

Winter 2009

Ventura County Community College District  
Retirees' Association

# The Monitor

## President's Message by Rene Rodriguez Annual Meeting Slated for March 25

It has been a long seven months since July 23, 2008, when negotiators for the Retirees' Association and the College District reached a Tentative Agreement and turned it over to the attorneys to incorporate it into a final document that would then go to the Board of Trustees, and subsequently to the court for certification.

During this intervening period, the two-page Tentative Agreement has turned into a twenty-nine page document, from which, inevitably, a number of new issues arose, each requiring resolution on the part of the attorneys and their respective clients. Most of these issues were resolved after months of negotiations, but some issues still linger.

We had hoped to have all issues resolved by the end of 2008, and we made some extraordinary efforts to accomplish this, but unfortunately, we could not come to terms on some important issues before the year ended. Since then, important progress has been made, and both attorneys continue efforts to close this gap.

As things stand now, the Tentative Agreement remains pretty much intact within the new document. However, some language still needs to be modified or taken out altogether before we can be assured that the intent of the Tentative Agreement will not be violated or invalidated.

We will be discussing this matter with you at our upcoming annual general meeting on March 25 (see details below), and it is my sincerest hope that I will be bringing you news that all issues have been resolved. Otherwise, we will report to you on the contents of the most current draft of the final settlement and whatever issues remain unresolved.

There will also be other important business for you to consider, not the least of which is the election of a new president for the organization. I have asked Gary Johnson to act as chair of the nominating committee, so if you have any recommendations, please forward them to Gary Johnson at [vcccdra@yahoo.com](mailto:vcccdra@yahoo.com) or call Gary at his home (consult the organizational list of names, addresses and phone numbers). Please note that my third year as president ends on June 30, 2009, and that I will continue as a member of the Executive Board as past president per our bylaws.

The next general meeting of the VCCCD Retirees' Association will be on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Ventura County Schools Conference and Educational Services Center at 5100 Adolfo Road, in Camarillo.

Directions from Ventura: take 101 South past Camarillo and go to Santa Rosa Road and turn left, go over the overpass and go two blocks to Adolfo Road and turn right.  
Directions from Thousand Oaks: take 101 North and just past the Conejo grade go to the Santa Rosa Road exit and turn right; go two blocks to Adolfo Road and turn right.

It has been my privilege to serve as your president for these last three years. I have been proud to serve for an organization of committed college district retirees who together have formed a united effort to confront an attack on our health benefits. Much progress has been made since we began this effort more than three years ago, particularly due to

- the skills and leadership of our former president and current chair of the Benefits Committee, Gary Johnson

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## President's Message

(Continued from Page 1)

- the leadership and commitment of the members of the Benefits Committee: Stan Bowers, Orlene Bowers, Harry Culotta, Barbara Hoffman, Vivian Lockard, Bob Long, Bob Lopez, Don Medley, Gary Morgan, Gil Ramirez, Rene Rodriguez, Dave Thomas, Manny Turse, and John Woolley
- the skills and leadership of Gary Morgan, chair of the Political Committee: Harry Culotta, Gary Johnson, Larry Manson, Gil Ramirez, Rene Rodriguez
- the important contributions of Don Medley, chair of the Membership Committee
- the work and due diligence of the Executive Board: Rene Rodriguez, Harry Culotta, Vivian Lockard, Gary Johnson, Gary Morgan and Don Medley
- the work of your negotiations team: Rene Rodriguez, Gary Johnson, Bob Long
- the retirees who stepped forward to lend their names as plaintiffs to the lawsuit representing the various classification of employees in our lawsuit, and who also worked closely with our attorney, Tom Sharpe, to do the work required of them as the lawsuit progressed before it was put on hold in favor of negotiations: Rene Rodriguez, Gary Johnson, Robert Long, Robert Lopez, Barbara Hoffman, Dave Thomas, Vivian Lockard, Eursell Jett, Charlene Blalock-Carlson, Donald Medley, Harry Korn.

All these folks deserve acknowledgment and your thanks for a job exceedingly well done.

Finally, the general membership, most of whom contributed towards the legal fund, made it possible for us to demonstrate our serious intent to the District regarding our health benefits.

The entire process has been a well-concerted effort, and one that can continue, if it needs to, under new leadership. However, please know that we are continuing to work on finding a resolution to the issues that remain before we come together at our forthcoming meeting on March 25. I hope to see you then.

Stay well and regards to all.  
Rene G. Rodriguez  
President, VCCCDRA

## IN MEMORIAM

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE PASSING OF  
OUR VALUED COLLEAGUES, EXTEND  
DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THEIR FAMILIES  
AND FRIENDS, AND CHERISH THEIR  
MEMORY

***Cheryl Shearer***

***Lynn Grieg***

***Robert Kelly***

***Terry O'Neill***

***Robert Rithner***

***Rachel Santoyo***

***Michael Slama***

***Thomas Stuebe***

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## Membership Update by Don Medley

**THERE ARE MANY NEW RETIREES!!! WE NEED ADDRESSES, EMAIL ADDRESSES, & PHONE NUMBERS FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE. If you can help call Don Medley at 805-482-8761 or email to [don.medley@verizon.net](mailto:don.medley@verizon.net). Thank you for your help.**

Donald Anderson	Charlene Arnold	Eleanor Austin	Barbara Baker	James Botting
Madaline Braun	Patricia Burkard	Carl Burker	Francis W. Carrigan	Agustin Castaneda
Francisco Castro	Rose Marie Castro	Christy Corbett	Jose F. de Guzman	Patricia Earl
Jesse "Russ" Emory	Katherine Felter	Ruby Filar	Dallas Flanigan	Pablo R. Gurrola
Rosalio Haro	Erlinda Tuyor Ispahani	Dolly Kessner	Sandra Kinghorn	Teresa Lara
Joyce Lundy	Lyn MacConnaire	George Martinez	Michael McGann	Norlene Neal
Connie Nikirk	Garland Orr	John Palafox	Linda Porter	Steve Price
Candy Ramirez	Conrad Reider	Roberto Renteria	Robert Reynolds	Della Rhodes
John Roach	Harmony Rodriguez	Alicia Rosas	William Shilley	Brenda Shubert
Barbara Smith	Carl B. Smith	Carol Smith	Kathlyn Spencer	Sharon Stout
John Thomsen	Myra Toth	Mary Louise Verbeck	Gerald White	Ernest Williams
Louise Zitnik				

### **Please correct your roster with the following changes:**

Jeffery and Katy Barsch	Rafael Carranza	Connie Drusen	Karen de la Pena
Priscilla de Garcia	Virginia L. George (Dodd)	Barbara Harvey	Don Henderson
Ellis & Beverly Jump	David Kay	Tom Kimberling	Janet Leifur
Jeri Lupton	Angela Marquez	Jo Ann Moore	Marilyn Pomeroy
Patricia Rush	Robert Renger	Marie Soo Hoo	Lynette Young

### **Email Address changes:**

Rita Beahan	Laura Campbell
Jack Fleming	Henry & Ester Nevarez

# Ventura County Community College District Retirees' Association

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## Ventura County Community College District Retirees Association

Post Office Box 6216  
Ventura, CA 93006-6216

Visit us on the Web at  
<http://www.vcccdra.org>

### Executive Board

Rene G. Rodriguez, President

Gary Johnson, Past President

Harry Culotta, Vice President

Vivian Lockard, Secretary-Treasurer

Gary Johnson, Benefits Committee Chair

Don Medley, Membership Committee Chair

Gary Morgan, Political Committee Chair

**VCCCD Retirees Association**

**P.O. Box 6216**

**Ventura, CA 93006-6216**

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stamp here