Winter 2018

Ventura County Community College District Retirees' Association

The Monitor

Benefits Forum Provides Some Answers, Raises Additional Questions

A Health Benefits Forum provided some answers, but raised additional questions during the keynote presentation at the April 12, 2017 annual meeting of the VCCCD Retirees Association (VCCCDRA).

Introduced by VCCCDRA President René Rodriguez and moderated by Past President Gary Johnson, Forum panel members consisted of Michael Shanahan, VCCCD Vice Chancellor of Human Resources, Dr. Steve Hall, AFT President, Olivia Hall, SEIU Chief Steward, and Paul Sanders, MD, retired physician.

Gary opened with comments about the latest change to the Anthem Blue Cross plan: an annual $750 out-of-pocket maximum now applies for prescription medications, whether obtained by mail-order or at retail pharmacies. He then began a set of prepared questions. He also solicited questions from the audience.

Key questions and answers included:

Q – To whom should questions be raised regarding claims problems?

A- Anthem should be contacted first by phone. If there is an unsatisfactory or no response, then send a detailed message about the question and response by e-mail to Katy Lyon at klyon@vcccd.edu and expect a reply in 3-5 business days (provided by Michael Shanahan).

Q-Should Keenan be contacted to resolve claims problems?

A-Employees and retirees should contact the District directly. The District will contact Anthem or Keenan as appropriate (answered by Michael Shanahan).

Q-If a retiree receives a letter from Anthem insisting that he/she enroll in Medicare Part B, but the retiree is not required to do so by collective bargaining language, what should be done?

A-A copy of the letter should be sent to the District Office, which will communicate with Anthem on the matter (answered by Michael Shanahan).

Q-May the Retirees Association have a representative on the Faculty Benefits Committee?

A-Since its membership was negotiated, there would have to be a negotiated change to allow this (answered by Steve Hall).

Q-What roles do the AFT and SEIU play in resolving insurance issues raised by members?

A-Neither group resolves individual issues, but works to assure that all negotiated benefits apply to all members (answered by Steve Hall and Olivia Long).

Q-What should retirees' spouses know about their insurance coverage when the retiree passes away?

A-The spouse should contact the District Office regarding options, since spousal coverage ends when the retiree passes away (answered by Michael Shanahan).

Q-What is the best way to provide insurance to employees, retirees, and the public in general?

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A-A plan of universal Medicare would provide a single standard of coverage to everyone and eliminate insurance companies as middlemen (answered by Dr. Paul Sanders).

Q-Could information sessions be provided to assist new retirees and their spouses to navigate STRS, PERS, Medicare, and Long Term Care options?

A-The District could work with Katharine Raley, Ventura County's HICAP Coordinator, to develop meetings to assist current and future retirees with their health benefits needs (provided by Michael Shanahan).

Mr. Shanahan stated, in closing, that the District wishes to maintain a close working relationship with its employees and retirees to make sure the insurance carriers are providing the service for which they are being paid by the District. "We're all in this together," he said.

The Benefits Forum was well received and applauded by the enthusiastic audience.

In other annual meeting action, attendees unanimously approved the March 16, 2016 annual meeting minutes and reviewed the annual Treasurer's Report.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Larry Manson announced that Bill Robinson was willing to stand for election as vice president, but asked that nominations for president come from the floor.

There was a motion from the floor, duly seconded, to nominate René Rodriguez as president for the period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019. Attendees then voted unanimously to re-elect René Rodriguez as president.

There was also a motion from the floor, duly seconded, to nominate Bill Robinson as vice president for the period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019. Attendees then voted unanimously to elect Bill Robinson as vice president.

Brief reports were also presented by:

—Gary Johnson, Chair of the Benefits Committee, who encouraged Tier 2 retirees to serve on the Committee and to fill out the signup sheet if interested;

—Harry Culotta, Past President and Newsletter Editor, who encouraged members to consider writing articles for the newsletter;

—Don Medley, Chair of the Membership Committee, who reported there are now 761 active retirees and 300 retirees who have passed away;

—Larry Manson, Chair of the Educational Issues Committee, who reported that Committee members continue to meet regularly with selected members of the Board of Trustees;

—Marie Soo Hoo, who reported that the Social Committee will soon be planning for the fall social event, and anyone who wishes to join the Social Committee should fill out the signup sheet.

About 75 people were in the audience, including retirees, guests, and other VCCCD officials, including Dr. David El Fattal, Vice Chancellor of Business & Administrative Services, Gary Maehara, Director, Human Resources, and Katy Lyon, Benefits Analyst.

President René Rodriguez concluded the annual meeting by thanking the Health Benefits Panel members for their time and expertise and thanking everyone in the audience for attending.

Membership Report

BY DON MEDLEY

Please join me in welcoming our valued colleagues to the VCCCD Retirees Association and in wishing them a long and satisfying retirement.

Cynthia Barnett	Moorpark College	Calvin Hixon	Moorpark College
Ranford Hopkins	Moorpark College	Violet J. Morales	Oxnard College

WE NEED ADDRESSES, TELEPHONE NUMBERS, and E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE. If you can help, please call Don Medley at 805-482-8761 or email to don.medley@verizon.net. Thank you!

Robert Anderson	Rebecca Anderson	Jeffrey Barsch	Roy Bell
Lori Bennett	David Bishop	William Boicourt	Elizabeth Bowker
Stephen Burkhart	Willis Cameron	Vincent Campo	Raymond Centeno
Linda Chapman	Martin Chetien	Ronald Cobos	Paul Conley
Barrett Culmback	Sherry D'Atille	Barbara Dalling	Jose de Guzman
Will Deits	Stephen Doyle	Leslie Drayton	Patricia Ewins
Ruby Filar	Mary Fledzinskas	Audrey Furrell	Lucia Haro
Nelia Hartnell	Calvin Hixon	Wilmer Ingram	Erlinda Tuyor Ispahani
Bola King-Rushing	Marsha Klipp	Angela Chapman Kofron	
Carla Kramer	Jesus Loza-Medina	Bernard Luskin	Christine Mainzer
Kathy Marcus	Linda McDill	Carl McFarland	Melanie Masters
Dorothy Mills	Gulhis C. Monezis	Liz Nava	Moretta Nelson
Inajean Nicklas	Andres Orozco	Terry Pardee	Jennifer K. Parker
John Pendleton	Claudia Peter	Deborah Pollock	Jerry Purcell
Philip Scot Rabe	Robert Renteria	Elvia Rivero	Emelie Robb
Charles Rockwell	William V. Rollins	Kathleen Schrader	Lynda E. Smith
Kay M. Snow	Sharon Starr	Janice Straka	Carmen S. Taylor
Louise Triplett	Deborah Ventura	Elaine Wefel	Gail Wurth-Gurrola
Mary Zacharias			

VCCCD Retirees' Association
P.O. Box 6216
Ventura, CA 93006-6216

Place
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Look for us on the Web at

http://www.vcccdra.org

In Memoriam

We honor the memory of our departed colleagues and extend our sincerest condolences to their families, friends, and associates.

Cecile Copsey
Leroy Haberman
Leroy Robinson
Howard Schiller
Mary Taylor-Parr

2017-2018 Executive Board

René G. Rodriguez, President	***vcccdra@yahoo.com***
Harry R. Culotta, Past President	***hculotta@outlook.com***
Bill Robinson, Vice President	***will1644@roadrunner.com***
Marie Soo Hoo, Secretary	***masoohoo@att.net***
Patricia Gage, Treasurer	***pgage5545@roadrunner.com***
Gary Johnson, Benefits Committee Chair	***freevcnet@aol.com***
Don Medley, Membership Committee Chair	***don.medley@verizon.net***
Larry Manson, Educational Issues Committee Chair	***lmanson@west.net***