VCCCD Retirees' Association
Annual General Meeting
May 8, 2024

# Proposed Dues Revisions

Effective July 1, 2024, membership in the Ventura County Community College District Retirees Association (VCCCDRA) will be based on the following schedule:

Annual membership: $25 per year per person (regular or associate member)
Lifetime membership; $250 one time per person (regular or associate member)

The Association will allocate dues payments as follows:

Annual membership $25: $15 to the Operating Fund; $10 to the Legal Fund
Lifetime membership $250: $150 to the Operating Fund; $100 to the Legal Fund

Eligible persons may join VCCCDRA and pay one or more years' annual dues of $20 per year if their checks are tendered on or before June 30, 2024. They may also join VCCCDRA and pay lifetime dues of $200 if their checks are tendered on or before June 30, 2024. A postmark dated June 30, 2024, or earlier will be accepted for this purpose. Payment of annual or lifetime dues on or after July 1, 2024, is subject to the new rate schedule.

Checks in payment of dues that are dated on or before June 30, 2024, but are returned by the bank for non-sufficient funds are null and void. Replacement checks dated on or after July 1, 2024, in payment of dues are subject to the new rate schedule.

## Discussion

The purposes of the VCCCDRA are still the same today as they were when Don Medley founded the organization in 1994. Those purposes are, specifically, to:

- Share concerns of the VCCCD and the success of its goals
- Provide a voice to the District in regard to Board actions that may affect retirees
- Provide educational, recreational, and social activities for its members

VCCCDRA has become much more active in the last 20 years. The most visible example has been efforts to slow the erosion of insurance benefits that occurred when VCCCD implemented dramatic benefit changes in 2005, again in 2020, and yet again in 2024. To counter the 2005 erosion, the Association raised and spent almost $200,000 in voluntary donations for legal services. VCCCDRA filed the class action lawsuit against the VCCCD in August 2007. The lawsuit concluded at Ventura County Superior Court in January 2010 with an approved settlement agreement covering those who retired on or before August 29, 2007.

VCCCDRA filed another lawsuit against VCCCD in October 2020, seeking to create a new settlement agreement that will protect retirees hired before June 30, 2001 who were promised lifetime benefits. Fundraising has been considerably smaller this time, since the percentage of retirees with lifetime benefits (who are most likely to contribute) is shrinking. Many newer retirees do not have lifetime benefits. The current lawsuit relies heavily on a $25,000 donation from George McNeely that was carried over after the 2007 lawsuit was settled and is no longer available

should future legal action by the Association be necessary. That is why the proposed dues increase is focused on allocating a larger share of dues received to the Legal Fund.

Comparison with Other Retirement Organizations

The proposed VCCCDRA dues of $25 per year are competitive with other retirement organizations. Representative organizations that are active in California have the following annual dues:

- AARP - $16 per year (augmented by adverting sales and product commissions)
- ARA (Alliance for Retired Americans) - $10 per year for those who are already members of AFL-CIO
- CalRTA (California Retired Teachers Association ) - $66 per year
- CARA (California Association of Retired Americans) - $15 per year
- CSR (California State Retirees) - $72 per year for associate members
- REAVC (Retired Employees Association of Ventura County) - $24 per year, and
- RPEA (Retired Public Employees Association of California) - $60 per year

In the last 20 years, VCCCDRA has expanded its Executive Board from 4 to 13 elected and appointed members to share responsibilities and serve the membership. All persons who donate their time to VCCCDRA are volunteers, receiving no compensation. At best, they are reimbursed for some out-of-pocket expenses. Volunteers donate their own travel and mileage expenses. The Association runs its own website at *www.vcccdra.org* and provides news bulletins and other information at *blog.vcccdra.org* and in *The Monitor*, its official newsletter.

The Operating Fund, consisting of membership dues, donations and ticket sales to the social events, is currently sufficient, even as printing, postage, and web hosting costs continue to rise. The social events bring members and guests together to share good food, good beverages, and camaraderie.

This dues increase will be used to accomplish the following:

1. In the Legal Fund, increase the support for potential future legal initiatives, and
2. In the Operating Fund, improve the dues tracking and dues notification to members.

Recommendation

Please vote to support the new VCCCDRA dues structure, effective July 1, 2024! Thank you!