

Fall 2014

Ventura County Community College District Retirees' Association

The Monitor

Trustee Election Has One Contested Seat

Three of the five trustee seats in the Ventura County Community College District are up for election this year, but since no challenger filed to run in two trustee areas, only one contest will appear on the November 2014 ballot.

Trustee Stephen Blum from Area 1 (Ventura, Ojai, and northwest Oxnard) and Trustee Art Hernandez from Area 5 (most of Oxnard and Port Huene) drew no opponents. They will automatically get new four-year terms on the VCCCD Board of Trustees. Blum has served as a trustee since 2008; Hernandez has been on the board since 2000.

Area 2 Trustee Dianne McKay, vice president of Mustang Marketing in Thousand Oaks, is running for a second term against Wes Davis, a history and government teacher at Hueneme High School and the president of the AFT local that represents teachers in the Oxnard Union High School District.

In an article published in the *Ventura County Star* in August, Wes Davis stated he is running because, as a teacher, "I have a unique opportunity to understand these [community college] students and what they need. This is an opportunity to advocate for our students, just in a different role."

In the same article, Dianne McKay noted that the college district has emerged from budget reductions and accreditation issues. She had this to say about her candidacy: "I came in during challenging times for the district and for community colleges as a whole. Now we have the opportunity to expand programs for students to help them succeed...."

Area 2 includes Newbury Park, Thousand Oaks, Oak Park, Westlake Village, the Santa Rosa Valley, CSU Channel Islands, and part of the Oxnard Plain.

On Thursday, September 4, a committee of the VCCCD Retirees Association conducted one-hour interviews of both trustee candidates. The committee consisted of Larry Manson (chair), Stan Bowers, David Breslin, Harry Culotta, and Gary Morgan.

Committee members were impressed with both candidates. The committee recognized Wes Davis's intelligence, his role as AFT president at Oxnard Union High School District, and his passionate commitment to higher education. The committee also noted Dianne McKay's extensive knowledge of the District and the colleges, her experience during the accreditation challenges and budget cutbacks, and her deep involvement with activities at all three colleges.

Subsequently, the VCCCD Retirees Association Executive Board voted to endorse Dianne McKay for re-election as Area 2 trustee.

Shelley Signor Touched Many Lives

BY MARIE SOO HOO

In life I have found that there are times when we are unable to find the words to describe our feelings. The loss of our dear friend Shelley Signor on October 7, 2014 at the age of 59 is one of these times. How can you describe the loss you feel for someone who has touched not only your life but also the lives of countless others who came her way?

I was fortunate to have Shelley as a co-worker from the day she started working for the Ventura County Community College District in the Human Resources Department in May of 1990, at its long-time headquarters on 71 Day Road in Ventura. Shelley came to the District from the County of Ventura, where she had worked for several years.

Initially Shelley was hired as a Personnel Clerk, but due to her initiative and her desire to be of more assistance to her fellow employees, she began to seek more information from the district's insurance providers so she could share that knowledge whenever she was asked questions or an employee encountered a problem. Shelley's position was reclassified to that of Employee Benefits Technician because of the knowledge she gained and the service she provided to the District. She became an expert in solving all kinds of benefits issues that affected employees and retirees.

In 1993, under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Lakin, Chancellor, the District established a Distinguished Service Award to be conferred for outstanding service to a staff member, supervisor, or manager. Shelley was honored to be the very first recipient of this annual award.

When the District Office moved to the Camarillo Airport in July of 1998, Shelley and I became officemates. Our office was the "one-stop shop" in Human Resources for all employees. If they were being hired, fired or retired, we took care of them. We often wondered how many employees in total had come our way. Unfortunately, we never had the time to figure that one out.

Our office was the "happeningest" place in the District, with the phones constantly ringing and employees or visitors frequently dropping in for assis-

tance with a problem or just stopping by for a friendly greeting and a short chat. Everyone always left in a good mood after visiting with us.

Shelley and I remained officemates until December of 2003 when my position was changed to a supervisory position. This change benefited both of us as we both ended up with our own offices! In August of 2006 the District Office moved to the Stanley Avenue location and even though we no longer shared an office, the duties of our positions kept us closely working together until my retirement in September of 2008.

Many retirees never met Shelley in person, but quickly learned about her when they called her for help with an employee benefits issue. They knew they were in good hands after talking with Shelley. Shelley would go above and beyond what her duties required to solve a problem...that was just her way. Shelley had an infectious personality and a smile that never left her face. She had a way of putting you at ease as soon as you met her and you felt like you had known her forever. You knew you could talk to her about anything, whether work-related or personal, and you knew whatever you discussed would go no further.

Shelley and I were close friends for the 20+ years she worked with the District and shared many activities with our co-workers and families. We will all miss Shelley very much, but I know she is still looking out for us. I say this because part of Shelley is at Ventura College. Shelley's daughter, Kaylen Rodriguez, is the receptionist/operator in the VC Administration Center and she has a personality just like her mom. Kaylen also just happens to be married to my cousin Bobby Rodriguez. It isn't often that someone you considered a great friend happens to become part of your family. I was just blessed in that respect I guess. Our families will forever be connected through her daughter Kaylen and her two sweetie-pie granddaughters, Haku and Bella.

Shelley, thank you for your friendship, your love and support, and for just being you. Rest in Peace my friend. You will never be forgotten.

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!

Robert Anderson	Rebecca Anderson	Gary Anglin	Janet Archibald
Denise Avila	Carol Baughman	Margaret Boles	Vincent Campo
Susan Carter	Linda Chapman	Christy Corbett	Ismael de la Rocha
Will Deits	Carolyn Dorrance	David Farris	Lisa Giammichele
Carmen Guerrero	Charles J. Hewson	Marjorie E Imbach	Wilmer Ingram
Hilmer Keith	James Kenney	Julie Lovejoy	Carl Mahr
Steven J. Mayer	Michael McGann	MaaryAnne McNeil	Candace Peyton Mead
Jerry Purcell	Deborah Ritchie	John Roach	Shelley Savren
Hart Schulz	Joan Smith	Larry D. Smithson	Carmen S Taylor
Charlotte K Udd	Al Villegas	Diane T Volz	Sue Wall
Janice Wiley	Ernest Williams	Grethe Wygant	

Please update your directory with the following address changes:

Barbara Outland Baker	Katherine M Colborn	Sandra M Hajas
Kathlynn Spencer	Patricia Parham	Sue Johnson

Please update your directory with the following e-mail address changes:

Karen Van Cleave
Eddie Baugh

E-mail Address changes needed (e-mails to these people have been returned as undeliverable)

Alberto Beron	Ellis Jump
Betty Albiston	Jean Morgan
Judith Garey	Charlotte K Udd

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.

Debbie Jacobson

Larry O. Miller

Shelley Signor

2014-2015 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

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