

DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE RETIREES NEWSLETTER

June 14, 2015

2015-2016 DVCRA MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW PAYABLE

DVCRA family membership dues are due July 1, 2015, for the 2015-2016 year. When we revised the by-laws back in February 2015, we changed the membership year to match the academic year, July 1 to June 30 of every year. To save mailing costs, we are once again including **the membership form on the last page of this newsletter**. You will not receive a dues reminder by mail, only by email.

Please complete the form, write your check payable to DVCRA, (DVC Retirees Association), and mail it to DVCRA, 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

Remember to add your scholarship contribution to the annual dues of \$20 to help us give \$1,000 scholarships to as many DVC students as we can next year. Any money we have left over after annual expenses goes into the scholarship fund. It is not nearly enough to fund the scholarships we give. For that, we rely on your additional contributions to the scholarship fund and your participation in the raffles and silent auctions we

have at the luncheons. This year we raised enough funds to award eight scholarships. We'd love to give 10 or more in 2016.

Your membership entitles you to the latest DVCRA Members Directory. We will hand out directories to all those attending the Oct. 16, 2015, luncheon at DVC. Those who are unable to attend will receive their copies by mail. We don't email directories due to privacy, email hijacking, and hacking concerns.

Be sure to let us know on your form if you have any changes to your contact information. But, if your mail address, email address, and phone numbers are correct, **all you need to do is print your name and leave the contact information section blank.**

If you have any questions about your membership, contact Jeanne Hymer, treasurer, (925-825-6400 or sjhymer@yahoo.com) or Irene Menegas, secretary, (925-946-0420 or imenegas@comcast.net).

MAKE A RESERVATION

THE DVCRA FALL LUNCHEON

Oct. 16, 2015

Diablo Valley College

Diablo Room

Arrive at 11:30 a.m.

Lunch at 12 noon

RSVP:

Irene Menegas

imenegas@comcast.net

or

Jeanne Hymer

Phone: (925) 825-6400



Consider joining CalRTA

By Lorraine Osborn

For more than 85 years the California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA) has been the watchdog for California's retired educators. Whether it's pension protection, the social and education aspect, or the products and services that CalRTA offers, there's something for everyone in CalRTA.

The core mission of CalRTA is to protect and enhance the pensions of CalSTRS members.

In addition, our members are working with legislators to repeal the Social Security penalties, which unfairly discourage careers in public education.

If you would like more information about CalRTA, visit our website: calrta.org or email Lorrie Osborn, Membership Chairperson, Division 52, jalosborn@gmail.com.

In 2014 CalRTA achieved full funding for CalSTRS with a 32-year target. Without this action the unfunded obligation would have ballooned from \$72 billion to \$167 billion! We also successfully opposed a pension ballot initiative, though this issue continues to be a challenge.

Statewide over 45,000 retired educators from all levels including teachers, administrators, librarians, counselors, nurses, and friends of education belong to 87 Divisions of CalRTA.

Our local Division 52, Diablo Vista, currently has 1,061 members, representing central and eastern Contra Costa County.

Division 52 has bimonthly luncheons in Pleasant Hill or Walnut Creek with interesting programs and interaction with old and new friends.

Each June our division awards seven \$5,000 scholarships to graduating DVC and LMC students who are continuing their education. In addition, we



Diablo Vista
Division 52

provide teacher grants to currently working educators for classroom supplies and workshops.

Division 52 has an active Senior Safari travel program with trips around the world and locally. Current trips for the coming year include: Ashland Shakespeare Festival, river cruise to Southern France, Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, San Francisco Playhouse, Fleet Week on the Hornblower, Lodi to see the sandhill cranes, and much more!

Our members are active in legislation activities, visiting offices of our legislators, gathering signatures on petitions, and participating in letter writing days. A first class newsletter, the *Bulletin Board*, is published bi-monthly and keeps the members informed about legislation, insurance, resources and benefits, volunteer opportunities, travel, and news about members.

Annual dues for CalRTA are only \$54.



Information re: UF Health Benefits and Retirement Conference

United Faculty of Contra Costa College District and FACCC sponsored a Health Benefits and Retirement Conference at Diablo Valley College in March.

Full-time faculty retirees Nancy Zink, panel chair, Irene Menegas and Elane Rehr conducted a workshop for those getting ready to retire, thinking about retirement, or gathering information for long-term planning on retirement.

This workshop, "Retirement--It's Complicated," focused on identifying many questions future retirees should consider before they send their final notice to the CCCCDC that they are retiring.

Donna Wapner, UF President, introduced the workshop and remained to offer support/additional information

To the standing room only crowd, Elane handed out a sheet, which got participants thinking about issues that still concerned them. Irene began the discussion and Ruth Atkin, HICAP representative (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program), provided information on Medicare, Medicare classes, Long Term Care, and other resources.

Nancy continued with a handout that contained questions relating to STRS, DBS (Defined Benefit Supplemental), Social Security, taxes, health care options, and future retirement plans. The handout also included contact information and resources future retirees could use to develop and finalize their decisions about their choices for retirement. Nancy also provided the participants with the tips and identified concerns contributed by the retirees at the February 2015 DVCRA luncheon.

Reed Rawlinson, District HR, answered questions from participants regarding District policies, earlier changes in the retirement package. Health providers from Kaiser, Anthem Blue Cross, and VSP also answer questions.

Participants engaged in the discussions and gained useful information. Deborah Dahl-Shanks, coordinator for this event, indicated the workshop was popular and beneficial. She has asked the retirees if they would repeat the workshop at the next conference.

Thank you, auction donors

At our last DVCRA luncheon meeting, we tried something new as a scholarship fundraiser success – a silent auction. It worked! We earned more money than we have ever received. Thank you all for participating. We couldn't have done it without you.

And we offer our sincere gratitude to the wonderful people who offered the prizes for the auction. They are listed below. Many thanks to all of you. Your generous donations will result in scholarships for DVC students.

Brunch from Gene Hambelton's
Chow Restaurant -- Danville, Lafayette, San Francisco
DVC Book Center
El Tapatio -- Pleasant Hill
Giant Chef -- Pleasant Hill
Giants game tickets for two from Clark Sturges
Handles Gastropub -- Pleasant Hill
Kinder's -- Pleasant Hill
Maria Maria Restaurant
Mr. Lucky's -- Pleasant Hill
Norseman Restaurant DVC
Sunvalley Station Car Wash & Hand Wax
Two DVC Drama tickets for five plays each
Artwork from Ellen Kruse

Memoria

Vincent R. Custodio

April 5, 1927 - April 24, 2015

Husband, father, counselor, mentor, confidante, Coach – Vince Custodio left his imprint on so many lives.

Born in San Francisco, Vince graduated from Mission High School 1945, served in the Army during Japanese Occupation, graduated from SF State under GI Bill with a BA in Physical Education in 1950, and a MA in Counseling & Guidance 1962.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, and many family members.

Affectionately known as "Coach" in Martinez, he led the Alhambra Baseball team to its first championship in early 60s.

A counselor at Diablo Valley College and Dean of Behavioral Sciences at Los Medanos College, Vince later returned to counseling at DVC until his retirement in 1987. During that time he and his wife gave seven years of dedicated service securing health benefits for retirees and their families.

He loved family, tennis, and baseball, reading, writing and learning. His passion was education and motivating others to stay in school.



Diablo Valley College duck pond and redwood grove.

Photo by R. Sawyer

Donations may be made to the Vincent & Mary Custodio Scholarship Fund, c/o Diablo Valley College, 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill, 94523 or c/o Los Medanos College, 2700 E. Leland Rd, Pittsburg, 94565. At Vince's request, no services will be held.

Adapted from a Contra Costa Times obituary.

Gay Bryant

Gay Bryan died Sunday evening, April 25, in Lincoln, California.

He was in the Physical Education Department where he

started working at DVC in 1952 and retired in 1990.

During his career he coached Men's Basketball Team, Track & Field/Cross Country teams, and Women's Softball teams. He was known as part of the Elite PAC 12 Football Officials and was one of the NFL Replay Officials.

His expertise was recognized throughout California. He was added to DVC's Hall of fame. He helped build the DVC P.E. department where his wife, Nancy, also worked.

DVCRA HAS NEW WEBSITE, WEBMASTER NEEDED!

<http://uf4cdretired.org>

DVCRA has a website now!

Thanks to Donna Wapner, president, and the UF Executive Board, all employees of the Contra Costa Community College District have a website where they can access information about benefits, news, and events of the retired employee organizations. Of course, for the present, only DVC has a retirees organization. We all hope this website will encourage the other colleges and district office to get on board with creating their own organizations.

To get to the website, type the following into your browser: **<http://uf4cdretired.org>**. Once you're there, check out the "Recent Posts" on the right side. Below that, you can see what messages you missed under "Archives."

Go to "Pages" to access the dedicated DVCRA website with current and past newsletters, news, posts of upcoming events, the bylaws, and eventually pictures from various luncheons. Back on "Pages" on the main screen, you'll also find helpful links compiled by Donna Wapner, including links to social security, the district benefits page, VSP, AARP, Gray Panthers, and many others.

The site is meant to provide a means for CCCCDC retirees to maintain communication with their respective organizations and to get relevant news about district and college events. We thank the United Faculty for setting it up and getting us going. It also is meant to be a resource for current employees contemplating retirement. Toward that end, there are materials that Nancy Zink created for the UF Benefits Conference in Spring 2015 and links to the STRS calculator, and retirement checklists for STRS and CalPERS.

Now we are looking for a Webmaster for the DVCRA section of the website.

We have some content posted, but we have

plenty more that we'd like to load. All we need is someone who knows how to do this or is willing to learn. The Webmaster is not responsible for generating the content, just for loading the files and links to resources. Until we get some help with the technology, bear with us when you find empty links to pictures, etc.

Please contact Irene Menegas at imenegas@comcast.net if you're willing to help with this exciting project.

DVCRA BYLAWS APPROVED AND OFFICERS ELECTED

If you didn't attend the February, 2015, luncheon at DVC, you may not have heard the news that the DVCRA membership overwhelmingly approved the new bylaws by 90 to 1 in February, 2015. The bylaws can be found on the new DVCRA website: uf4cccdretired.org. Click on "DVC Retirees" under "Pages" midway down the Welcome page.

The following officers were elected by acclamation at the February 2015 luncheon:

Treasurer: Jeanne Hymer

Secretary: Irene Menegas

Luncheon coordinator: Ellen Kruse

Scholarship coordinator: Bernice Dandridge

Member Directory maintainer: Bruce Reeves

Unions, District, Benefits liaison:

Nancy Zink

Immediate past Association Coordinator:

Bill Harlan

At the time, the positions of Association Coordinator and Newsletter Editor were vacant. Barbara Sawyer continues to serve as Interim Newsletter Editor until a replacement can be found. In April, Diane Scott-Summers and Judy Walters agreed to serve as Association Co-Coordinators. The DVCRA Board officially approved their appointments at the June 11, 2015, board meeting.

Diablo Valley College Retiree Association

Dues and Membership Information for 2015-2016

→Your dues establish your family membership in the DVCRA for 2015-2016; a part of your dues goes towards creating \$1,000 DVCRA scholarships for six or more of our students.

→If your current directory entry is fine, then just print your name on line X. If there are changes to any of your contact information, please PRINT them below the dotted line. Your information will appear in the directory exactly as you have written it.

XName _____ Spouse/partner (optional) _____ X

 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: () _____ email: _____

 →I have time to help with DVCRA activities Yes ___ No ___ If yes, what could we ask you to do?

Dues per retiree family for one year: \$ 20

Additional scholarship contribution**: \$ _____ (\$30 suggested to reach our goal; *any* extra will help.)

Total \$ _____

**For many years DVCRA has been awarding \$1,000 scholarships to deserving students.

→New directories will be available at the October 16 luncheon; if you can't be there, one will be mailed to you unless you check here. [____]

→Enclose your check, made out to DVCRA, with this form, and address your envelope to:

DVCRA
321 Golf Club Road
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Your return address on the envelope helps us sort.