

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

**MINUTES
Annual General Meeting
April 27, 2022, 1:00 p.m.**

Via online Conferencing - Zoom

1. Welcome

President Diane Moore welcomed all those in attendance via Zoom and on their phones to the 28th Annual General Meeting and second on-line conference meeting of the General Membership of the VCCCD Retirees' Association. Diane then introduced Rene Rodriguez, immediate Past President, who would explain the Zoom Etiquette to be used during the meeting.

2. Zoom Etiquette

Rene Rodriguez explained that it would be best for everyone to place themselves on "mute" during the meeting so that there would be no outside disturbances during the meeting. He also explained the use of the "chat" feature for anyone who wanted to ask question(s) after the presentation by the speaker or any general questions for the Board Members of the Executive Board at the end of meeting.

3. History of the Donald B. Medley Scholarship & Second Recipient

President Diane Moore gave a brief history on the establishment of the Donald B. Medley Scholarship. The scholarship was established in 2019 in honor and memory of Don Medley, founder of the VCCCDRA, who passed away in 2018. There were 258 retirees who contributed to the scholarship, she said, the purpose of which is to assist students in any of the campuses of the VCCCD who are majoring in computer studies, such as network security which is a major concern in today's world, and/or computer information systems. President Moore announced that the recipient for this year was, Nathan Venzon, currently a student at Moorpark College. Mr. Venzon was invited, but unfortunately, he was unable to attend the meeting. President Moore gave a brief presentation of Mr. Venzon's plans for his future and use of the scholarship.

4. Protecting Our Benefits at the State Level

Our Keynote Speaker, Greg Barker, President, California Retired Teachers Association, Division 28, was introduced by Rene Rodriguez. Mr. Barker spoke about the origins of CalRTA, the accomplishments of the association, and the leadership and influence CalRTA has in the State of California protecting the pensions of former educators and as a leader of a national coalition to bolster Medicare and eliminate the unfair Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Offset Provision (GPO) that affects so many educators. Attendees were also provided with membership applications.

After his presentation, Carmen Guerrero read the following questions that were submitted via chat for Mr. Barker.

1. Jim Merrill asked if CalRTA represented others not in STRS?

Mr. Barker responded that only those in public education are represented. There was a comment from Harry Culotta in response to this question, that the California State Retirees Association represents the members of CalPERS at the state and local level.

2. David Magallanes asked if there was any chance that the Windfall Elimination Provision would be retroactive?

Mr. Barker responded that it would need to be negotiated.

3. Marta Freixas asked when did or will the 87% inflation protection go into effect? Mr. Barker responded that, as with many such bills, legislative action is required and that takes time. He further stated that its approval has been proposed by the CalSTRS Board and he believes passage is imminent.

Patty Gage commented that she felt the presentation was wonderful and appreciated the accomplishments of the association. Carmen Guerrero also commented and indicated that she is one of the many retirees affected by the WEP and appreciates the work of CalRTA. Marta Freixas asked Mr. Barker if he was aware of a situation that affects some retirees who, either due to WEP, or who have not worked that much and do not receive or receive very small Social Security checks, are not allowed to automate their Medicare payments? She further stated they receive yearly billings for Medicare that in some cases are huge. If they are unable to pay it, they are in the position of losing their insurance coverage all together. Mr. Barker commented that he was unaware of the situation and asked Marta to write to him, and he would try to find out more information regarding the situation.

5. **Call to Order**

President Diane Moore, officially called the meeting to order at 1:55 p.m.

6. **Approval of Minutes of Last General Meeting of March 17, 2021**

a. The Minutes from the 2021 Annual General Meeting prepared by Marie Soo Hoo, secretary, were presented for review and approval. It was moved by Gerry Olsen and seconded by Marta Freixas, that the Minutes be approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by those in attendance.

7. **Business Action Items**

a. Nominating Committee Chair Larry Manson announced the names of candidates that have agreed to stand for election for the following offices on the Executive Board:

- i. President – Susan Bricker
- ii. Secretary – Marie Soo Hoo
- iii. Treasurer – David Magallanes

At this point Larry turned the election process over to President Diane Moore.

- b. Nominations from the floor
Diane addressed the members in attendance and asked if there were any other nominations of candidates from the floor. There were no further nominations of candidates for any of the offices from the floor.
- c. Closing of nominations
There being no further nominations of candidates from the floor, President Diane Moore declared the nominations closed and called for the vote.
- d. Vote
President Diane Moore indicated that a vote by a show of hands from those in attendance would be taken for each candidate. For the following offices, the names of the candidates were presented and voted upon:

For the office of President – Susan Bricker was unanimously approved.
For the office of Secretary – Marie Soo Hoo was unanimously approved.
For the office of Treasurer – David Magallanes was unanimously approved.
- e. Bylaws – Change to list of Standing Committees
President Diane Moore presented for information a change to Article VII – Standing Committees.

“The current Standing Committees consist of, in order of formation, the Benefits Committee, the Educational Issues Committee, the Membership Committee and the Scholarship Committee.”

8. Remarks by President – Diane Moore

President Diane Moore introduced the members of the Executive Board and asked them to say a few words about their service with the District and their current position on the Board.

- i. Past President
Rene Rodriguez commented that he would be stating some parting words as he will be stepping down as an active member of the Executive Board. Rene stated that he served ten years as president of the Association and 16 years total as a member of the Executive Board. However, he indicated that as a named plaintiff in our current legal situation, he will continue to participate, as necessary. He congratulated the newly elected officers and thanked them for volunteering to serve on the Executive Board.
- ii. Vice President/Web/Blog Master
Carmen Guerrero stated that she has served on the Executive Board for two years and had forty-four years of service in the District, having served as both part-time and full-time academic faculty/administrator and classified. Carmen thanked Rene for his leadership and service and welcomed the newly elected officers.

iii. Secretary/Social Committee

Marie Soo Hoo stated that she started her career in the District as a student in the HR Department of the District in 1969. Initially she worked in the Records Office in her first full-time position with the District in July of 1970 and retired in September of 2008 as HR Supervisor. She indicated that she has served as Secretary of the Association for 12 years. Marie stated that she makes every effort to contact soon to-be retirees prior to their leaving, however, that is not always possible. She asked those in attendance to please notify her if they are aware of any new retirees and to have them contact us. Further, she commented that the Social Committee is not planning any social event this year, but that hopefully next year we can gather and celebrate at the “Jubilee of 2023”.

iv. Treasurer

Patty Gage stated that she has served as Treasurer for twelve years and that she will miss all the Executive Board members. She thanked Rene for his service and especially thanked David Magallanes for stepping up to take over the position of Treasurer. She encouraged everyone to continue supporting the Association.

There was a question from Gerry Olsen at this time as to whether there would be a Treasurer’s report. President Diane Moore explained that due to the current litigation and as advised by our attorney, no financial information would be shared at this time.

v. Membership Committee

Joy Kobayashi stated that she was formerly a full-time instructor at VC for 33 years and has served as Membership Chair for 5 years, having taken over from Don Medley. She thanked Rene for his service and for establishing the VCCCDRA Sponsored Don Medley Scholarship, for without him, it would not have happened.

Joy reported that there are currently 797 active members and 382 deceased members for a total of 1,179. A number, she commented, that Don Medley would find hard to believe. Joy also reported that of the current active members, only 364 are Lifetime members and 433 (over half of the total actives) are annual dues paying members. However, of that number not all are currently up to date on paying their dues. She asked the attendees to contact her if they would like to find out if they were current with their dues or if they wanted to become Lifetime members. She further reminded those in attendance that the deadline for sending in information for the new directory was coming up soon. Directories were being sold for \$10 and had to be pre-ordered and paid by April 29.

vi. Educational Committee

Larry Manson stated that he worked at VC from 1970 – 2006 teaching English/History and Reading. Near the end of his career, he stated, that he participated in the designing of the LRC building at VC, along with Diane Moore and Sandy Hajas. Further, he stated that due to the current litigation with the District, there have been no meetings held with the committee members or Board of Trustees.

vii. Newsletter Editor
Sandy Hajas stated that she worked at VC for 28 years in the Library and as LRC Supervisor and that this was her first year as a member of the Executive Board. She thanked Rene for his service and welcomed Susan and David aboard as new officers.

viii. Benefits Committee
Harry Culotta commented that he had 32 years of service both at VCCCD and So. Orange County Community College District. He stated that he had served as President of the Association for four years, 2009-2013 and as Newsletter Editor for ten years and thanked Sandy for taking over. The Benefits Committee is the oldest committee of the Association and was formerly headed by Gary Johnson. Presently there are two important tasks he wants to accomplish and asked for volunteers to assist with the comparison of the 2023 Evidence of Coverage Booklets from CalPERS for changes or omissions that could adversely affect retirees. Volunteers would be needed from August or September 2022 – December 2022, when the booklets become available for review. He provided his email information to those in attendance for anyone who wanted to volunteer. The other task was the contacting of newly widowed surviving spouses of retirees who may be eligible for continuation of their insurance coverage under the current plan. He thanked all Executive Board members for their service.

ix. Scholarship Committee
Carolyn Dorrance was unable to attend this meeting.

x. At-Large-Representatives
Ruth Hemming had no comments to make.

Joan Smith stated that she was a new member this year and thanked everyone for their hard work and service on the Executive Board. She plans to continue to serve in this position. She commented how nice it was to see everyone at this meeting and looks forward to seeing everyone next year if there is a social event planned.

Marta Freixas stated that she was a VC Math instructor for 35 years and has served on the Executive Board for two years and on the Benefits Committee for four years. She thanked Rene, Diane, and Patty for their work with the organization and stated that she was happy and grateful to have served with them. She asked attendees to be sure to review page 4 of the Monitor regarding any questions or problems members may be having with reimbursement from BCC or any other problems with current benefit plan coverage.

xi. Legal Committee
Lyn MacConnaire, co-chair, stated that the Legal Committee is working to ensure in written agreements that our health benefits are maintained as promised by contracts. So that this may be the last time we have to sue the District for the continuance of our health benefits for our lifetime

10. Adjournment

Diane thanked everyone for attending and stated that the formal part of the meeting was being adjourned and that those who did not wish to stay for the Question-and-Answer period could leave. The official business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

9. Question and Answer Period

Issues of General Concern – Carmen Guerrero read the following questions submitted via chat and the answers given by respondent.

1. Juan Hernandez asked where and when the recording of the meeting would be posted. Rene Rodriguez answered that once the opportunity to review the recording with the attorney is completed, whatever information is allowed, will be posted to the blog. He hoped that it would be within a week.
2. Becky Hull asked if the Legal Fund needed any more donations? Diane Moore answered that everyone would be notified if and when additional donations were needed.
3. Jan Archibald asked if it was possible to obtain the directory in digital format? Diane Moore answered that it is not possible as the information is personal and confidential and could accidentally be accessed by others not members of the Association.
4. Shirley Baskin asked for the address of the blog. Carmen answered that it was – blog.vcccdra.org.
5. Gerry Olsen asked whether a summary of the new contract would be received once the negotiations are completed with the District? Lyn MacConnaire answered that yes, copies will be made available and posted to blog or website.
6. Lauri Moore asked to whom should she reach out to for issues with BCC? Marta Freixas answered that she would be happy to assist Lauri and provided her with her contact information.
7. Jim Merrill asked if there was someone to check with to see whether previous referrals of widows/widowers have been in contact? Rene Rodriguez answered that yes, he has been in contact with those surviving spouses or a child of retirees that we have become aware of.
8. Ed Tennen asked several questions: 1) is there was a complete list of deceased retirees available? 2) Could Harry elaborate on the District dropping CalPERS? 3) How about a thumbnail sketch of the salient issues if possible?
 - 1) Carmen answered that Joy Kobayashi would have the complete list.

- 2) Harry answered that at this time there has been nothing on any recent Board Agendas regarding a change from CalPERS for the 2022-2023 year. He indicated we must be vigilant because they could decide in any fiscal year to do so.
- 3) Harry commented that the importance of having a negotiated settlement signed by the District and the Retirees Association is to be able to enforce the level of benefits in a court of law if it should come to that.

Harry Culotta and Marta Freixas both encouraged everyone, if they were able, to send in any amount of donation they could afford to the Legal Fund in order to keep the pump primed for future legal issues that could arise.

9. Iva Jefferys asked what is the address for the Association?

Marie Soo Hoo provided the address: P.O. Box 6216, Ventura, CA 93006-6216.

At the conclusion of the Questions and Answer Period the following retirees shared their appreciation of the Executive Board members for their continued assistance and hard work on behalf of the retirees – Linda Rovai, Teri Lara, and Ana Maria Valle Villa.

The Q & A portion of the meeting on Issues of General Concern adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Soo Hoo
Secretary

7/8/2022; rev-7/18/2022;apprvd-5-10-23