The Executive Board, Section 1, by adding text in bold: “The Executive Board (hereinafter referred to as “The Board”) shall consist of all elected officers, standing committee chairpersons, the immediate past President, **the At-Large Representatives**, and the Newsletter editor.”

Rene commented that due to the impending lawsuit against the VCCCD by the Association, he felt there was an immediate need for these at-large representatives and that he had appointed Marta Freixas, Gary Johnson, and Carolyn Dorrance.

It was moved by Susan Webster and seconded by Becky Hull to approve the Amendments to the Bylaws as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

- b. Report by Nominating Committee Chair: Larry Manson

i. Elections

1. President

Rene introduced Larry Manson as the Nominating Chair. Larry indicated that there was no candidate for President and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were several nominations from the floor by Susan Webster and by Robert Reeves (Marta Freixas, Lyn MacConnaire, Ana Maria Valle Villa, Harry Culotta, Robert Arce, Becky

Hull, Victoria Bortolussi, Ralph James, Barbara Hoffman, Al Nordquist, Jeff Stauffer, Jim Merrill), unfortunately, all declined the nomination. At this time, it was decided that members first contact any one they want to nominate to see if they would accept the nomination and then send their name via email to Larry Manson. Nominations should be submitted by May 1, 2021.

2. Vice President

Carmen Guerrero, who was temporarily appointed to the office of Vice President had agreed to stand for election for a full term. It was moved by Carolyn Dorrance that Carmen Guerrero be nominated for the office of Vice President and the motion was seconded by Harry Culotta. The motion to approve Carmen Guerrero as Vice President of the VCCCDRA, effective July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023 was unanimously approved by those present.

6. **Remarks by President Rene Rodriguez**

Rene made three brief points. One, that the Retirees' Association can be very proud of having established the VCCCDRA Sponsored Don B. Medley Scholarship. This is an accomplishment that will keep on giving year after year from now on. Second, is the importance of remaining in touch with each other and the great resource that we are to each other, and lastly, that we can be so thankful for the existence of the Retirees' Association and its organizing strength which can be so helpful to retirees in times like these.

7. **Keynote Speaker: Erica Deutsch, Attorney-at-Law**

“Status of the VCCCDRA Lawsuit Against the VCCCD”

Erica Deutsch, attorney for the Association, was the keynote speaker for this meeting and her presentation was being made to bring the general membership up to date on the lawsuit against the District. She informed those in attendance that the information given was client/attorney privilege and should not be discussed with anyone not in attendance. She commented that case law has been explored in cases such as ours, Breach of Contract with regard to lifetime benefits for retirees. Further, she stated that we are currently in Discovery, no trial date has been set. Members were asked to send any issues or concerns with medical health plans to Lyn MacConnaire who will send them on to Erica.

8. **Question and Answer Period**

a. For Keynote Speaker, Erica Deutsch

One retiree in attendance related the issue that she has been having with BCC for quite a while and receiving her reimbursement. The contact information for the retiree was noted by Erica.

b. For the Executive Board on General Topics

Retirees in attendance were asked to send in their questions via the “chat” feature on Zoom in order that all questions could be seen and responded to. There were numerous questions submitted and they were read aloud by Marie Soo Hoo,

Secretary, and responded to mostly by Marta Freixas, At-Large-Representative. Marta is considered the most knowledgeable person on the Executive Board regarding issues with the health plans, due to the significant amount of research and comparison she has done on most of the health plans and all on her own time. Those in attendance were thankful for the information provided and for the guidance given on how to proceed if issues continued.

9. Announcements

Jim Merrill expressed thanks to Rene Rodriguez for his years of service as President.

10. Adjournment

Rene thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Soo Hoo
Secretary

4/20/2021;4/24/2021; rev-1/4/2022