Summer 2015

Ventura County Community College District Retirees' Association

The Monitor

Benefits Experts Provide Answers, Raise More Questions

Benefits experts from Anthem Blue Cross and Keenan & Associates captivated the attention of over 75 retirees and guests at the VCCCD Retirees Association annual meeting on April 1, 2015 at Moorpark College, but their presentation and Q&A session seemed to raise as many questions as it answered.

Sharen Stanek Lowe (Keenan & Associates) and Steve Glore (Anthem Blue Cross) gave a PowerPoint presentation on the topic, "How to Get the Most from Your Medical Benefits." They offered a number of out-of-pocket cost containment suggestions, including:

1. When a situation is not a true emergency, seek immediate medical care through health clinics located in pharmacies and urgent care centers, or consult with a physician directly through the website *livehealthonline.com* .
2. Use the *www.anthem.com/ca* website to identify discounts on such items as eyewear, hearing aids, teeth whitening, medicine, and fitness club memberships.
3. Use the *www.anthem.com/ca* website to compare hospitals and average charges for common procedures such as knee and hip replacements.
4. Choose generic drugs, over the counter drugs, or Tier 1 (lowest copay) drugs, and use the Express Scripts mail order system.

Following the 20-minute presentation, Sharen and Steve spent the next hour addressing many attendees' questions, including those regarding spousal coverage, unresolved claims problems, and the interaction of Medicare with Anthem Blue Cross. Not all questions could be answered to everyone's satisfaction, but Steve did offer his business card and contact information to those who felt their claims had not been processed correctly.

VCCCDRA President René Rodriguez thanked Sharen and Steve for their informative presentation and Q&A session, and the attendees gave them a round of applause.

René also introduced new Moorpark College president Dr. Luis Sanchez. Dr. Sanchez welcomed attendees and provided them with information on his background, education, and previous legal and community college experience. He also provided an update on recent Moorpark College accomplishments.

Attendees unanimously approved the minutes of the March 27, 2014 annual meeting as prepared by Marie Soo Hoo, Association Secretary. They also reviewed the treasurer's report as prepared by Patricia Gage, Association Treasurer.

Gary Morgan presented a report from the Nominating Committee: Since there were no candidates for President and Vice President of VCCCDRA, nominations would be taken from the floor.

Following extensive discussion of possible candidates by attendees, René Rodriguez was nominated from the floor, then unanimously re-elected to serve as President of the Association for a two year term.

Betty Hough was then nominated from the floor to serve as Vice President of the Association.

Attendees voted unanimously to elect her to a two year term.

René then presented two proposed amendments to the *Bylaws of the VCCCD Retirees Association* for consideration:

The amendment to Article V (Elections) Section 7 would allow for re-election of a former president again after two years out of office unless there is no candidate for president at the annual meeting.

The amendment to Article V (Elections) Section 9 would allow the appointment of an associate member to any vacant officer position due to a resignation during a term of office.

In addition, René also presented two new proposed sections to the *Bylaws*:

New Article III (Members) Section 5 would allow current VCCCD employees who are planning their retirement to become associate members of the VCCCDRA.

New Article V (Elections) Section 10 would allow the Association to function as a body if neither a president nor a vice president is elected at the annual meeting.

Following a brief discussion, the attendees voted to approve all four changes to the *Bylaws*.

As he concluded the annual meeting, René again thanked keynote speakers Sharen Stanek-Lowe and Steve Glore for their informative presentation and to everyone in the audience for attending the meeting.

Gary Morgan: Respected Colleague and Friend

BY LARRY MANSON

The VCCCDRA lost a respected colleague and good friend with the sudden passing of Gary Morgan on April 30, 2015 after a brief illness. Gary was a journalist, writer, and teacher who devoted himself to his family, friends, profession, and students.

Gary was born in San Diego but pursued his education out of state, earning a B.A. in English at New Mexico Highlands University and an M.A. in English at Colorado State University. After completing his M.A., Gary was hired at Colorado State University as their Sports Information Director—one of the youngest in the country.

After a number of years at Colorado State, Gary accepted a position teaching journalism at Metropolitan State University in Denver, Colorado. He also continued his studies at the University of Northern Colorado, earning a doctorate in Journalism. His dissertation topic focused on International Mass Communications, a field that was just developing at that time.

When a teaching position opened at Oxnard College in 1984, Gary was hired to teach journalism, including courses in mass communications. He was also the faculty advisor for the student newspaper, *The Campus Observer*. In addition, he served as president of the Academic Senate, chair of the Staff Development Committee, and was committed to the success and growth of Oxnard College and its students.

During his lifetime, Gary wrote for a number of newspapers, both in California and in Colorado, and published six books. One was Sugar Tramp, the history of a train line that hauled sugar beets in Colorado. Another book was Yes, You Can, a book he coauthored and edited with Helynn Hoffa, that showed people with disabilities how to improve their lives. Among other works, he also published a poetry collection titled There Was So Much Laughter.

Gary very much enjoyed fishing, traveling, and playing bridge with his spouse, Dagmar Ragnow Morgan, who survives him. Gary also served as president of a local bridge club. In addition, he loved reading, getting together with friends, and many other activities. He even took a Cordon Bleu class and was an excellent chef.

Gary was active in the VCCCD Retirees' Association for several years following his retirement from Oxnard College in 2004. He served as vice president, newsletter editor, and chair of the Political Committee. His absence is deeply felt by all of us.

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.

Lorraine (Lori) Buckley	Oxnard College	Willis Cameron	District Office
Will Deits	Oxnard College	Andrea M. Ehrgott	Moorpark College
Judi Gould	Moorpark College	Kimberly Karkos	Oxnard College
Jesus Loza-Medina	Ventura College	Barbara Ann Michels	Oxnard College
Gloria Padron-Garcia	Ventura College	Maureen Rauchfuss	Moorpark College
Suzette Williams	Oxnard College	Sharon Woolley	District Office

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	Janet Archibald	Denise Avila
Carol Baughman	Lorraine (Lori) Buckley	Margaret Boles	Willis Cameron
Vincent Campo	Susan Carter	Linda Chapman	Christy Corbett
Sharon Davies	Ismael de la Rocha	Will Deits	Andrea M. Ehrgott
David Farris	Judi Gould	Charles J. Hewson	Marjorie E. Imbach
Wilmer Ingram	Kimberly Karkos	James Kenney	Julie Lovejoy
Jesus Loza-Medina	Carl Mahr	Steven J. Mayer	Thomas McAdam
Michael McGann	Mary Anne McNeil	Candace Peyton Mead	Barbara Ann Michels
Janet K. Murdock	Gloria Padron-Garcia	Jerry Purcell	Maureen Rauchfuss
John Roach	Hart Schultz	Joan Smith	Larry D. Smithson
Diane Stephens	Carmen S. Taylor	Manny Turse	Charlotte K. Udd
Al Villegas	Sue Wall	Janice Wiley	Suzette Williams
Ernest Williams			

Please help me with current e-mail addresses for these retirees. Messages sent to them have been returned as undeliverable.

Alberto Beron	Eleanor Hudson
Jean Morgan	Henry Nevarez
Charlotte K. Udd	Susan Webster

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.

Paul Gannatal
Gary B. Morgan
Jerry D. Pauley

2015-2016 Executive Board

René G. Rodriguez, President	***vcccdra@gmail.com***
Harry R. Culotta, Past President	***hculotta@dslextreme.com***
Betty Hough, Vice President	***ehough88@gmail.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 Comm. Chair	***lmanson@west.net***

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