VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES
Annual General Meeting
March 27, 2013, 3:00 p.m.

Wright Event Center at Ventura College

1. Welcome, Introductions and President's Message

President Harry Culotta called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. with a welcome to all members, guests and prospective members. Harry specifically thanked Ramiro Sanchez, Ventura College, Executive Vice President and Eloisa Limón of the Civic Center Office for their assistance in arranging for the use of the Wright Event Center for the first-ever annual meeting of the Association on a college campus. He hoped that future meetings would be held at each of the other colleges.

Harry then introduced Robin Calote, Ventura College President and soon-to-be retiree as of June, 2013. Harry next introduced the appointed committee chairs of the Association: Don Medley, Membership Committee, Gary Johnson, Benefits Committee and Larry Manson, Political Committee. He then introduced the Association's elected officers: René Rodriguez, Immediate Past President (4 yrs.) and Webmaster (7 yrs.), Gary Morgan, Vice President and Editor of the Newsletter (3 yrs.), Patricia Gage, Treasurer (3 yrs.) as well as hostess for the Social Committee, Marie Soo Hoo, Secretary (3 yrs.) and Harry himself, who has served as the elected president for almost 3 years, as interim president for 1 year, and as vice president and editor of the *Monitor* for 3 years.

Harry then gave the President's Message. He informed the audience of three important accomplishments of the Association during the past year: The first accomplishment was the very successful social event "La Fiesta" in September 2012 that was held at the Ventura TowneHouse and was attended by over 80 members. He acknowledged the members of the Social Committee who worked to make "La Fiesta" so successful - Pat Gage, Marie Soo Hoo, Tanya Burke, Norma Frisby, Marta Garza, Teri Lara, Sharon Newman, Betty Sahota and Doris MacTague. He especially thanked Kay Faulconer Boger and her husband Don, whose association with the Ventura TowneHouse enabled us to use their facilities for our event.

The second accomplishment was the interviews of the candidates that were running for election to the College District's Board of Trustees in November 2012. That election resulted in the election of two well-qualified candidates, Bernardo Perez and Larry Kennedy.

The third accomplishment was the "get acquainted" lunch with the members of the Executive Board and the District's new chancellor, Dr. Jamillah Moore in November 2012. This was the first time the Retirees' Association Executive Board had dined with a sitting Chancellor of the Ventura County Community College District. We hope to do so again in the future.

2. Minutes of April 25, 2012 Annual Meeting

Copies of the Minutes were distributed to all members along with other Agenda Materials and everyone was asked to review them. Following a brief review, it was moved by John Woolley and seconded by Don Medley that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of April 25, 2012 be approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote of those present.

3. Keynote Presentation: "What's Happening at the VCCCD"

Harry provided a brief career overview of our keynote speaker, Dr. Jamillah Moore, VCCCD Chancellor. She earned her doctoral degree in international and multicultural communication from the University of San Francisco in addition to a master's degree in intercultural communication and a bachelor's degree in communication from Cal State University Sacramento. She began her educational career as a staff member with the California State Senate, working on public policy issues, followed by a stint with the L. A. County Office of Education as its Director of Governmental Relations. She later joined the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges as Sr. Vice Chancellor for Governmental and External Relations. Prior to coming to the VCCCD, Dr. Moore served as President of Los Angeles City College, where one of the highlights of her 4½-year presidency was the receipt of a Goldman Sachs' 10,000 Small Businesses Program grant.

Dr. Moore thanked the Association for inviting her to be its keynote speaker and distributed an outline of her presentation to the audience. She introduced the Governor's 2013-14 Budget Proposal for Community Colleges. Statewide, the proposal includes a 3.6% increase in Proposition 98 funding for COLA, FTES restoration, and categorical program support, which translates to approximately $4.5 million for VCCCD. The budget also includes $49.5 million statewide in Proposition 39 funding for energy efficiency projects or energy-related instruction, plus $315.7 million to shift adult education from K-12 to the community college system.

According to Dr. Moore, Sacramento wishes to improve productivity and add value to higher education by increasing efficiency and student success. The state is proposing several measures to do this including:

- $16.9 million in funding to expand access to 250 new online courses, with a common delivery and support infrastructure,
- a 90-unit cap on the number of units students may complete for credit at community colleges without paying additional fees,
- a phased-in, multi-year shift from the current Program Based Funding (driven primarily by FTES) to Performance Based Funding (driven primarily by course completion rates),
- integration of the BOG (Board of Governors) fee waiver application with the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Assistance), and
- increases in Cal Grant funding for community college students.

Dr. Moore noted that the Board of Trustees has already responded to some of Sacramento's initiatives by revising a number of policies, including the policy on enrollment priorities. This year, VCCCD will update its Educational Master Plan and will seek community input, including that of VCCCD's retirees, as part of this process.

Dr. Moore also announced that the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) had voted in January to fully restore the accreditation status of Moorpark, Oxnard, and Ventura Colleges. This was welcomed news.

Following her presentation, Dr. Moore took several minutes to invite comments and questions from the members in attendance. The audience thanked Dr. Moore for her presentation and responses to the questions with an enthusiastic applause.

4. Reports from the Executive Board

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report prepared by Pat Gage reflected the period March 30, 2012 to March 27, 2013. As of March 30, 2012 the balance on hand reflected $17,418.94 in the Operational Fund. Including income from memberships, social event reservations and donation from the Ventura TowneHouse which totaled $3,672.71, the Association had a total of $21,091.65 in funds available. Deducting the expenses for the year (postage, printing/copies, webpage, facilities/catering, labels/name tags) totaling $3,323.48 left a balance on hand as of March 27, 2013 of $17,768.17 in the Operational Fund. In the Legal Fund the balance on hand was $24,000 as of March 27, 2013.

ASCC Benefits Committee Report: Harry Culotta announced that there was to be a seminar presented by the District at Oxnard College regarding the Affordable Care Act and Medicare. He stressed that it was important for everyone to learn more about these programs because the combination of both programs will largely determine the scope of everyone's health care services beginning in 2014.

He also reported that the medical claims experience this year has been much higher than year. Through the month of December, Anthem Blue Cross has paid out more than 89% of premiums in claims versus less than 84% at the same time last year. Anthem, therefore, has initially proposed a 13.5% rate increase for 2013-14. Comparable increases are expected from Health Net and Kaiser if they have had similar payout ratios. What this means is the possibility of changes to our benefit levels in order to keep premiums within the overall premium rate caps. The most likely possibility, Harry stated, could be increasing the out-of-pocket maximum for both in-network and out-of-network medical services. Harry assured the members that whatever changes were approved would be reported in the *Monitor* and posted on the website.

Membership Committee Report: Don Medley reported that as of March 25, 2013 there had been a total of 915 VCCCD retirees (that we know of) and that of these 226 have passed away. He asked if everyone would check his report in the *Monitor* where he lists the names of retirees for whom addresses are needed and to provide the information to him. Don also discussed the issue of dues. When the Association was first started, there was no reason for dues. However, he stated, now with the increasing costs of postage, publishing and distributing the Association's Directory, preparing and snail-mailing copies of the *Monitor* to those without e-mail and the cost of providing refreshments for the annual meetings, it is necessary for members to bring their dues up-to-date if they have not already paid for a lifetime membership of $100. Don indicated that anyone at the meeting who wanted to pay for a lifetime membership or pay their annual dues of $10 for this year would be considered up-to-date. Members were encouraged to check with Don as to the status of their dues payments.

Political Committee: Larry Manson reported that the Political Committee has continued to meet with Board of Trustee members, Steve Blum, Diane McKay and Bernardo Perez every month. Larry feels that these meetings have been beneficial to the Board of Trustees members as they have expressed their appreciation for the insight provided them on many issues they have faced. At this point, Board of Trustee member Steve Blum, who had been invited to attend this meeting, stood up to comment that he greatly appreciated the willingness of the members of the Political Committee to share their years of experience and working knowledge of the District.

5. Association Business

a. Actions: Revisions to Association Bylaws:

1. Article IV (Officers), Section 2 – this revision deletes the Newsletter Editor as an elected officer.

2. Article IV (Officers), Section 4 – this revision adds the Newsletter Editor as an appointed officer.

3. Article IV (Officers) – Section 5 – this revision deletes Newsletter Editor duties from the Vice President's duties.

4. Article V (Elections), Section 2 – this revision specifies time of annual meeting and timing of notice to members.

5. Article VII (Executive Board), Section 1 – this revision designates the Newsletter Editor as a member of the Executive Board.

It was moved by John Woolley and seconded by Barbara Hoffman that the revisions to the Association's Bylaws be approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote of those present.

b. Action: Election of President (interim) for the 2013-14 fiscal year

Harry asked if there was anyone in the audience willing to serve as the interim president or if there was a motion to nominate someone from the audience. Hearing none, Harry stated that he would entertain a motion to nominate René Rodriguez to serve as interim president for a one-year term. It was moved by Ruth Hemming and seconded by Robert Lopez, that René Rodriguez be elected to serve as interim president for 2013-14. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote of those present.

c. Action: Election of Vice President (interim) 2013-14 fiscal year

Harry informed the members that there was a candidate who, if nominated, is willing to serve as interim vice president for a one-year term. Harry introduced Lynn Fauth as the candidate and stated that he would entertain a motion to nominate Lynn Fauth as interim vice president. It was moved by Don Medley and seconded by Don Rodrigues that Lynn Fauth be elected to serve as interim vice president for 2013-14. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote of those present.

d. Other Business

Harry noted that today the Association had elected an interim president and vice president and had approved important changes to the Bylaws of the VCCCD Retirees' Association. Many of those changes, he stated, deal with the Newsletter Editor which is now separate from the vice president. As Gary Morgan has resigned from his position of Vice

President/Newsletter Editor, someone is now needed to take his place. Harry asked for a volunteer from the audience who would be willing to serve as the Newsletter Editor. No one volunteered to accept this position, but Harry asked if anyone decided they would be interested to please contact him or René.

At this point Susan Webster raised her hand and stated that she had an issue regarding CalPERS long-term care that she would like to bring forward to the assembly. Susan presented a letter she had prepared describing her situation and protesting the 85% rate increase to those enrolled in the long term care program. She asked that a vote be taken in support of sending a protest letter to the CalPERS Board of Administration from the Association. Harry and René briefly conferred, and it was noted that a regular vote could not be taken on this issue as it was not an item listed on the agenda for action. However, it was further noted that a motion could be made to suspend the rules, which, if passed, could allow Susan's proposal to be consider.

Therefore, it was moved by Barbara Hoffman and seconded by Linda Calderon that the rules be suspended and that Susan Webster's proposal be allowed to be voted on. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote of those present. It was then moved by Susan Webster and seconded by Kay Faulconer Boger that the Association send a letter to the CalPERS Board of Administration protesting the 85% rate increase for the CalPERS long term care program, with copies to be sent to all members the CalPERS Board of Administration and local legislators. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote of those present. Susan indicated that she and Victoria Bortolussi would work on a final version of her letter and provide a copy of it to the Executive Board.

6. <u>Announcements, Concluding Remarks and Adjournment</u>

Harry announced that the Social Committee will soon be meeting to start planning for the social event in the fall and that more volunteers are needed to assist the Social Committee. More details about the social event will be provided in the *Monitor* when they are available.

Harry again thanked Dr. Jamillah Moore for her excellent presentation as keynote speaker and for keeping us informed on happenings in the District. He also thanked Dr. Robin Calote, Ramiro Sanchez and his staff for providing us with the accommodations in which to hold our meeting this afternoon. He hoped that future meetings could be held at each of the colleges on a rotational basis. He also thanked the Social Committee for providing the refreshments, the signs, balloons, and sign-in sheets. He further thanked all of the officers, committee chairs, committee members and other volunteers for sharing their time and talents to help our retired colleagues stay connected and up to date on important issues and events. Finally, he thanked everyone for attending the annual meeting and for supporting the Retirees' Association.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Soo Hoo
Secretary
4/25/13