Fall 2018

Ventura County Community College District Retirees' Association

The Monitor

Mark Your Calendar

2018 Social Event is 'BBQ by Lester – Take 2'

October 1 (1:00 – 4:00p.m.) Mission Oaks Park

BY MARIE SOO HOO

If you missed last year's VCCCD Retirees' Association "**BBQ by Lester**" you still have another chance to experience the culinary delights prepared by Lester Tong. Even in retirement Lester continues to display his awesome barbequing skills with participation in several local social and athletic clubs throughout the County, as well as with the college campuses and the District Administrative Center.

Last year's BBQ by Lester was the best fundraising event held to date by the Retirees' Association. This was due, in part, to the generous donations of the members of the Social Committee.

Many members of the Social Committee contributed not only their time, effort, and crafting skills as well as their own personal supplies, but also prepared some of the side dishes and desserts that were served. In addition to a 50/50 raffle, there were some donated gift cards (Starbucks, etc.) and campus athletic t-shirts that were raffled off. We hope to have similar items available once again.

Any donations are greatly appreciated. Contact a committee member for information.

The Social Committee hopes that you will come and support your Retirees' Association and join our retired colleagues, spouses, and friends for a fun afternoon to relax, socialize, laugh, and enjoy some great food.

The menu for the **"BBQ by Lester – Take 2"** (just like in the movies) will include barbequed tri-tip, chicken, chili beans, salads, desserts, and beverages – non-alcoholic included with meal – alcoholic beverages (beer & wine) will be available for sale.

The event takes place at Mission Oaks Park, 5501 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo, on Monday, October 1, 2018 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Here are the directions:

From Oxnard/Ventura area, take the 101 Freeway south to the Pleasant Valley/Santa Rosa Road exit. Turn left at the light, drive across the freeway bridge, then proceed past Verdugo Road to Adolfo Road. Turn left on Adolfo Road and proceed a short distance to Mission Oaks Blvd. Turn right on Mission Oaks Blvd., drive past Woodcreek Road and look for the park on your left.

From Newbury Park/Thousand Oaks area, take the 101 Freeway north to the Pleasant Valley/Santa Rosa Road exit. Turn right at the light, then proceed past Verdugo Road to Adolfo Road. Turn left on Adolfo Road and proceed a short distance to Mission Oaks Blvd. Turn right on Mission Oaks Blvd., drive past Woodcreek Road and look for the park on your left.

The cost to attend this year's event is once again only $20 per person and ***reservations are required***. To make your reservations fill out the bottom of the flier you will find in this newsletter, cut off that portion of the flier and mail it, along with your check payable to VCCCDRA, to Pat Gage, 427 Fernwood Drive, Oxnard, CA 93030. Your completed reservation form and check must be received by Friday, September 21, 2018.

The hardworking and fun-loving members of the Social Committee – Tina Arredondo, Louise Christener, Becky Hull, Marta Garza Laird, Valerie Lee, Peggy Spellman, Lester Tong, Pat Gage and Marie Soo Hoo – hope you will all plan to join us and your friends and colleagues at Mission Oaks Park on Monday, October 1, 2018, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Please spread the word, so that even more retirees will attend!

Thank You, Don Medley!

BY GARY JOHNSON

How do you say "thank you" when thank you is not enough?

Don Medley founded the VCCCD Retirees Association in 1994 to facilitate an opportunity for community college district retirees to get together socially at least once a year.

His periodic organization and publication of the yellow-covered Membership Roster has made it possible for retirees to maintain contact with one another as well as to be contacted.

Since then, Don's service has included singlehandedly maintaining and updating a log of names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses for nearly 1,050 members, including those who are now deceased. His service has also included keeping track of dues and payments, chairing the Membership Committee, and mailing the quarterly newsletter, *The Monitor*.

For most retirees, Don is rightfully the face of the Association, the first go-to person for questions, answers, and information. Many of us have come and gone in leadership roles within the Association, but Don has been the indispensable mainstay person – the glue that has kept us together!

Without Don's foundational and continuing effort, there would have been no organized response to the District's challenge to retiree health care coverage in 2005; no ongoing opportunity for retirees to have a voice in District decisions that may affect them; no vehicle for retirees to draw on their District history and experience to continue to serve the District as valuable resources.

We are not alone as fortunate recipients of Don's tremendous generosity of spirit, wisdom, care, guidance, irrepressible energy, and organizational expertise.

Throughout his career as an instructor at Moorpark College and as chair of the Information Systems Department at California Polytechnic University, Pomona, Don supplied his leadership skills to the Data Processing Management Association, where he established several new chapters.

Since retiring as the District's associate vice chancellor of information systems and research, Don has served the Camarillo Kiwanis Club as president and lieutenant governor, championing many local community projects, including a handicap-accessible playground at Community Center Park. He served regionally as secretary and key fundraiser, always supporting the annual Kiwanis Rose Parade float.

In March 2016 Don and nine others were honored at the Top 10 Community Awards banquet, where Don was given the prestigious Volunteer of the Year Award by the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce.

Underlying Don's great civic-mindedness is a profoundly religious faith and the loving heart of a great family man. Don is a deacon and longtime member of the First Baptist Church of Camarillo.

Obviously, the world needs and does not have enough Don Medleys, and that certainly extends to Don's wife Louise who, after nearly 62 years of marriage, is always engaged as a partner with him and, like him, contributes more than her share.

Don and Louise are blessed with three wonderful adult children – Brian, Sherrie, and Tony – as well as two granddaughters, and one grandson who is deceased.

Due to significant health issues, Don has asked to be relieved of his membership management responsibilities. With considerable gratitude to Don, we thank Joy Kobayashi for volunteering to take on the vital role he has played on behalf of the Association.

THANK YOU, Don Medley (and you too, Louise!) for a lifetime of service to all of us.

(Editors note: Don Medley passed away late Sunday evening, August 26, 2018. His memorial service will take place on Saturday, September 15, 2018, at the First Baptist Church of Camarillo. Please see the Membership Report for details.)



COMING SOON

- Good food, fun &
- Friends!!

VCCCD RETIREES' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL SOCIAL EVENT
BBQ BY LESTER—TAKE 2

Another great time and delicious barbecue by Lester Tong is once again planned for our 2018 Annual Social Event. Everyone had such a great time last year, we decided to do it one more time!!

We hope you'll join in on the delicious food and the fun!!

Date: Monday, October 1, 2018

Place: Mission Oaks Park, 5501 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo, CA

Time: 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. Social Hour: 1 pm — 2 pm (Beverages/Appetizers); **Food service: 2 pm**

Directions: From 101 South take Santa Rosa/Pleasant Valley Rd. exit. Turn left at light and proceed to light at Adolpho Rd. and turn left. Turn right at Mission Oaks Blvd. Proceed down Mission Oaks Blvd. and you will see the Park on your left.

Directions: From 101 North take Santa Rosa/Pleasant Valley Rd. exit. Turn right at light and proceed to light at Adolpho Rd. Turn left at light and proceed to Mission Oaks Blvd. and turn right. Proceed down Mission Oaks Blvd. and you will see the Park on your left.

The park does have a covered seating area & benches, but you are welcome to bring your own chairs. Canopies will be put up for additional shade areas.

Menu: Tri-tip, chicken, salads, chili beans, bread, appetizers and desserts. Vegetarian item also available. Water & soft drinks provided. Beer & wine available for purchase. (This is also our fundraiser for the year folks!)

Cost: $20 per person (please complete & submit reservation form by deadline date as indicated below.

We hope you will be able to join in for an afternoon of good food, 50/50 raffle, camaraderie and maybe even some games with former colleagues and friends!! Hope to see you there!!

Cut Off Here and Return Bottom Portion with Check payable to VCCCDRA

Reservation/Payment Form

Retiree's Name: _____ If spouse/guest attending, provide name below:
Guest Name: _____ Circle one: Spouse Guest

Make checks payable only to: V C C C D R A ; Do not make checks payable to Pat Gage

$20 per person x _____ persons = $ _____ total amount of your check

Vegetarian meal desired: _____ (please check if yes or indicate how many if more than one)

Mail completed reservation form and check to: VCCCDRA, c/o Pat Gage
427 Fernwood Drive
Oxnard, CA 93030-4032

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Membership Report

BY JOY KOBAYASHI

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

Margaret Dominguez	Ventura College
Kathe Ernst	Ventura College
Amy Ito-Herrera	Moorpark College
David Keebler	Ventura College
Joy Kobayashi	Ventura College

Please join us as we celebrate the amazing life of Don Medley, founder of the VCCCD Retirees Association, on Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018, 11:00 a.m., at the First Baptist Church of Camarillo, 1601 Temple Avenue, Camarillo 93010.

Directions from Oxnard/Ventura area

Take the 101 freeway south to Lewis Road (exit 53B). Turn right on Ventura Blvd. and go to past Palm Drive to Arneil Road. Turn right on Arneil and proceed to Ponderosa Drive (about ½ mile). Turn right on Ponderosa and proceed to Temple Ave. (about ½ mile). Turn left on Temple and proceed to First Baptist Church on the left.

Directions from Newbury Park/Thousand Oaks

Take the 101 freeway north to Pleasant Valley/Santa Rosa Road (exit 52). Turn right on Santa Rosa Road and proceed to Adolfo Road (about ¼ mile). Turn left on Adolfo Road and proceed to Ponderosa Drive (about 1½ miles). Turn left on Ponderosa and proceed past Eston St. to Temple Drive (about ½ mile). Turn right on Temple and proceed to First Baptist Church on the left.

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

Place
Postage
Here

The Monitor Fall 2018

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.

Betty Creson
Gilbert Ramirez
Don Medley
Grace Rosmaier

2018-2019 Executive Board

René G. Rodriguez, President	***vcccdra@yahoo.com***
Harry R. Culotta, Past President	***hculotta@outlook.com***
Bill Robinson, Vice President	***whrobi@roadrunner.com***
Marie Soo Hoo, Secretary	***masoohoo@twc.com***
Patricia Gage, Treasurer	***pgage5545@roadrunner.com***
Gary Johnson, Benefits Committee Chair	***freevcnet@aol.com***
Joy Kobayashi, Membership Committee Chair	***tandemstoker@roadrunner.com***
Larry Manson, Educational Issues Committee Chair	***lmanson@west.net***