VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES
Annual General Meeting
April 25, 2012

Ventura County Schools Conference and Educational Services Center
Camarillo, California

1. Welcome, Introductions, and President's Message

President Harry Culotta called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. with a welcome to all members and guests and also some soon-to- be members who will be retiring in the next few months. Harry announced that the VCCCDRA is now 18 years old, having been founded in 1994 by Dr. Don Medley. Harry stated that Don was the only officer for the Association and he served in all capacities – President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer – at the same time! Don, however, noted there were only 32 members at that time.

Harry then introduced the current officers of the Association – René Rodriguez, Immediate Past President and webmaster; Gary Morgan, Vice President and editor of our newsletter, the *Monitor*; Marie Soo Hoo, Secretary; Pat Gage, Treasurer; and Don Medley, Membership Committee chair. Harry also introduced Gary Johnson, Benefits Committee chair, and Larry Manson, Political Committee chair, but noted both were unable to attend today as they are travelling out of country.

In his President's report, Harry highlighted three important accomplishments of the VCCCD Retirees' Association this past year: 1) The First Annual Retirees' Association Barbeque was held in October 2011 at Oak Grove Park in Camarillo. The event was well-attended and those attendees enjoyed a meal of barbequed tri tip, chicken, beans, salads and desserts, expertly prepared by Bob Reeves, Wally Soo Hoo, and members of the Social Committee. Harry thanked Kay Faulconer-Boger and her husband Don, who have offered their home as the site for this year's upcoming barbeque. 2) Members of the Political Committee met with members of the VCCCD Board of Trustees to assist them by editing the "Special Report" that was being prepared as required by the ACCJC (Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges). ACCJC has placed the colleges on probation due to concerns it has regarding governance and communication at the District level. It is hoped that the report submitted on March 15, 2012 will satisfactorily meet the requirements of the ACCCJC and lead to its reaffirming the accreditation status of each of the colleges. 3) At the request of Moorpark College employees, members of the Executive Board recently held a "retirement issues forum" with them to answer questions and concerns they had about District health benefits in retirement, Medicare, Social Security and its impact on STRS or PERS pensions, and the value of the VCCCD Retirees Association in their lives. The employees appreciated our being there, and Harry hopes similar meetings can take place at Oxnard and Ventura as well.

2. Minutes of March 30, 2011 Annual Meeting

Copies of the Minutes were distributed to all members and Harry asked everyone to take a few minutes to review them. Following the review, it was moved by Larry Miller and seconded by Laura Campbell that the Minutes be approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote of those present.

3. Keynote Presentation: "A Taste of Estate Planning"

Harry introduced Paul Morison and Christopher Botti of Botti and Morison, Estate Planning Attorneys, the keynote speakers for the meeting, and provided some background information on their legal experience. All those attending the meeting were given folders that contained information on Estate Planning – a Coursebook and Workbook.

In their presentation Mr. Morison and Mr. Botti explained the benefits of having what they called a "comprehensive integrated estate plan" in place to deal with tax issues and other problems that can be avoided by families after the death of loved ones. The two main problems to be avoided are (1) probate, which in California incurs considerable legal expenses and court costs, requires up to two years to settle an estate, and exposes personal information to the public, and (2) conservatorship, which requires more legal expenses and court action to appoint someone to handle personal matters for a family member who is physically or mentally incapacitated.

According to Morrison and Botti, the revocable living trust is the best way for most individuals and married couples to protect their assets and plan their estates. They briefly described the elements of the revocable living trust, which includes: (1) Declaration of Trust, (2) Certificate of Trustee Authority, (3) Comprehensive Transfer Document (4) Pour-Over Will, (5) Durable Power of Attorney, and (6) Advance Healthcare Directive (living will). They also described the types of assets that are transferred to the living trust once it has been established.

The information folder the speakers distributed to attendees also provided information on their flat-rate fees for preparation of an Estate Plan (Married and Individuals) as well as a flyer announcing free workshops to be held in May in Ventura. These "full blown" workshops last about 2½ hours.

A brief question and answer period was held after the presentation for members who had specific questions. Mr. Botti offered to stay for the rest of the meeting to answer more individual questions. The audience showed their appreciation for their presentation.

4. Reports from the Executive Board

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report distributed by Pat Gage reflected the period March 30, 2011 – March 30, 2012. In the Operational Fund the balance on hand had previously been $19,366. Total Income was $2,352 with Total Expenses of $4,300. The current balance as of March 30, 2012 was $17,418. In the Legal Fund the balance on hand had previously been $23,728. The Total Income was $292 from a private donation, and there were no Total Expenses for the period. The current balance as of March 30, 2012 was $24,000.

Harry noted that the Operating Fund has a healthy balance because over 250 members have invested in lifetime memberships. However, if expenses continue to exceed income for several years, the balance will eventually go to zero. The Association's annual dues were reduced from $20 to $10 in 1998. There is no proposal this year to raise the dues. However, there could be a proposal next year to increase the dues back to $20 per year or $200 lifetime.

Benefits Committee/ASCC Benefits Committee Report: Harry reported that several insurance consultant/brokers had recently been interviewed by the Committee in order to recommend a replacement for Fickeworth and Company, whose contract expires June 30. Keenan & Associates was the agency recommended as the replacement – an agency the District has used in the past. Harry also reviewed for the members an information sheet he had prepared that gave proposed carrier rate increases as of July 1, 2012 as well as proposed plan design changes to keep premiums within overall rate caps.

Membership Committee Report: Don Medley reported that the current membership of the Association is 687 and there are several more that have indicated they will be retiring soon. Also, a total of 210 members have passed away. Don distributed a sheet to all members listing the names of retirees for whom no current contact information is available and asked that any members who had contact with these individuals please provide him with their information or ask them to contact Don. Don emphasized that any information he is given is kept strictly confidential and not shared with any outside individual(s) or agencies. Further, Don reported that a new roster had been prepared for distribution and was available to be picked up at the meeting. Due to the cost of preparation and postage Don noted that this could be the last free directory – in the future there may need to be a fee charged. Don also reminded everyone of dues if they were not lifetime members and he would be available to let anyone know what they owed. Finally, he asked if anyone knew someone who was planning to retire to be sure to tell them about the Association or have them contact us to provide their name, address, phone number and e-mail.

Political Committee Report: Gary Morgan noted that he was filling in for Larry Manson to give the report on the Political Committee. Gary reported that the Committee meets monthly with three Board of Trustee members and that frequently the trustees contact the Committee for information on various issues with which they are currently dealing. Gary noted that Harry Culotta had been appointed by Trustee Steve Blum as his community representative to the Chancellor's Search Committee. He further noted that Bernardo Perez would be running for re-election to the Board in Area No. 4, as his temporary appointment to complete the term of Bob Huber was ending. He had no firm information on whether Larry Miller would be running for re-election to the Board in Area No. 3.

5. Association Business

a. Actions: Revisions to Association Bylaws:

1. Article III – Members, Section 3 – this revision would add lifetime membership to dues voting. Gary Morgan moved and Don Medley seconded the approval of the recommendation as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote of those present.

2. Article IV – Officers – this revision would add the word "budgets" to the duties of the treasurer. Gary Morgan moved and Don Medley seconded the approval of the recommendation as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote of those present.

b. Report: Nominating Committee – In the absence of John Woolley, Nominating Committee chair, Harry reported that of several candidates whom John had recruited for the office of President or Vice President, none had been willing to be considered for election. However, Pat Gage and Marie Soo Hoo were both standing for re-election to their offices of Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

c. Actions: Election of Officers

Election of President – Harry asked the membership if there were any nominations from the floor for the office of President. Hearing none, Gary Morgan moved that the rules be suspended and that Harry Culotta be elected as President for one year, subject to a new election next year. René Rodriguez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by voice vote of those present.

Election of Vice President – Harry asked the membership if there were any nominations from the floor for the office of Vice President. Gary Morgan nominated Louise Christener and the nomination was seconded by Don Medley. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote of those present. However, it was noted that having left the meeting earlier, Louise was unavailable to accept or decline the nomination. Therefore, Harry will contact Louise and if she declines to accept the office, an

appointment by the Executive Board (per the *Bylaws of the VCCCD Retirees* Association) would be made to fulfill the term until the next election can be held.

Election of Secretary – Harry asked if there was a motion from the membership to elect Marie Soo Hoo as Secretary for the 2012 – 2014 fiscal years. Kay Faulconer-Boger moved that Marie Soo Hoo be elected Secretary, and the motion was seconded by Chuck Dahl. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote of those present.

Election of Treasurer - Harry asked if there was a motion from the membership to elect Pat Gage as Treasurer for the 2012 – 2014 fiscal years. Kay Faulconer-Boger moved that Pat Gage be elected Treasurer and the motion was seconded by Chuck Dahl. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote of those present.

6. Announcements: Social Committee and October Barbeque

Harry announced that the barbeque would once again be held in October and that Kay Faulconer-Boger and her husband Don would host the event at their home in Camarillo. If anyone was interested in serving on the Social Committee, which will be responsible for planning and conducting the even, Harry asked them to please sign the sheet in the burgundy-colored folder that was being circulated for that purpose. Harry also invited anyone who was not already a dues-paying member to use the application form in the yellow folder to sign up.

7. Concluding Remarks and Adjournment

Harry thanked Paul Morison and Christopher Botti for providing valuable information on estate planning and some great handout materials. He also thanked all of the officers, committee chairs, committee members, and volunteers for sharing their time and talents to help make life better for our retired colleagues. Finally, he thanked everyone for attending the meeting and looked forward to seeing them again in October at the Barbeque. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Marie Soo Hoo
Secretary
4/30/12