

Winter
2013

C.A.R.E. Newsletter

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District

Association of Retired Employees

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President's Corner

As long as you live keep learning how to live... Seneca

Welcome to the newly retired members of CARE and to those who have continued to follow your retirement association through the years. This has been a stressful year for many retirees. The new Affordable Care Act continues to be under attack even as it is being implemented. Critics of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid snipe at the programs contending that they are underfunded. Nationally, defined benefits are under attack as well. For an interesting overview, see commentary by David Sirota.¹ In California, Mayor Reed of San Jose seeks to strip public employees of retirement rights they have been promised and have paid for.²



As you may be aware, here in California a group of Stanford professors who receive special interest funding for their work and self-proclaimed "taxpayer" organizations bankrolled by anti-union groups have attacked an investment system that yields close to 8 percent annual returns. CalSTRS three-year return remains a solid 12.0 percent, given the previous two fiscal years of robust performance. In the 2010-11 fiscal year, CalSTRS posted a 23.1 percent investment return, preceded by a fiscal year 2009-10 return of 12.2 percent. CalSTRS has generated a 7.5 percent return over 20 years. CalPERS is currently projecting a 7.5 percent annual return on its investments.

Critics call that "unrealistic." Some suggest 3 percent is a safer figure. However, the system yielded a 13.3 percent return in 2012, and over the past two decades it has earned an average of 8 percent every year. Critics of CalSTRS and CalPERS contend the systems do not have enough money in the bank to cover all of the promises made. This is called the unfunded liability. Currently, CalPERS is sitting on 70 percent of the money it will need for the coming 30 years and is proposing a 50 percent employer contribution increase,³ while CalSTRS is funded through 2040 and is required to find means to fund future need past 2040.⁴ It is true that there is an unfunded liability which will necessitate changes to the pension systems, but that issue is being addressed by such legislation as AB340.

We need to have a strong and viable public retirement system for the well-being of the state and future retirees. Please be careful not to fall for the false and misleading information about California's defined benefits retirement programs and, where you are able, explain what they do and how they do it to your neighbors and friends...

Wishing you and yours a bountiful Holiday Season and a healthy and prosperous New Year and looking forward to seeing you at our Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting on January 25, 2014 at the San Ramon Country Club.

Chet Rhoan, CARE President

References:

1. see: www.sfgate.com/columnists/sirota/

2. see: www.reformpensions2014.com/

3. see: calpensions.com/2013/03/

4. see www.faccc.org/images/lab340_impact_calsters_sum.pdf



CHABOT COLLEGE NEWS

Isabel Polvorosa Reporting

I want to highlight the great 40-year partnership between Chabot College and the neighboring Eden Area Regional Occupational Program. Course articulation agreements between these institutions help students make a smooth high-school to college transition without duplication of coursework, providing coordinated education that leads ultimately to technical skill proficiency, credentials, certificates, or degrees. Earning college credit while still in high school sounds like a dream for many students. In addition, these dual-enrollment programs introduce students to the rigors of college coursework early, and recent studies have shown that participants in these programs are more likely to go on to complete a college degree.



In September, Chabot College History Instructor Rick Moniz joined retired Chabot colleague Delvis Fernandez and others to present a lecture titled "Faces of Cuba," based on experience from Rick's program of travel studies to Cuba. The lecture is available to view at <http://youtu.be/1AcYjSIY7zU>

For 2014, Rick will be leading trips to Italy (June 1 - 15) and Spain (September 23 - October 11). See the details of these trips on the CARE web site or contact Rick for more information: (510) 723-6958 or rmoniz@chabotcollege.edu.

Mr. Marco V. Menendez began service as the new Chabot College Vice President of Academic Services on November 18th, 2013. He served at Laney College for six years, most recently as Dean of Liberals Arts and Student Life. He brings unusually strong experience in international education and a commitment to service in a multicultural setting, with previous educational experience in China and Guatemala. Mr. Menendez holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Boston University and a Master's degree in education-curriculum and instruction from Chapman University.



Reviewing the Construction Corner section of the October 2013 Chabot Hot Sheet, I found the renovation of the building 2100 cadaver room very informative...I didn't know we had an original cadaver room. Want more from the Hot Sheet? You'll always find a link to the latest issue of the on the CARE web site.

CARE Book Fund



Because of the high cost of books and the difficulty some student have had in purchasing their needed textbooks, CARE has set up a special Student Book Loan Fund at Chabot College. As a way for you to get involved once again in the wellbeing of students, you may contribute by sending a check made out to: **Chabot College**. In the notation area write "**CARE Chabot Student Loan Book Fund.**"

Mail your check to: President's Office - Attn: Karen Silva, Chabot College, 25555 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, CA 94545

New Chancellor for Chabot-Las Positas CCD

Dr. Jannett N. Jackson was appointed as Chancellor of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District at the June 25, 2013 CLPCCD Board meeting. She began service one month later, replacing Dr. Judy Walters who served for a year as Interim Chancellor. Previously, Dr. Jackson was at College of Alameda, where she served as President and, before that, as Vice-President of Instruction. Dr. Jackson holds a Ph.D. from the prestigious Community College Leadership Program in Educational Administration at The University of Texas at Austin.





LAS POSITAS COLLEGE NEWS

Sophie Rheinheimer Reporting

Exciting News! Las Positas has a new college President!

At the October 15th Board of Trustees meeting, the Board accepted the recommendation of Chancellor Jannett Jackson to make an offer to Dr. Barry A. Russell to become the sixth President of Las Positas College.

Dr. Russell is currently the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs in the office of the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges. Prior to joining the state Chancellor's office, Dr. Russell served as Vice President of Instruction at College of the Siskiyous. Before that, he was the Dean of Fine Arts and Communication at Cerritos College, and at Southwestern College in Chula Vista.



We welcome Dr. Russell and hope that other administrative positions will also be permanently filled soon. The Division Dean positions have been in a state of flux for years. Three of the four Dean positions have been interim ones, and at times, it felt as if we were watching a game of 'musical chairs' being played. The only consolation has been our outstanding faculty colleagues who assumed those roles. BRAVOs to Counseling faculty Barbara Morrissey, Interim Dean of Student Services; English instructor Justin Garoupa, Interim Dean for Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences; and Health instructor Lisa Everett, Interim Dean for Math, Science, Engineering & Public Safety. We couldn't have done it without them.

A new school year is always filled with eager anticipation, but the new semester started sadly. Tony Costello, our beloved Head basketball Coach, passed away the first week of school. He had been in remission from cancer, so his passing was sudden and unexpected. There were many tributes the following week, culminating with a memorial service in the Physical Education Complex on August 31st. Several hundred people filled the gymnasium to hear family and friends share their stories, tinged with tears and laughter. It was a befitting Celebration of Life for our friend and colleague.

At Convocation, it was announced that Karen Pihl is this year's recipient of the Reed Buffington Award for Academic Excellence in Teaching. Congratulations to our Biologist/Botanist-Extraordinaire. Let's all congratulate her in person at the upcoming CARE Reunion Luncheon on January 25, 2014.

District Retirement Benefits Contacts

Deborah Dobbins 925-485-5505 ddobbins@clpccd.org
Roselyn Tucker 925-485-5504 rtucker@clpccd.org

Medicare Reimbursements

Did you know that the District can deposit your monthly Medicare Part B reimbursement to your Chabot Federal Credit Union account? If you want to arrange this convenient option, contact Deborah or Roselyn at District HR.

The District Office Has Moved!

District HR staff are now at
7600 Dublin Blvd., 3rd Floor, Dublin, CA 94568

New Retirees

Allan Ambrecht, District Services, June 2013
Peter Davis, Chabot College, effective January 2014
Eugene Esquierdo, Chabot College, June 2013
Joseph Gentiluomo, Chabot College, August 2013
Mike Klamm, District Services, June 2013
Cheryl Warren, Las Positas College, effective January 2014

Deceased

David Burton, Chabot College, March 2013
Mel Edwards, Chabot College, October 2013
Betty Giblin, Chabot College, October 2013
Kinmont Hoitsma, Chabot College, September 2013
Luise Laurie, Chabot College, April 2013
Jinni Nixon, District Services, October 2013
Gilbert Rocha, District Services, May 2013
Greta Weaver, Chabot College, October 2013

Meet Your Board Members - Shanon Christiansen

I have many fond memories of working at Chabot College and Las Positas for over 25 years during a time which was a period of growth and expansion for the district. I can recall going to my first administrative retreat in 1967 when there were only 13 administrators. We would write down the topics we wanted to discuss and put them into a hat from which Reed would pull them out and we would decide which ones would be our topics for the next couple of days. I also have fond memories of Faculty Senate retreats as well as the many Instructional and Student Services Offices retreats.



In those early years we were hiring more than 25 new faculty members each year and since there was no personnel office, Richard Yeo organized all interviews, coordinated reference checks, and board approvals. The main criteria for hiring new faculty that Reed established was that if a subject had over 15 credit hours a day being taught by part time faculty, a full time faculty position could be requested.

Following in Dick Yeo's footsteps, I also had the opportunity to serve as the President of the California Chief Instructional Officers Association while at Chabot.

After leaving the district in 1993, I continued in college administration as dean, vice president of instruction and student services at two colleges, and president for colleges in Indiana, Minnesota, and Nevada before returning to Southern California. It was there, when in 2008 after over 40 years in community college administration, I retired.

The best thing about working at Chabot for so many years was the opportunities I had to work with and for extraordinary administrators whose examples I have tried to emulate. ART LARSON taught me to be thoughtful of others and to analyze a problem in a methodical way in order to solve it. RICHARD YEO was an example of how to use one's instinct to make quick decisions, how to delegate and thereby develop the skills of those reporting to you, as well as how to conduct short meaningful meetings. JOHN MCKINLEY was an expert at studying a situation and knowing all the facts before making a decision, at developing college budgets, and knowing how to work with the curriculum committee. John also set an example of working endless hours in order to be sure to make the correct decision. REED BUFFINGTON's insistence on excellence whether in the classroom or on the grounds of the college, set a high bar. As a result, he expected that everyone working for him would strive for excellence also and be prepared for the tasks at hand while simultaneously delegating authority and responsibility. ROBERT HUNTER also had exceptional organizational skills, but what I learned from him was the importance of a positive attitude which enabled him to work smoothly with the different college divisions as well as carry out his other college responsibilities. JOANNE NEU was the one who enabled me to function efficiently on a day to day basis, making my job as Dean of Instruction so much easier. She was always calm, patient, and extremely well organized.

I also recall many other outstanding classified staff, faculty, and administrators with whom I was able to work, and many of them are active members of CARE. After leaving Chabot, working at different colleges it became clear that during my time at Chabot, I had had the opportunity to work with an abundance of extremely talented people.



While I was at Chabot, Joann and I bought property and built a vacation home in the Lake Tahoe area and after I retired, we also bought a home in Pacifica. I have been busy remodeling the houses the past few years. Joann and I like to garden, walk, and hike the trails around Pacifica and Lake Tahoe. We also enjoy traveling and spending time with our three daughters, their husbands, and our 11 grandchildren who range in age from a new born to a 22-year-old.

I consider it an honor to be asked to serve on the CARE board and look forward to again working with former colleagues.

CARE Fund Special Projects Grants. Two years ago, the CARE Board piloted the Special Projects Grant program, which awarded a portion of our charitable CARE Fund earnings to start special projects that help employees do a better job of serving students, staff, and the colleges. The program has been going strong and last year awarded \$3,000 in grants at Chabot and Las Positas. To get a sense of the winning projects and outcomes, click **Past Winners** on our web site at www.care-news.org/grants/. To contribute to the CARE Fund, visit www.care-news.org/support/.

Retiree News

Bob Wiseman is now Co-Director of the U.S.S. Hornet Band. The 18 member swing band performs on board the highly decorated Aircraft Carrier/Museum as well as in the community. To celebrate our independence on July 4th the Hornet Band played a two hour concert at the Martinez Veterans Hospital handing out percussion instruments to the patients and clients encouraging them to join in with the band.

Learn more at <http://www.uss-hornet.org>



Ceinwen Carney has unleashed her artistic talents by joining SF Bay Area Urban Sketchers. This sketch by Ms. Carney was used to highlight the organization's summer 2013 flyer for "Lake Merritt Draws", a talk and display of sketches at the Oakland Public Library. View the flyer at <http://www.care-news.org/carney.pdf>

See more of her sketches at

<http://urbansketchers-bayarea.blogspot.com/search/label/Ceinwen%20Carney>



Leslie Frates, daughter of **Norma Kernes**, has been invited back to participate in the Jeopardy! Battle of the Decades Tournament, for which the show producers have chosen 15 former champions to play off against one another for the grand prize of \$1,000,000. Be sure to watch the February 2014 broadcast and cheer her on!

John Wagoner continues to serve the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District as a member of the Chabot Federal Credit Union Board, where he has served continuously since the inception of the Credit Union in 1962 and has served as Board President for multiple terms. What a record!

Learn more at <http://www.chabotfcu.com/asp/history.asp>



Helen Bridge has been appointed to a position on the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Measure B Citizens' Oversight Committee. The committee provides oversight to ensure that bond revenues are expended only for the purposes authorized by law, and gives regular reports to the Board. After a recent meeting, Helen noted that an impressive array of new technology is being built in at both campuses, for interconnectedness and for energy conservation, among other things.

Learn more at <http://measureb.clpccd.cc.ca.us/district/bond/oversightcomm.php>

Len Blau, now a member of Berkeley Fine Art Photographers, began his photographic pursuits while still teaching at Chabot. His creative work has been exhibited widely, including shows at the Belvedere-Tiburon Library, Mesa Art Center, in Mesa, Arizona, the Photolab Gallery in Berkeley, the French Hotel in Berkeley, and the Albany Community Center Gallery.

Learn more and see samples of Len's work at www.lenblauphoto.com

View "[Golden Gate Fog](#)", Len's entry to the 2013 Black and White Magazine single image contest.



Stan Lichtenstein recently traveled to Normandy to review the events of D-Day, June 6, 1944. He is also playing in Alameda's Trinity Church Ukulele Band, and enjoying it richly! As a follow-on to his growing Alameda involvement, he is now a docent-in-training at the air craft carrier Hornet, which is floating museum. Stan and his wife are active in the Kiwanis Club of Alameda, and in 2006 they established the Stan and Diane Lichtenstein Alameda Citizens Award Fund to provide small grants to noteworthy Alameda citizen projects. Learn more at <http://www.alamedakiwanis.org/SDLfund.htm>

We want to share your retirement story! Please send information to the [newsletter editor](#).

2014 CARE Reunion

Please join your colleagues at the reunion and annual meeting!

We will enjoy a wonderful opportunity to socialize with friends and co-workers, a delicious buffet lunch, new historic and current campus photos produced by Don Nilson, and a fun prize drawing,

When: Saturday, January 25, 2014 11:00 a.m. No-Host Social
Where: San Ramon Country Club 11:45 a.m. Business Meeting
Cost: \$22.00 per person 12:15 p.m. Lunch



Directions to San Ramon Country Club:

From 580 east or west go to the 680 interchange.
 Go North on 680 to ALCOSTA BLVD. (The first off-ramp).
 From the North take 680 South to San Ramon Alcosta Blvd. Off-ramp.
 Go East on Alcosta, through 3 signal lights to FIRCREST LANE, and turn left.
 You will see the golf course. Take Fircrest to the club parking lot.



Detach and return

**Reservation For
 Annual CARE Reunion and Lunch**
 January 25, 2014, 11:00 a.m.
 San Ramon Country Club

Please complete this form, enclose your check payable to C.A.R.E., and mail to

Sharon Trethan, C.A.R.E. Treasurer
5122 Blackhawk Dr.
Danville, CA 94506

Name/Names _____

E-mail Address _____
 (please print clearly)

➔ **Yes, please add me to the CARE Member Directory. (E-mail address required)**

Number Attending _____ x \$22 = _____
 2014 Dues (If not already paid) \$10 = _____
 Total Amount Enclosed = _____

Reservation Deadline:
January 13, 2014

Reservations must be prepaid.
 There is no pay-at-the-door option.

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Don Nilson
CARE Photographer

Karen Silva
CARE Associate

Contact the board:
www.care-news.org/contacts

Change of Address

Please send your change of address to CARE Treasurer,
Sharon Trethan via [e-mail](#) or
5122 Blackhawk Drive, Danville, CA 94506.

Change of E-mail

Please send your change of e-mail address to CARE Communications Director,
Bill Threlfall via [e-mail](#).

Detach and return

C.A.R.E. Dues 2014

(\$10.00 per year or \$100 Lifetime Membership)

Support from CARE members is key to our success.
Thank you for your support if you have already paid your 2014 dues!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

(please print clearly)

→ **Yes, please add me to the CARE Member Directory.**
(E-mail address required)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____ (Thank you!)

Please cut and mail this form and your check payable to **CARE** to:

CARE c/o Sharon Trethan
5122 Blackhawk Dr.
Danville, CA 94506

New on the CARE web site:

- [Tribute to John Richard McKinley, a new History Project piece by Art Larson & Reed Buffington.](#)
- [The Hot Sheet Evolves, a new History Project piece by Bill Threlfall.](#)
- [2013-2014 winners for the CARE Special Grants Program.](#)
- [Photos and reports from 2012-2013 CARE Grant winners.](#)



Featured on the CARE web site:

[The Resources Page.](#) Have you checked out our Resources page? It contains links to helpful online resources as well as archived stories and documents. Here are a few examples of the archived medical benefits stories you'll find there:

- Open Enrollment Questions - A CARE Tool for Comparing Benefits
- Retirement Benefits Provisions of New CLPCCD Faculty Contract
- The Transition to Medicare Advantage Plans at Age 65 for STRS Retirees
- Retiree Medical Benefits - District Position

To visit the Resources page, just select **Resources** from the top main menu at www.care-news.org.

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