VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES
Annual General Meeting
April 12, 2017, 3:00 p.m.

ARC Building, Room B, 280 Skyway Drive, Camarillo Airport

1. Call to Order

President Rene Rodriguez called the 23rd Annual Meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Prior to the meeting there were light refreshments provided and some time for socializing with former colleagues.

2. Welcoming Remarks

a. Preliminaries: Signup Sheet, Visitors, Agenda

Rene asked everyone to be sure they had signed the sign-up sheet and picked up copies of the Agenda for today's meeting. René acknowledged guests, Bernardo Perez, chair of the Board of Trustees, Steve Blum, Board of Trustee member. Both Mr. Perez and Mr. Blum said a few words of thanks for being invited to the Annual Meeting and to the Retiree Association for continuing to share their knowledge, expertise and historical information to the Board of Trustees. Also introduced were Dr. Greg Gillespie, currently the President of Ventura College, who was recently selected as the new Chancellor of the District, Mr. David El Fatal, Vice Chancellor of Business Services for the District, Mr. Jerry Morris, Vice President of the California Retired Teachers' Association, and Mr. Michael Harberburger, SEIU Representative and thanked them all for attending the meeting**.** Prior to proceeding with the presentation of the Healthcare Benefits Forum, Rene commented that as retirees' we are all fortunate that the District continues to offer us the excellent health benefits that we have. For making sure that the quality of those benefits has been consistent throughout the years, as changes have occurred, Rene acknowledged Gary Johnson for his vigilance on behalf of all the members of the Retirees' Association. No one has done more for the protection of our health benefits by keeping himself and all of us informed and educated on health benefit issues. Rene stated that not only is Gary the founding Chair of the Benefits Committee, he also serves on the District's ASCC Benefits Committee where the issues and concerns of retirees that have been brought to Gary's attention are addressed. Upon the conclusion of Rene's acknowledgement of Gary, there was a rousing round of applause from the floor as all those in attendance expressed their thanks and appreciation for Gary's dedication over the years. Rene then introduced the current members of the Executive Board, Gary Johnson, chair of the Benefits committee with 15 years of service, Don Medley, founder of the Association and chair of the Membership committee with 23 years of service, Harry Culotta, immediate past president/newsletter editor with 11 years of service, Larry Manson, chair of the Educational Issues committee with 5 years of service, Pat Gage, treasurer with 7 years of service and Marie Soo Hoo, secretary with 7 years of service. Rene also noted that he had 11 years of service with 7 of those years as president, in addition a new position of Webmaster was recently added, and that Lester Tong had agreed to serve in that position, however, he was unable to attend the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report

a. Approval of Minutes, General Meeting March 16, 2016

The Minutes from the Annual General Meeting of 2016, which were prepared by Harry Culotta were distributed and reviewed by the members. It was moved by John Woolley and seconded by Don Medley that the Minutes be approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by those in attendance.

b. Treasurer's report

Pat Gage presented the Treasurer's report for the period March 10, 2016 – April 3, 2017. In the General Fund, her report reflected a balance on hand as of March 10, 2016 of $13,152.12. Income during this time was $2,756.91 and Expenses were $2,654.28. This left a total balance on hand of $13,254.75 as of April 3, 2017. In the Legal Fund, the balance on hand was $24,000. The report also reflected current assets in the form of 39 rolls of USPS Forever stamps at a current value of $1,911.

4. Healthcare Benefits Forum

The Keynote Presentation for this year's Annual General Meeting was not given by an individual as it has been in past years. This year a Healthcare Benefits forum, that was moderated by Gary Johnson, VCCCDRA Benefits Committee Chair, was presented. On the panel were the following individuals from the District: Dr. Steve Hall, AFT President, Olivia Long, SEIU Chief Steward, Michael Shanahan, VCCCD Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, as well as a retired former physician, Dr. Paul D. Sanders**.** Gary Johnson started the presentation by explaining that a representative from Anthem BC had attended the recent meeting of the District's ASCC Benefits Committee. One of the items discussed with the representative was the issue of prior authorization being required for services/prescriptions. The representative indicated that 95% of Anthem plans do have this requirement. The District plan has never had this requirement and the representative was going to have Anthem look into making sure it is removed. Another issue discussed was the change to the OOP (out of pocket) limit that has been $500 since 2005 for mail-order prescriptions from Express Scripts. As of July 2015, that was changed due to ACA (Affordable Care Act) which does not allow splitting of maximums in plans like ours had. There will now be a $750 maximum OOP for prescriptions either mail-in or at pharmacies. Gary also stated that the Anthem rep was going to consider having a dedicated rep for the District plans as they are unique and not like most new or current plans and we will have the name of a contact person who will be familiar with specifics of our plans and not have to speak with whoever answers the phone each time we call and give us different information. After Gary finished with his initial presentation he explained that a list of questions had been prepared and that the questions will be asked of the panel members. The first question was what are the responsibilities of each employee in the District's HR department that deals with benefits? What is the best way to contact each of them, in person, by phone or e-mail? If an employee/retiree has a question/s and leaves a message, within how long a period could a response be expected? Michael Shanahan responded to these questions and introduced Gary Maehara, Director of Human Resources and Katy Lyon, Benefits Analyst. Mr. Shanahan stated that the ASCC Committee is working with Anthem to make them more responsive to employees directly when they call so they do not have to call the District. However, he stated, when attempts to contact Anthem fail, Katy Lyon was the person to contact and that by leaving a very detailed e-mail message was the best way to correspond with her when you have questions and that a response

should be received within 3 – 5 business days. The next question was what role does Keenan & Associates play between the employee and their benefits plan? Mr. Shanahan responded that it is preferred that employees contact the District directly if they have a problem and not go to Keenan. The District needs to be kept in the loop if employees have a problem with their benefit plan and if necessary to resolve the issue Katy Lyon will contact Keenan for assistance in resolving the issue. Another question asked was whether there were any plans to expand staff in HR/Benefits to deal with changes that will occur when employees retire who do not have lifetime coverage and have a District supplemental plan until they are eligible for Medicare? Mr. Shanahan responded that at the present time there were no plans to expand HR staff due to budget limitations. A question was raised by Bill Robinson regarding a letter he received from Blue Cross indicating that he was required to enroll in Medicare Part B based on contract language. Gary Johnson responded to Bill indicating that he has all the contracts and could work with him on this issue. Gary noted that at the time Bill retired, it was his option to enroll in Part A or B and that he cannot be required to do so. Mr. Shanahan asked Bill to send a copy of that letter to the District in order that the HR Department could follow up with Blue Cross. Gary Johnson then asked of Dr. Steve Hall, AFT President and Olivia Long, Chief Steward for Classified Employees, what role do their organizations play when issues are encountered by members of their groups with their insurance plans? The consensus stated by Dr. Hall and Ms. Long, was that neither dealt directly with employees on insurance issues, however, in terms of negotiations on benefit coverage, their main concern was to benefit all and not one group over any other. At this point Dr. Paul Sanders, retired physician, commented that health care delivery in this country was very expensive and unequitable. It would be much expensive and much more inclusive under a plan of universal medicare. There is no reason that this country should be the only civilized country that does not provide it and we are the wealthiest country. He further stated that there should be no reason to have to negotiate with insurance companies for health care, there should be a national standard of coverage. Insurance companies are only middlemen and are rarely needed. One question asked of Dr. Steve Hall was whether AFT was open to having a Retiree Association representative sitting in on their monthly benefits meetings with the District and Keenan representatives. Dr. Hall stated that the representation on the committee is indicated in the AFT/VCCCD Contract and that adding a representative from the Retiree Association would need to be negotiated. There were some questions from the audience regarding plans for retirement forums in the future to help new retirees navigate Medicare, STRS, PERS and Long-Term Care options. Mr. Shanahan indicated that he felt working with HiCAP director, Katharine Raley would be of benefit to the District and that he may enlist volunteers that come forward to assist future retirees in planning for retirement. Workshops for employees and retirees on how to get the most out of their benefits is something that he would like to work on for the future. It was suggested that workshops be planned in the Fall and Spring to inform those planning to retire on what and how to complete required forms. It was also noted by a retiree that many retirees whose spouse is also covered under their plan are not aware that their coverage ends when the retiree passes away. The coverage ceases, she noted, at the end of the month in which the retiree passes. If an employee/retiree passes on the last day of the month, the spouse has no time in which to look for other coverage, she stated. Mr. Shanahan stated that he will look into this issue. It was strongly suggested that employees/retirees be proactive regarding their insurance coverage and not to just assume the information they are being given is correct for coverage by all District plans. The Blue Cross representative may not be aware of the uniqueness of the District's plans. The presentation was well-received by all those in attendance. The closing comments from Michael Shanahan reflected that the District is very interested in

maintaining a close working relationship with its employees and retirees and to make sure that the insurance providers are providing the services for which the District is paying.

5. Association Business

a. Report from Nominating Committee: Nominating Committee Chair, Larry Manson reported that there were only two positions for which elections would be held at this meeting. Those positions being President and Vice President. There was one individual who had indicated being interested in serving as Vice President, Bill Robinson. No one had expressed an interest in serving as President.

b. Election of Officers

1. President

There was a nomination from the floor by Carolyn Dorrance that Rene Rodriguez be nominated and reelected to the position of President, Ana Maria Valle Villa seconded the nomination. Rene indicated that he would be willing to continue serving as President of the Association. The motion to reelect Rene Rodriguez as President for the two-year period July 1, 2017 thru June 30, 2019 was unanimously approved by those in attendance.

2. Vice President

It was moved by Paulette Johnson and seconded by Sharon Woolley that Bill Robinson be nominated for the position of Vice President for two-year period July 1, 2017 thru June 30, 2019. The motion to elect Bill Robinson Vice President was unanimously approved by those in attendance.

6. Reports from the Committee Chairs

Benefits Committee Chair: Gary Johnson reported that representatives from Tier 2 level retirees are needed to serve on this committee. Anyone interested was asked to fill out and return the signup sheet attached to the Agenda for the meeting to Gary.

Newsletter Editor report: Harry Culotta appealed to those in attendance for any news articles that anyone was interested in writing.

Educational Issues Committee: Larry Manson reported that this committee continues to meet monthly with several members of the Board of Trustees.

Membership Committee: Don Medley reported that the Association now has a total of 767 active members and that 289 members are deceased. Don also appealed to those members who are not Lifetime Members to please pay their annual dues of $10 or to become Lifetime Members by paying the $100.

Social Committee: Marie Soo Hoo reported that the Social Committee will begin meeting soon to plan for this years' Social Event in the Fall. Anyone interested in serving on the committee was asked to fill out and return the signup sheet attached to the Agenda for the meeting to her.

7. Comments and Questions on Any Topic from the Audience

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

8. Announcements

There were no announcements

9. Adjournment

René thanked everyone for attending today's meeting and especially the speakers for sharing their time and providing valuable information to the Association. There being no further business, it was moved by John Woolley and seconded by Don Medley that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Soo Hoo
Secretary
1/29/18