VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES
Annual General Meeting
May 10, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

Via online Conferencing - Zoom

1. Welcome

President Susan Bricker welcomed all those in attendance via Zoom and on their phones to the 29th Annual General Meeting and third on-line conference meeting of the General Membership of the VCCCD Retirees' Association. Susan also welcomed guest speaker from the CSR (California Sate Retirees) Tim Behrens. Mr. Behrens introduced his technical assistant, Mark DeVaughan. Susan then introduced Rene Rodriguez, immediate Past President, and asked him to explain the Zoom Etiquette to be used during the meeting.

2. Zoom Etiquette

Rene Rodriguez explained that it would be best for everyone to place themselves on "mute" during the meeting so that there would be no outside disturbances during the meeting. He also explained the use of the "chat" feature for anyone who wanted to ask question(s) after the presentation by the speaker or any general questions for the Board Members of the Executive Board at the end of meeting.

3. Advocating for State California Retiree Benefits: Speaker Tim Behrens, Past President of California State Retirees (aka CalRetirees)

Harry Culotta provided a summary & description of the work history and experience of Tim Behrens, our guest speaker. Harry stated that Mr. Behrens had 42 years of service with the Department of Development Services and is a past president of the California State Retirees.

Mr. Behrens stated that CSR has 90 years of experience, having been founded in 1931 as a unit of the California State Employees Association (CSEA), which represents the interests of state retirees. He stated there are currently 43,000 members. Mr. Behrens further stated that protecting the rights and benefits of retired state employees is the top priority of CSR. CSR advocates for (or against) statewide legislation and/or initiatives that affect the economic security of retirees. They also consult regularly with CalPERS officials to assure that retirees' concerns are addressed fairly and continually educate policymakers about retirees' issues. Several examples of successful CSR advocacy over the years, 1962 – 2006, were cited. CSR publishes a monthly newsletter that is available online for free. Their website is www.calretirees.org.

Questions and Answers

Diane Moore asked if you needed to be a member of CalPERS to join CSR, and is there a local chapter of CSR and who is the person to contact regarding membership? Mr. Behrens responded that you do not have to be a CalPERS recipient to join CSR. The local chapter of CSR is Chapter 31 for the Ventura/Santa Barbara area. You can join as an associate member; however, these members do not have voting rights.

David Magallanes asked if there is any update regarding the Windfall Elimination Provision? Mr. Behrens responded that he will be meeting with someone on this and will be sending information to Susan so that she can send it out to everyone.

Marta Freixas asked if he would please tell us more about ACO Reach and efforts to end it? CSR asked in their newspaper for people to contact their legislature to get rid of this.

Marta Freixas asked if social security numbers will be necessary to join as associate members? Mr. Behrens indicated that he would get back to her with a clarification of this.

Carolyn Dorrance asked if CSR had a relationship with retirees who are not on Medicare? Mr. Behrens indicated that CSR represents all retirees whether they are on Medicare or not.

Mr. Behrens provided the CSR website address – www.calretirees.org – and his email address as well as a phone contact – Tbehrens@calretirees.org, (559)920-0371.

This concluded the presentation by the keynote speaker and the question-and-answer session.

4. Call to Order

President Susan Bricker called the Annual General Meeting of the VCCCD Retirees' Association to order at 2:12 p.m.

5. Approval of Minutes of Last General Meeting of April 27, 2022

The Minutes from the 2022 Annual General Meeting prepared by Marie Soo Hoo, secretary, were presented for review and approval. Marta Freixas stated that she felt on page 5, in item xi – Legal Committee, in the second paragraph that begins "So that this will…," the word "will" should be changed to "may." It was then moved by Harry Culotta and seconded by Sandy Hajas, that the Minutes be approved with the amendment by Marta Freixas. The motion was approved as amended by those in attendance, with one abstention.

6. Treasurer's Report

David Magallanes, treasurer, reviewed the report he prepared for the period April 21, 2022 – April 21, 2023. There were no questions asked. The report was accepted as presented.

7. Business Action Items

a. Nominating Committee Chair Diane Moore announced the name of candidate that has agreed to stand for election for the following office on the Executive Board:

   i. Vice President – Kathy Scott

b. Nominations from the floor
   Diane addressed the members in attendance and asked if there were any other nominations of candidates from the floor. There were no further nominations of candidates for the office from the floor.

c. Closing of nominations
There being no further nominations of candidates from the floor, Diane Moore declared the nominations closed and called for the vote.

d. Vote
Diane Moore indicated that a verbal vote from those in attendance would be taken. The name of the candidate was presented and voted upon:

For the office of Vice President – Kathy Scott was unanimously approved. Her term of office will begin effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025.

8. <u>Remarks by President – Susan Bricker</u>

President Susan Bricker introduced the members of the Executive Board and asked them to say a few words about their service with the District and their current position on the Board.

i. Past President/Co-chair Advocacy Task Force
Diane Moore reported that she is working on an Operations & Procedures Manual and future plans for the Advocacy Task Force.

ii. Vice President/Web/Blog Master/Chair – Technology Committee
Carmen Guerrero stated that revamping the website is one of her projects and that hopefully will soon have new members join her on the Tech Committee.

iii. Secretary/Social Committee
Marie Soo Hoo stated that she had served as secretary for 12 years, thanks to John Woolley. She also stated that the Social Committee will start planning soon for an event this year. She also stated that Anne King, Executive Director of the VC Foundation, has offered to sponsor the event this year.

iv. Treasurer
David Magallanes briefly shared his experience at OC and with the VCCCDRA Executive Board.

v. Membership Committee
Joy Kobayashi reported that there are currently 807 active members and 400 deceased members for a total of 1,207.

vi. Educational Committee
No report as Chair, Larry Manson, was unable to attend this meeting

vii. Newsletter Editor
Sandy Hajas, no report.

viii. Benefits Committee
Harry Culotta reported that the Committee reviewed the recent plans of Eye Med and prepared a spreadsheet that compared the plans.

ix. Scholarship Committee
Carolyn Dorrance described her experience at OC, from being a founding member of Oxnard College in 1975, until her retirement, 39 years later. She gave a brief description of the applicant process for awarding scholarships. She reported that there were eleven applicants for the VCCCDRA Sponsored Don B. Medley Scholarship this year. The two awardees were: Raphael Altomar and Enrique Gomez, from Moorpark College.

x. Technology Committee
Carmen Guerrero reported under Vice President report.

xi. At-Large-Representatives
Marta Freixas briefly described her experience as a faculty member at VC and her work with the Benefits Committee for the past five years. She specifically mentioned things that have been shared with the membership regarding issues with insurance and BCC reimbursement.

Rene Rodriguez briefly described his experience at VC and the other campuses as well as the District Office. He commented that he has been a member of the Executive Board for 18 years.

xii. Ad-Hoc Legal Committee
Susan Bricker reported that settlement language has been agreed to by both parties and that is being put into settlement agreement format to be presented to Judge.

9. <u>Adjournment</u>

Susan thanked everyone for attending and stated that the formal part of the meeting was being adjourned and that those who did not wish to stay for the Question-and-Answer period could leave. The official business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

10. <u>Question and Answer Period</u>

Issues of General Concern – Carmen Guerrero read the following questions submitted via chat and the answers given by respondent.

Diane Moore asked Harry if the Benefits Committee will be sending out any information in writing on things that are found in the new 2024 benefits pamphlet. Marta Freixas responded that the information is on the website for CalPERS.

The Q & A portion of the meeting on Issues of General Concern adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Soo Hoo
Secretary

6/13/2023;rev 4/8/2024;4/15/2024