

Winter 2014

Ventura County Community College District Retirees' Association

# The Monitor

## South Pacific Food and Entertainment Feted at Polynesian Luau

VCCCD retirees and guests enjoyed an idyllic experience with a South Pacific flair at the annual fall social gala on October 24, 2013.

Billed as a Polynesian Luau, the afternoon event, held from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Camarillo Springs Golf Course clubhouse, featured an abundance of South Pacific dining and live entertainment. Seventy retirees and their guests attended.

Parking was limited, so volunteer drivers Wally Soo Hoo, René Rodriguez, and Larry Manson shuttled folks from the parking lot to the clubhouse and back again.

Planned and implemented by the Social Committee, the event included a buffet-style luau featuring hearty servings of Polynesian pork, Chinese chicken salad, steamed rice, fruit platters, cookies, cake, and a variety of beverages. Vegetarian alternatives were also offered.

Several volunteers, including Neil Ziegler, Don Rodrigues, Bob Reeves, Becky Hull, and Juan Hernandez took turns at the bar, selling beer and wine throughout the afternoon.

Debbie Talili, assisted by other Social Committee members, labored for hours in the clubhouse kitchen preparing the meals, and she also prepared the flower arrangements.

When later introduced to the audience by Pat Gage, Debbie received a rousing burst of applause.

Two talented musical ensembles provided live entertainment throughout the afternoon. The Wilson Center Strummers, a ukulele ensemble, performed an hour of memorable Hawaiian tunes, including classics such as "Lovely Hula Hands," "Ukulele Lady," and "Aloha Oe." The second group, A Touch of Polynesia, dazzled the audience with a variety of exotic dances from the many island nations of the South Pacific. They also invited several retirees to join them on stage.

Treasurer Pat Gage presented several awards: Gerry Torres received the male award for the best South Pacific outfit; Debbie Talili received the female award for the best South Pacific attire.

Lenora McCarthy received the award for being retired the longest – 22 years. Becky Hull received the award for being retired the shortest – 10 weeks. Joan Comstock received the 50/50 raffle prize.

Pat Gage and Bob Reeves both won door prizes. In the silent auc-

tion, Yvonne Bodle Farris was the top bidder for the lovely gift basket.

President René Rodriguez presented a very special award to Don Medley, who founded the VCCCD Retirees Association in 1994. The Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation "...is hereby granted to Don Medley for the founding of the Ventura County Community College District Retirees Association and for his continuing contribution, participation, and years of service."

Don was humbled by the recognition and expressed his thanks to everyone who has worked with him to develop and grow the organization over the years. He received a standing ovation from the audience.

Finally, René recognized, and the attendees applauded, the members of the Social Committee who created such a delightful event: Patricia Gage, Marie Soo Hoo, Debbie Talili, Betty Sahota, Valerie Lee, Marta Garza, Tanya Burke, and Shirley Baskin.

After all this excitement, retirees will be looking forward with great anticipation to next year's event. Those who would like to help plan the social event for next year should contact Pat Gage at [pgage5545@roadrunner.com](mailto:pgage5545@roadrunner.com)

## Highlights of the Polynesian Luau



The Wilson Center Strummers play their ukuleles, sing Hawaiian melodies, and dance during the first half of the Polynesian Luau.



Several retirees join in the Pacific islands dancing with performers from A Touch of Polynesia during the second half of the Polynesian Luau.



VCCCDRA founder Don Medley talks about the beginnings of the Association after receiving a Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation from VCCCDRA president René Rodriguez.



Members of the Social Committee display their colorful Pacific islands attire. Pictured, from left to right, are Debbie Talili, Marie Soo Hoo, Tanya Burke, Betty Sahota, Pat Gage, Shirley Baskin, Marta Garza, and Valerie Lee.

# Membership Report

## BY DON MEDLEY

**THERE ARE MANY NEW RETIREES, AND WE DON'T HAVE EVERYONE'S ADDRESS!!! WE NEED ADDRESSES/PHONE NUMBERS/EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE. Please call Don Medley at 805-482-8761 or email to don.medley@verizon.net if you can help. Thank you!**

Margaret Boles	Linda Chapman	Christy Corbett
David Doreo	Virginia George (Dodd)	Wilmer Ingram
Steven J. Mayer	Mike McDaniel	Norann McDaniel
Patricia Olson	Jerry Purcell	Don (Clarence) Richardson
Al Villegas	Emma Waits	

**Please update your directory with the following address changes:**

Steven M. Alcocer	Virginia Atmore	Susan Gaddie
Ellis & Beverly Jump	Richard Kurtik	Diana Lopez
Gaynor & Mary McGhee	Lavar N. Rigby	Salvatore Sanchez Jr
Ramiro Sanchez	Karen Van Cleave	

**Please update your directory with the following email changes:**

Jeffery Barsch	Shirley P. & Paul Baskin	
Don Bowen		Linda Gray Daly-Calderon
Mary Cruz		Priscilla Partridge de Garcia
Lynne Doria		Gerald R Fecht
Catherine L. Garnica		Jesus A. Gonzales
W. Ray & Barbara Hearon		Ruth Hunt & Harry Korn
Cathy Kriss		Bonnie Mastiere
Johnna Morton		Margaret E O'Neill, PhD
Maureen Solheim		Manny & Sandy Trevino

# It's time to publish a new VCCCDRA directory

**BY DON MEDLEY**

The time has come to publish a new name and address directory for the VCCCD Retirees' Association. To insure that we publish only what you approve, please complete the following and return the information to me or email me at [don.medley@verizon.net](mailto:don.medley@verizon.net) by **January 31, 2014**. Simply detach this page and mail (or email) it to me at the address shown. (NOTE: The directory is no longer free.) If you wish to obtain a copy, please enclose your check for \$5, payable to the VCCCD Retirees Association, along with this form. Thank you for your support!

**If you do not respond, we will publish your name, address, telephone number and email address.**

Don B. Medley  
110 Flora Vista Avenue  
Camarillo, CA 93012-5170  
805-482-8761  
[don.medley@verizon.net](mailto:don.medley@verizon.net)

## DIRECTORY INFORMATION AND ORDER FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone : \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Unlisted - do not publish Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please publish the following information:** (If you do not respond, we will publish your name, address, telephone number and email address that are on file).

\_\_\_\_\_ Include Name, Address, Telephone Number, and email.

\_\_\_\_\_ Include Name, Address, and email but not telephone number.

\_\_\_\_\_ Include only Name and Telephone Number.

\_\_\_\_\_ Include only Name and email.

\_\_\_\_\_ Include Name, Telephone Number, and email, but not Address.

\_\_\_\_\_ Include Name only.

\_\_\_\_\_ Do Not include my name in the directory.

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to order a copy of the directory. Enclosed is check number \_\_\_\_\_ for \$5, payable to VCCCDRA.



## Recent Additions to the Website

BY RENE RODRIGUEZ

This year's Thanksgiving reminded me again that we have so much to be thankful for, not the least of which is our friendship and camaraderie that our VCCCD Retirees' Association helps to keep alive and active. The addition of three consecutive annual social events during the Fall, for example, has kept us more connected and abreast of each others' lives without being intrusive.

An equally important example is the Association's website at [www.vcccdra.org](http://www.vcccdra.org). The website is now more than seven years old. In addition to providing timely information for our fellow retirees, it also serves as a useful repository of information about our organization.

Examples of useful documents available for downloading at the click of a mouse are (1) the latest issue of the *Monitor* (or all previous newsletters going back to Fall 2006), (2) the

health benefits settlement agreement between our association and the Ventura County Community College District, and (3) a copy of the annual "excess cost" reimbursement forms, available at the "Forms" tab on the home page.

If you need information about the current officers of your Retirees' Association, go to the "Exec Board" tab on the home page, and you'll find a listing of all the officers and standing committee chairs. I encourage everyone to familiarize yourself with the wealth of information available to you on the website.

What's new on the website? If you hover your mouse over the "What's New" tab, you'll see a "Photo Gallery" tab to the right. Further to the right, you'll see tabs linking to photos taken at the 2011 barbeque, the 2012 pre-retiree forum at Moorpark College, and the 2012 fiesta. In the near future, you will see photos from the 2013 luau. This is our first foray into providing pictures to

you of members and activities of the Association.

What may be coming to the website? We are exploring developing a blog, to be run by one of our retirees, to keep us up on current issues of interest. If you have suggestions for a blog or ideas for incorporating photos or videos onto the website, please don't hesitate to contact me at [vcccdra@yahoo.com](mailto:vcccdra@yahoo.com) or phone me at home. You'll find my number in your copy of the VCCCDRA Membership Directory.

Please think of [www.vcccdra.org](http://www.vcccdra.org) as another way to keep in touch with one another. If you wish to become an active participant in making the website more responsive to the needs of our members, please contact me. Meanwhile, enjoy the use of the website as we continue to make it a better vehicle of communication for our retirees.

**Look for us on the Web at**

**<http://www.vcccdra.org>**

**In Memoriam**

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

Dolores S. Casuga  
Kilby Perkins

Donna Johnsen  
Herminio Pillado

**2013-2014 Executive Board**

**Rene G. Rodriguez, President**

**Harry R. Culotta, Past President**

**Lynn Fauth, Vice President**

**Marie Soo Hoo, Secretary**

**Patricia Gage, Treasurer**

**Gary Johnson, Benefits Committee Chair**

**Don Medley, Membership Committee Chair**

**Larry Manson, Educational Issues Comm. Chair**

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

Place  
postage  
here

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED