MARCH 2014

TheQCCer

QCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter Century Club

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No Secrets Left?

'YOUR PAY IS PUBLIC INFORMATION!'

From the Corner Pocket

The list of pay for nearly all public employees and retirees in California has been posted online. I don't know the details on how it came to be, as one story was that CalPERS had declined requests to do so. But somehow, someone has made it available. Not all public agencies have complied with the requests and are noted as such in the listings.

Some small comfort is that, while your: name, years of service, agency retired from, year of retirement, and annual retirement benefit are listed, no other personal information is. If anyone wanted to track you down they would have to use some other means.

While the information on the web site

came to me without my actually searching for it, I'm not so sure how many others would be likely to stumble on it as easily as I did. I'm often searching the web, checking on stories of public pensions and related news. It was in that search for pension news that I happened upon that site.

You can rest easy that I will not broadcast the news of that web site. I sent out a question to over 100 Caltrans people, most of who are retired, asking their opinion weather the news of the site should be published. The response came back with the "No's"



outrunning the "Yes's" by ten to one. While that is an unofficial survey, the resounding reply tells me that most retirees prefer not to broadcast the web site information. Don't ask me to give it to you. I'm keeping the confidence that was asked of me.

We, of the lowly 'worker bee' level need not feel at all guilty of pulling down a large pension. The really out of scale ones are in various local city, county and special districts. There you see

thousands of retirees pulling down pensions running to many hundreds of thousands per year. Even without all of the higher paid local pension plans, in the group of just state employees, there were about 15,000 retirees getting over \$100,000 and less than 50 of those were from Caltrans.

Besides the large pensions of local agencies, the upper ranks of State pensions fall into categories of medical, education, legal, and police and fire supervisors. When any two categories cross, such as a prison doctor, or a law school dean, they get a big spike in pay and pensions.

Not to scare you anymore, but John Arnold, who left Enron without prosecution, and now manages a hedge fund, (no rules), has used his *Laura and John Arnold Foundation* to make a hatchet job video on public pensions. He then tried to funnel \$3.5 million through a PBS affiliate, New York City's

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WNET, to give status to his piece telling how public pensions are the cause of all of our government's problems. When the truth came out, WNET had the dignity to return the bribe to try and save face.

This edition of the QCC'er has the membership roster that may be a way for you to contact your retired friends and reconnect for some more good times.

Some positive news is that, with the help of Russ Plowman D-11, we had a thorough review of the State QCC finances and they look very good. See page 18 for the 2013 Financial Report.

Butch Biendara QCC President

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State & District Officers

President: Emil "Butch" Biendara 4041 Mt. Everest Boulevard San Diego, CA 92111-2624 (858) 279-5054 <u>EagleAyerie@hotmail.com</u> **1st Vice President**: George E. Gray 9720 Oviedo Street San Diego, CA 92129-3827 (858)-538-3027 gray850@aol.com

2nd Vice President: Dave Weiss 10111 Canyon Ridge PL Spring Valley, CA 91977-6915 (619) 820-5117 <u>daveweiss@cox.net</u>

Historian: Vacant

Secretary/Treasurer: Mike Ogilvie PO Box 421292 San Diego, CA 92142-1292 <u>m.ogilvie@sbcglobal.net</u>

Editor: Chris Thomas 6121 Howell Drive La Mesa, CA 91942-3829 (619) 490-3348 <u>cmthomas4848@gmail.com</u>

District 1 Director: Arlene Hartin 2301 E Street Eureka, CA 5501-4126 707-443-8841 ahartin@suddenlink.net

District 2 Director: James Ceragioli 1861 Shasta Pines Way Redding CA 96002-0306 (530) 223-0208 <u>sirravioli@shasta.com</u>

Treasurer: Burton Brockett 444 Basalt Court Redding CA 96003-3331 (530) 246-4721

Secretary: Bill Belcher 18600 Quail Ridge Rd Cottenwood, CA 96022-9058 <u>shastaqcc@yahoo.com</u>

District 3 Director: Dan Johnson, Sr. 901 Dennis Way Yuba City CA 95991-6110 (530) 671-3889 <u>boots3@syix.com</u>

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Secretary: Lib Haraughty 2225 Lincoln Rd Yuba City CA 95993-9759 (530) 673-5587 <u>libbyanneh2@aol.com</u>

Treasurer: Lita Wells 4115-G Butte House Rd Yuba City CA 95993-9676 (530) 674-5945 <u>billitaw@comcast.net</u>

District 4 Director: Paul Hensley 161 Allen Drive San Bruno, CA 94066-1602 (650) 359-5172 <u>hphensley@gmail.com</u>

District 5 Director: Kathleen Copeland 1255 Orcutt Rd A-2 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-0918 (805) 544-1834 <u>BCopel4674@aol.com</u>

District 6 Director: Terry Littleton 6675 N Woodson Fresno, CA 93711-1132 (559) 431-8140 <u>TerryLittleton@comcast.net</u>

District 7 Director: William Almany III 17200 So Stark Avenue Cerritos, CA 90703-1822 (562) 865-2440

Secretary: Kirsten Stahl 100 S Main St Suite 100 MS13 Los Angeles, CA 90012-3712 (213) 897-0470 <u>kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov</u>

District 8 Director: Wesley J. Grimes 5818 N. Sycamore Avenue Rialto, CA 92377 909-875-5400 <u>wesleyj38@hotmail.com</u>

Secretary/Treasurer: Marsha Lotze 20250 Majestic Dr Apple Valley CA 92308-5030 760-247-2119 <u>mlotze12@verizon.net</u>

District 9 Director: Lance Hinek 1642 S Valley View Dr

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Bishop, CA 93514-1958 760-873-3885 <u>hinek@suddenlink.net</u>

District 10 Director: Stan Randolph 3672 Wood Duck Circle Stockton, CA 95207-5262 209-957-1278 <u>stanran3672@aol.com</u>

Secretary: Brian Young 1056 Bradford Circle Lodi, CA 95240-7002 209-334-6028 <u>blyoung365@gmail.com</u>

District 11 Director: Leslie Franklin 2928 New Jersey Ave Lemon Grove, CA 91945-2827 619-466-1897 <u>lgprincess69@yahoo.com</u>

Central District Director: Gary Bush 1420 Cougar Track Drive Placerville, CA 95667-8728 530-642-8208 <u>zbusharosa@wildblue.net</u>

Secretary: Julie Bush 1420 Cougar Track Drive Placerville, CA 95667-8728 530-642-8208 zbusharosa@wildblue.net

Treasurer: David Saxby 9503 Dunkerrin Way Elk Grove CA 95758-4402

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION

This year the California Transportation Foundation (CTF) welcomes three new Board Members (**Gary Gallegos**, Exec. Dir. San Diego Assoc. of Governments and former Caltrans District 11 Director; **Tim Haile**, Managed Lanes Technical Services Leader for Michael Baker, Jr. Corp; and **Caroline Alain Rodman**, Director of Local & State Government Relations at T.Y. Lin Int'l.).

Again this year, CTF is a proud co-sponsor of the annual **Workers Memorial Tribute** to be held on

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Thursday, May 1st on the steps of the State's Capitol. The ceremony remembers and honors those employees who have lost their lives while working for the safety of the traveling public with the placement of a wreath in the center of a large diamond of orange cones. Each cone bears the name of one of the 180 Caltrans employees that have been lost.

It is a tribute that must be seen to be appreciated. We hope that you will be able to join us this year at any of the tributes being held either in Sacramento or in your own area as Caltrans honors two **District 2** employees who were lost in 2013: **Joseph "Robert" Jones** and **Shawn Baker**, both **Equipment Operator IIs**.

Don't miss these other upcoming events:

April 14th: Charity Golf Tournament held at the Strawberry Farms Country Club in Irvine.

May 22nd: CTF's Transportation Awards Ceremony and Luncheon held in Sacramento. The winners of the best of transportation projects, programs and persons for 2013 will be honored by CTF. Also Caltrans will be presenting their annual Charles Purcell, Karl Moskowitz, James E. Roberts, and Emerson Rhyner awards to the outstanding Department managers at this event. Come and support the winners of all these prestige awards.

July 28th: Charity Golf Tournament held at the Yocha Dehe Golf Club in northern California.

A special thank you goes to those employees that designated the Foundation for donations during the annual **California State Employees Charitable Campaign (CSECC)** last fall. Designations totaled almost \$14,000 and were truly appreciated.

You recently should have received your copy of "Headways", CTF's newsletter. We hope you enjoyed the information. The Foundation is looking forward to another great year in 2014 supporting the needs of our Caltrans family. Thank you for your continued interest and support. You may want to

check out CTF's website and/or our Facebook site for information on on-going programs and activities (www.transportationfoundation.org).

- Kathy Freeman

Rather read the QCCer on-line?

Go to

http://ctqcc.150m.com/qccnewsletter.html

Information about QCC officers, history, and constitution are available at <u>http://ctqcc.150m.com/qcc.html_</u>

Check the current haps at Caltrans at http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews

In Memoriam

We extend our sympathy to family members and loved ones of our fallen colleagues

and tored ones of	our juiten	i concagne.
Name Dis	strict	Date
Kenneth Earl Wilson	01	Jan 19, 2014
Frank Bubier	01	Feb 15, 2014
Robert (Bob) John Kassis	02	Dec 19, 2013
S. A. Dorman	03	Nov , 2013
Buster Rollsue	03	
Sally Jester	05	May , 2013
Mel McAllister	05	Jan 4, 2014
Marjorie Messer	05	Feb 4, 2014
Bernard (Barney) Deeter	06	Dec 26, 2013
Dick Beck	06	Feb 2, 2014
Mary Berg	06	Feb 1, 2014
Fekade Selassie Mesfin	07	Jan 17, 2014
Lois Cooper	07	Jan 26, 2014
Bob Tanaka	07	2014
Fred L Henderson	07	Sep , 2013
Robbin (Rob) H Karns, Jr	08	Jan 31, 2014
Keith Skousen	08	Jan 26, 2014
Ken Deboy	09	Jan 20, 2014
Ed Ephrom	09	Jan 15, 2014
Ed Reilly	09	Dec 22, 2013
Al Partridge	09	Jun 27, 2013
Linda L Orozco	10	Nov 6, 2013
Mildred Gilkey	10	Feb 19, 2014
Dana C Willard	10	Dec 6, 2013
James (Jim) Schultz	10	Feb 14, 2014
Peggy (Peg) Anne Tincup	11	Feb 5, 2014
Vagadu Varda	11	Feb 7, 2014
William (Bill) Pope Huston	11	Feb 4, 2014
Beverly Turner	11	Feb 1, 2014
David (Dave) Theobald	С	Feb 27, 2014
Maris Rasmussen	С	Jan 11, 2014

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The Haps in District 1

istrict 1 Administration Christmas party was held on December 11, 2013. It was enjoyed by all the retirees attending including me. The retirees attending included Rick Knapp, George Eitzen, Vicki Butler, Brenda Bowie, Tim Fisher and Janet Bottini.

We did check out other locations for our retiree/QCC quarterly lunch and the majority voted to remain with the Samoa Cookhouse so we will be staying there. We had a nice group of 29 at our January lunch. Jerry Severson and Chuck SeCoy came over from Redding. Everyone enjoyed seeing them.

I received a contribution from Rick Knapp for our newsletter as follows: Rick Knapp and his wife Jean just returned at the end of January after a 3week tour of Uganda. We travelled over 1,000 miles, circling the country. It was arduous travel, but very rewarding. The wildlife and birdlife were spectacular, and the people were wonderful, a major cultural experience. We got to get up close and personal with Mountain Gorillas. I met a woman from Las Vegas while we were there; her son is in the Peace Corps and has unsuccessfully tried to get a civil engineering job in the country. He told his Mom, "They don't need civil engineers here". They don't have water systems, sewer systems, a highway system or buildings that would stand up to a 4.0 earthquake, but they don't need civil engineers?? Who knew? Much of what we travelled on were lava dirt roads, but there are some new roads being constructed, mostly by the Israelis and Chinese under contract. Most paved roads have many speed bumps through communities. Our guide called them "African Massages". We went over thousands of them. As a bicyclist, I was amazed at how a bicycle is used in Uganda-to transport a son on the top tube, a wife sidesaddle on a back rack, and a baby papoose-style on her back, all at the same time; or to haul up to seven 5-gallon containers of water; or enough bananas to fill the shelves at Safeway for a week!! If you would like to know about the contact trip, Rick at rsk1943@suddenlink.net or call him at (707)445-

Sadly, we lost two more retirees. Kenneth Earl Wilson passed away on January 19, 2014. He worked in the R/W Department.

Frank Bubier, who had been a Maintenance Supervisor at the Orick yard in District 1, passed away on February 15, 2014.

- Arlene Hartin

The Haps in District 2

ere's a reminder for all that our District 2 spring luncheon will be at Lulu's Eating Establishment in Redding on April 16th.

June McLean and Shirley Shoup are heading back to Reno to try to win a Bingo Blowout on the 22nd of March. They didn't win in Las Vegas in November, so will try Reno again. Also, Shirley is recovering from a slight hip operation. She fractured the ball that goes in the socket. Six weeks now since the surgery and she says she is doing pretty well, however still using a walker to get around.

What was Roberta McLaughlin up to over the last five years? In June 2008, Roberta left District 2 to work for the Traffic Operations Division in Headquarters. She never planned to move permanently down to Sacramento, so she rented an apartment downtown and came back to Redding for most every weekend. She was working as a Senior Transportation Engineer Specialist. Her area of expertise was pavement markings and speed limits in the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

During that 5 year period her daughter, Molly, received a Bachelor's degree from Southern Oregon

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University in Theater Arts and her son, Alan, graduated from CSU Chico with a BS degree in Computer Engineering. Molly is now living in Germany with her new husband (Army helicopter pilot) and Alan works in Petaluma for a fiber optics company called Cyan.

Last June, **Roberta** came back home to District 2 and now works half the year in Construction and half the year in Traffic Operations. She celebrated her 25 years of service in Sacramento with a gathering attended by Director Dougherty.

In her spare time, Roberta is a Board member for the Boy Scouts, Golden Empire Council and has been to the last 3 National Jamborees as a Traffic Safety Merit Badge Counselor. She also helps train new Girl Scout leaders. Her hobbies include camping, jewelry making and quilting.

In his own words, a message from the QCC District 2 Director, Jim Ceragioli: Not much has been happening since the last time I wrote, but seeing as I am the District Director for 02 OCC, I felt it my obligation to send something. Sandy and I have not taken any new long journeys to report on. We did go to Reno to celebrate Christmas with son James and his family, as well as going over for Thanksgiving, and that trip also was to celebrate our 1st anniversary as old married people. That celebration was one month late, but what the heck. Sandy was worried about going to Reno in late December because of snow, however, as all of you know, ain't no snow this year. We are looking forward to our next cruise, which will be the Panama Canal this year. Long wait for that though, as it will be late 2014. Before that time, we will head to the Lake County area to see Sandy's friends and relations, and So Cal to see more. Also, we will head north to see my relations and our newest grandniece. So, to all of you out there, I hope you have a wonderful 2014, and how about making a resolution to submit some of the travels and things happening in your retired life?

Road Last Traveled

Robert (Bob) John Kassis passed away suddenly at the age 79 on Thursday, December 19, 2013. He was a life-long resident of Redding and well respected in the community. He graduated from Shasta High School and Shasta College and then began his career with Caltrans in 1955 as an Engineering Aid. Then in 1956, he joined the Army, as an Aircraft maintenance mechanic. Upon completion of his military duty, he resumed his career with Caltrans, which spanned almost 45 years.

Bob was an active member in the Redding community. He served as a member on the Board of Directors, was President of various divisions and served as a manager and coach for Redding Youth Baseball bridging over 15 years. He was also involved in the Sons of Italy and past member of both, the Elks Club and the Moose Lodge. Bob was a very active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post # 1934 and had served as the Post Commander of the Springs Post #7169. Bob was also a faithful **QCC** member for many years.

- Bill Belcher

The Haps in District 3

he annual spring party will be held on Sunday, April 6th at the Peach Tree Country Club in Linda. Flyers will be sent. Festivities start at

1:00 P.M. with a general business meeting to follow at 1:45 P.M. A buffet luncheon will be served at 2:00 P.M. This is a gala event and is always a wonderful time to reminisce over past experiences. Call **Dan Johnson, Sr.** at (530) 671-3889 or **Carleen Hagen** at (530) 674-9026 for additional information.

The History Center at the District 3 headquarters office is moving along. Many things have been accomplished with the leadership of Libby Haraughty. Long time volunteers are Palmer Haug and Carleen Hagen. Bob Mulcahy, who

recently passed away, was also an active part of the History Committee. In addition, **Charlie Vierra** and **Chiyo Nakagawa** are also volunteers. We sincerely thank the District office staffs who have been so helpful during this process. Anyone wishing to volunteer is asked to contact Libby Haraughty at (530) 673-5587. The Committee meets the first Thursday of each month at 9:00 A.M. in the District Office.

Bob Atkinson was admitted to the hospital and then to the Fountain in Yuba City. Bob has been having problems with balance and memory. Bob's wife Della was also admitted to the hospital and is now home. **S.A. Dorman** passed away last November. He retired as the Caltrans Maintenance Region Manager in the Central Region-Special Crews. **Buster Rollsue** passed away. We do not have a date. **Ethel Mae Waller** has been under the weather and her husband Jim is very ill. **Carleen Hagen**, after a bout with a heart condition, is doing fine.

If anyone knows of a person who qualifies and is interested in joining the District 3 Quarter Century Club contact **Carleen Hagen** at the above phone number. She can also be reached by email at hcdhagen@aol.com.

- Dan Johnson Sr.

The Haps in District 4

d Coble's Caltrans Lunch Bunch held their Annual Christmas Luncheon. Lucille Mellish was able to attend and shared several jokes with all of the attendees. About 40 people attended. Each year the number of care givers at the luncheon goes up.

With all the uproar over the new Eastern Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, the Oakland and San Francisco Museums put together exhibits focusing on the construction of the original East Span. The Oakland Museum's exhibit (Spanning the Bay) was opened in the fall of 2013 and ran until the end of 2013. **Bob MacDougald** was interviewed during the preparation of the exhibit.

The DeYoung Museum has an exhibit entitled "The Bay Bridge: A Work in Progress, 1933-1936". This exhibit is now open to the public and runs until June 2014. The exhibition presents a newly acquired group of photographs by **Peter Stackpole** (1913-1997) documenting the bridge's original construction in the 1930s. The young photographer scaled the heights of the unfinished structure for more than three years. He moved freely among the workers, telling of their death-defying labor on one of the most ambitious public works projects in California history.

The Admin Lunch Brunch sends their best wishes to everyone for a Happy New Year and invites anyone to attend their lunch. They meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Mexicali Rose in Oakland. The Admin Group said a big thank you to **Harry Yahata** and **Arnold Joe** for forwarding to them photographs from the 1970's. These were the pictures taken each year in the courtyard at 150 Oak Street in San Francisco. These pictures were of individual branches in 1979. I remember during my second year as an Engineering Student Trainee sitting for one of these group pictures. I think **George Straud** was the photographer.

- Paul Hensley

The Haps in District 5

appy Spring. It's nice to see the green color returning to our hills after the early March rains.

In January, District 5 finished work on a new bridge, rock-shed tunnel, and retaining wall on Highway 1 near Lucia. This project took four years and nearly \$40 million to protect the road near

Pitkins Curve. The structure is intended to keep falling rocks and slides off the roadway and reduce the chance of closure.

The November issue of a local magazine, "Journal Plus", featured a cover story on **Herb & Diane Filipponi** and their family winery, <u>Filipponi Ranch Cellars.</u>

Sandy and **Dick Elliott** have relocated to a senior residence in Santa Maria to be near family.

We received a card from the daughter of **Sally Jester**, informing us that she passed away in May last year. Sally was in charge of Clerical Services and the Data Center for many years. She was an avid bridge player and travelled to many tournaments; we happened to meet Sally and husband Ralph once at the old Stardust resort in Las Vegas.

Mel McAllister passed away on January 4 in Meridian, Idaho at the age of 89. He worked for Caltrans for 34 years, and after retirement worked for the Federal government another five years. He is survived by his wife Aileen, his daughters and their families.

Marjorie Messer, widow of **Dan**, passed away on February 4, 2014. She is survived by her four children, several grandchildren, and extended family.

- Kathleen Copeland

The Haps in District 6

eorgia Cordova finally pulled the plug and retired on January 24, 2014. Congratulations!

From **Richard Schumacher** - "I had open-heart surgery to have a heart valve repaired. I was sent to "Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula". They anticipated some problems so I was sent to a specialist, Dr. Goudiani. The operation turned out OK but when we returned to Fresno, I had to enter Saint Agnes Hospital with severe lung congestion. After 6 days in this hospital, my lungs were cleared up. I 'm OK now but getting my strength back.

Road Last Traveled



Bernard Deeter was born on September 17, 1926, in Fresno, Ca. and passed away on Thursday, December 26, 2013. **Barney**, as he was known, graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1944.

He attended Cal-Aero Engineering School in Los Angeles and Fresno State College. Barney was a registered Civil and Traffic Engineer in California and was employed by the California Division of Highways, now Caltrans, in District 6 for 34 years.

He was a US Air Force veteran stationed at Randolph Field, now AFB, Texas after World War II, and was recalled to active duty during the Korean War stationed at Camp Stoneman, California and Parks Air Force Base, California.

He was a member of the many organizations, including the **QCC** and the Professional Engineers in California Government.



On February 2, 2014, **Dick Beck** was sent to Heaven to help God finish paving it! He was born on August 18, 1934 at home in Caruthers, CA. For 40 years Dick worked as a Registered Civil Engineer for

Caltrans in Fresno.

Dick, a **QCC** member, enjoyed sports (Go Bulldogs) especially bowling. Dick had a 195 average! His hobbies included meteorology, travel and paying his "Nevada taxes".

From **Virgle Ray** - Beck will be remembered as boss, commuter (he and I shared rides for a while),

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On Saturday, February 1, 2014, **Mary Berg** was welcomed home by her Lord, Jesus Christ. A Fresno native, she was born on February 17, 1931. She retired from Caltrans as a stenographer after 25 years of service.

From **Roy Andersen**: Mary was a very nice woman.

From **Christine Mitchell** about both Dick and Mary: This is way too many, too fast. Wish I could make it over there, but I sent a card to Barbara Beck. Just love her & am so sorry to see these friends pass.

A lot of bad news this time. How about some of you guys giving me a call with some good news; travel, vacations, etc. I'm still looking for someone to take over this position. It would be nice to get a younger employee that is still working and could hustle some of the younger Caltrans employees to join. It's a great way to stay connected!!!

- Terry Littleton

The Haps in District 7

The QCC Holiday Luncheon was celebrated at the Miyako Inn. If you missed some of your cohorts at that reunion, it may be that they attended a conflicting one at the Pala Casino the same day...

Regarding the Pala Casino luncheon, Milly Yamada writes, "Those in attendance at the last one were: Arnold and Katie Mahalona; Moon and Kathy Kim; James and Susie Ito; Joyce Minzey; Paul Perez; Art Young; Neil Hashiba; Yuen Wong; Barbara Lin; and [Milly's] spouse. I hope I didn't overlook anyone else." "There were several conversations going on, and I didn't really sit anywhere near **Arnold**, **James** and **Moon**. We just had a good time being together... If I think about it, maybe I'll be able to reserve a cabana out by the pool area for more chit-chatting after our meal. We missed **Larry Ari** and his wife, and **Dan** [sic] and **Millie Goble**. I would have loved to have seen **Marie** (the one that piloted helicopters) and **Bob**; the **Gilstraps**; and **John Burnside**, if he were able to make it. I would have also loved to have seen **Ralph Thunstrom** [sic]; **Doug Richter**; **Nick Jones** and others who I cannot name, junior moment. One drawback about the cabana area is that it has a maximum of 7 persons, so I may not place a reserve."

"These octogenarians and pioneers did talk about being busy with gardening; their health issues, and travels. But I really think we "oohed and ahhed" at all the wonderful foods that were there."

"We are planning another Pala luncheon for the first Saturday after tax day...making it the 19th of April, 2014. I am hoping that we'll have a three hour Window to chit chat this time, rather than the two. At the Choices Restaurant; the restaurant only bills with one check, unfortunately, so I'll need to have checks in advance if you wish to get a discount. We're planning to do this at the Pala only because some of the people who actually spear-headed this are now in their 80's (difficult to drive at night) and they do live in San Diego County."

Let's hope **Milly** can plan the next one to avoid conflicts with District 7 and 8 luncheons, the first and second Saturdays in December, respectively.

Lunch Group

Time flies, and before you know it, it is the second Wednesday of the month... Hungry for food or for thought, then the **Tom Fera** Lunch Group is up your ally! Meet with them on the <u>second</u> Wednesday of each month, except December:

RESTAURANTS AND PROPOSED LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2014

[Second Wednesday of every month except

December]

April 9, 2014
May 14, 2014
June 11, 2014
July 9, 2014

China Olive Joselito's West Steer N' Ale China Olive

China Olive Chinese Restaurant; 9224 Reseda Boulevard, Northridge, CA 91324; (818) 998-3688 **Joselito's West Mexican Restaurant**; 7308 Foothill Boulevard, Tujunga, CA 91042; (818) 951-2275

Steer N' Ale Restaurant; 3644 E. Foothill Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107; (626) 796-2278

For more information about meetings, etc., contact: **Chuck O'Connell** at (661) 253-3428 or <u>chuckoconnell@prodigy.net</u>, or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or <u>tgilders@pacbell.net</u>.

Queen for a Day

Marie Martin wrote, "To celebrate the end of 2013 and incidentally my 70th Birthday, I chartered a boat for a "Two Hour Cruise" in Ventura Harbor... We [had] exclusive use of the vessel "Dreamer" for our party... [other] boats in the Harbor and surrounding homes [were] all decorated for the Holiday Season, and the atmosphere [was] festive... in flat water, so no motion worries." Marie suggested it would be chilly "so dress casual and warm". Guests brought Marie's favorite snacks and Marie provided the champagne. Guests included several familiar names, Judy and Dennis Reynolds, Cathy Wright, Steve Malkson, Daria Smolke, Bob Walters, and Kirsten and Stewart Stahl, among many others. One insightful guest provided the toast, "Champagne to our real friends, and real pain to our sham friends".

Drive or Ride?

As one soon-to-be 90-year old is finding out, renewing your driver's license would be easier if you could pass the written exam! Agree with the law or not? It doesn't matter, the DMV wants their

expected answer, not the one you're willing to debate. And if you wait until your license expires, it gets harder, as they expect you to demonstrate that you CAN drive, by <u>their</u> rules, not the ones you think you should follow.

Milly Yamada provides a possible alternative to this dilemma, "Just hoping that I will be smart enough to know when to quit driving... Unlike the eighty-something-female-driver in Las Vegas over the weekend."

Mary MacGillivray adds, "I got mine (TAP card) a year ago and last eve IT got me a senior discount rush ticket at the Disney (besides getting me to and fro on the Metro system). Fun!"

[I hope no egos were hurt in the reading of this entry. Any similarity to your life is coincidence, as the actual name of the 90-year-old was not included intentionally.]

Promotions and Peccadillos

Lindy Lee-Lovell writes, "After over thirty years of service with Caltrans, it is time for me to begin another chapter in my life. My last day as the District 7 Chief Deputy District Director will be Friday, January 24th. I feel privileged to have worked with so many extraordinary people, many who have become dear friends... I wish you all the best and thank you all for your hard work, dedication, and loyalty."

On February 18, 2014, **Malcolm Dougherty**, Caltrans Director, revealed in a long awaited e-mail, "It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of **Carrie Bowen** as Caltrans District 7 Director. Carrie brings tremendous experience to the position, both from within Caltrans and before her career with the department. She most recently served as District 10 Director in Stockton and has worked at Caltrans for about 30 years. She began her career as an Associate Environmental Planner and rose to the position of Deputy District Director for the Central Region Environmental Division." Ali Zaghari, Deputy District Director for the Division of Traffic Operations wrote, "I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Sam Esquenazi** to the Chief, Office of District Traffic Manager (DTM) effective, Monday, March 3, 2014. Sam has been with Caltrans for over 34 years and has spent the last 16 years as the Senior Transportation Engineer in charge of the District's Traffic Management Team..."

In a shakeup of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) leadership, employees expressed surprise that more than four key executive jobs were eliminated to make the agency more efficient and less top-heavy, according to an L.A. Times article dated Friday, February 21, 2014.

Doug Failing, who had directed Metro's highway programs, has left the agency. Failing oversaw engineering and construction for Metro's highway projects. Until he joined Metro in 2009, Failing supervised Caltrans District 7.

While Metro will be managing an unprecedented \$14 billion in Los Angeles County construction projects this year, including five new rail lines, multiple departments have already been merged, reducing the number of employees by half, according to a Metro audit obtained by The Times. Metro's executive-level staff has almost completely turned over in the last two years. Chief Operating Officer **Frank Alejandro** left his position last fall, and Metro's deputy chief executive officer **Paul Taylor** retired last month. Taylor's position has been filled by **Lindy Lee**, formerly the chief deputy director of Caltrans District 7.

Recent Retirements and Sightings

Steve Novotny writes, "**Dennis Snyder** from the Division of Program/Project Management is retiring after 39 years of State service." The luncheon occurred "at the San Antonio Winery on January 16, 2014 to celebrate this momentous occasion."

While many of us would be glad to shed a few pounds, perhaps more of us would be glad to have a few to spare based on **Maxine In's** recent experience. **Paul In**, reported that his wife Maxine, lost close to 30 pounds while recovering from a lengthy struggle with a lung infection. Neither have been out and about much, and even canceled two planned cruises. We wish Maxine well on her road to better health!

Attending the Black History Month Celebration in the District Office on February 5, was **Paul Perez**, former training officer and Engineer.

Randy Iwasaki, retired Caltrans Director, now the Executive Director for the Contra Costa Trans. Authority, was in Wash., D.C., as a member of the implementation planning workshop to strategize deployment and implementation of Composite Paving System Construction (R21) under the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2).

Victor Zengler writes, "**Paul Speakman's** Retirement Luncheon photos were taken on Friday, February 28, 2014. The photos [were] taken late that afternoon at the Seal Beach pier and represent the sunset of **Paul's** career with Caltrans.

The Road Last Traveled

Mark Archuleta, Deputy District Director, for the Division of Construction, writes, "I'm deeply saddened to inform you that our beloved Chief, **Fekade Selassie Mesfin**, passed away in Ethiopia, Friday, January 17, 2014. Keep him in your prayers, may he rest in peace and may eternal light shine upon him." A memorial service was held on March 8th at St. Mary's Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

Wayne Liu, Branch Chief, Long Beach Construction Field Office, wrote, "With deep sorrow we inform you that **Lois Cooper**, a retired Caltrans employee, mother of **Wyatt Cooper**, passed away over the weekend", on January 26, 2014. Lois began her career at Caltrans in 1953, as an under Engineering Aide, the first black woman hired in an engineering department. She earned her B.A. in mathematics in 1954, and was the first black woman in California to pass the P.E. exam. Many people attending her services bore witness that she contributed greatly in their development as engineers. Many Caltrans and former Caltrans members attended including, Wyatt Cooper, Paul In, Cleave Govan, Cheryl Powel, Kirsten and Stewart Stahl, Martha Hetzler, Ed Gata, Romy Robinal, Martin Coronado, Murry Mun, Fuad Aziz, Massod Akbarian, Hassan Fayad, Michelle Smith, Stephanie Turk, and Lucia Adams. Lois was an honorary QCC member.

Jim Fowler reported the passing of **Bob Tanaka**. Bob worked in Design C, for many years, with the likes of **Clebert Camp** and **Ernie Stahl**.

From **Chuck Webster:** Over the holidays I received information about a guy I worked with for many years in District 07 (until he promoted to District 02) that he had passed away. I don't have much information but his name is **Fred L Henderson** and he passed away in September 2013.

Be like Tom, Marie, Milly, Victor, and Jim!

Retired but not "tired"? Then get on board and write a few words of your adventures. A post card, text, or e-mail now and then would be easy enough, yes? Don't just stay in touch – get in touch! Please send your items, to: **Caltrans, attn: Kirsten Stahl, 100 S. Main St. Suite 100 MS 13, Los Angeles, CA 90012**. Phone 213-897-0470, or e-mail: kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov.

Tom reminds you that the District 7 QCC Director and Treasurer are available, and you can reach him directly at 17200 So. Stark Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90701-1822.

WAKE UP!

Have you been saving up those special vacation/gardening/concert/train travel memories? Stop hoarding them and share those details! Truth is much more interesting than fiction!

Many thanks to those who forwarded information and who were not otherwise mentioned above.

- Kirsten Stahl

The Haps in District 8

istrict 8's Christmas Luncheon was a great success and everyone had a great time. Those in attendance at our luncheon at Hannah's Restaurant in San Bernardino on Saturday, December 14, 2013 were: John & Kay Anderson, guest, Tom Ivey, Diana Barich & guest, Linda Wilford, Loren & Margaret Barnett, Mary Bermudez, Dennis Blakkolb, Gil & Jeanette Daab, John & Doris Estrada, Les Franz, Jim & Jan Geller, Wanda Gernux, Linda & Wes Grimes, Al & Judi Hudgens, Allan & Jane Kirst, Frank Lehr, Stan & Ina Lisiewicz, Dick Longstreet, Marsha Lotze, Phosie Lotze, Gerald Lunt, Mike Miles & his wife, Jim & Linda Miller, Gary & Shirley Nelson, Bob & Linda Pester, Sybille Phillips, Tom & Bonnie Powell, Virginia Reed, Bob Sassaman, Bud & Judy Smith, Taylor & Katie Smith, Ken Steele, Linda Supernaw, Bob & Hannah Viveros, their daughter Rosie and granddaughter, Leslie.

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and catch up with old friends and family. Many door prizes had been donated and were won by many happy partygoers. The QCC donated four \$25.00 dollar prizes and two members donated an additional two. Those lucky winners were **Jim Geller, Phosie Lotze, Margaret Barnett, Denny Blakkolb, Bud Smith** and **Frank Lehr.**

We also had several members who turned 80 and they were given their Honorary Certificates. Those who reached that great milestone were **Andy Anderson, Bud Smith, Ken Steele** and **Dennis Blakkolb**. Congratulations! Please mark your calendars for the second Saturday in December for our next Christmas Luncheon. We also will be scheduling a mid-summer luncheon for some time in July. Watch your mailboxes for an invitation.

Not much has been happening, but we did receive a nice note from **Frances Jacques** recounting her trip to France last summer. She went to Paris with her son, Chris, and among their activities took a river cruise to the beaches of Normandy to see the World War II sites there. She also noted she had surgery, but has recovered.

Richard Haight continues struggling with hip problems, and most recently infections and clotting...**Taylor** and **Katie Smith** are also dealing with ongoing health problems.

One of our very faithful members, **Roy Smoot's** invitations were returned twice to me, but we finally found him with the help of **Allan & Jane Kirst**. Allen & Jane made several telephone calls and solved the mystery. Roy has Alzheimer's and is an assisted living facility at Laguna Woods. He is also recovering from an auto accident.

His faithful companion, **Marjorie Bruhn**, who has accompanied him to many of our QCC activities is assisting Roy and will keep **Taylor Smith** advised of Roy's health. Our thoughts and prayers are with both of them and I'm sure if anybody would like to they could contact Taylor or me for telephone and address information.

I received a flyer from **Sybille Phillips** on the Fourth Annual Hwy Workers Memorial Ride on April 29, 30 & May 1, 2014. If you know of any motorcycles riders who may be interested in this event to honor Caltrans employees who were killed on the job, contact **Cindy** 909-499-4278. The ride will begin in Loma Linda and proceed to Sacramento and back.

All Districts are involved and donations will be split between the Districts Memorial Funds and the CTF "Caltrans Highway Workers Memorial Fund". This is NOT a Caltrans Sponsored Event.

Recently we lost one of our newest QCC members, **Robbin H. Karns, Jr**. Rob passed away on January 31, 2014 in Fontana. He served in the army during the Korean War and after his return he became a civil engineer and worked for District 8. Rob retired from Caltrans with more than 35 years of service and he and Barbara retired to their dream home in Big Bear Lake.

District 8 also lost retiree **Keith Skousen**, 80, on January 26, 2014, at his home in Lehi, Utah. Keith was born in San Bernardino and was in the U.S. Navy. He graduated from U.C.L.A. and then went on active duty and served in Guam. Keith retired from Caltrans with 35 years of service, where he worked in the Right of Way Department as an Engineering Technician.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Rob's and Keith's families.

- Marsha Lotze

The Haps in District 9

t has been a while since I have sent any info for the Quarter Century Club newsletter. I have been unsuccessful in getting someone to take my place for District 09.

I want to thank **Jim Kemp** for organizing a breakfast on November 21, 2013 at the Bishop Country Club. The following District 09 retired employees attended: **Kit Birmingham**, **John Bieschel**, **Mike Carrington**, **Chuck Carter**, **Dan Chambers**, **Dick Clark**, **Rich Coffman**, **Ralph Cones**, **Ken Deboy**, **Louis Elias**, **Jerry Gabriel**, **Lance Hinek**, **Loyd Hopper**, **Jim Kemp**, **Bud Moody**, **John Nakken**, **Marv Nelligan**, **Dave Oldenberg**, **Bob Peterson**, **Jim Snell**, **Lou** **Wadsworth.** Everyone enjoyed the occasion and I liked talking to each one of them.

From **Harold Jones**: **Bill Harms,** (former Dist. 9 Maint.) now retired in Atascadero, CA, had a serious stroke some time ago. The last I heard from Bill's wife (Lynn) he had had a set back and wasn't doing too well. Their phone # is (805) 466-8476 in case anyone wishes to give Lynn a call...

Ken Deboy passed away on Jan 20, 2014 in Reno, NV. In 1960, Ken began working for Caltrans in District 10 Stockton and transferred to District 09 in 1968. Ken worked in Design, Construction and Environmental. He retired after 37 years of service.

Ed Ephrom passed away Jan 15, 2014 in Hamilton, MT. Ed started to work for Caltrans in Bishop in 1967 and left in 1975. He worked in the Traffic Department.

Ed Reilly passed away Dec 22, 2013 in Carson City, NV. Ed worked in Shop 9 and other Caltrans Equipment Shops. He retired in the mid-1990s and moved to Nevada.

Al Partridge passed away in June 27, 2013. Al worked in District 09 Maintenance in Mono County area.

Condolences to the family and friend of those who passed away.

Lance Hinek

The Haps in District 10

bout 30 meet for breakfast at Denny's at I-5 and March Lane in Stockton on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 am. (Except for December 31, 2013, New Year's Eve morning, there were only about 15 that showed up).

At the Tuesday meeting on February 25, 2014, **Crystal**, our waitress for many years, announced it

was her last day as she was quitting to have a baby girl, named Cara Bella. Congratulations Crystal! She says she intends to pay us a visit at the breakfast in the future.

From Betty (Casteline) Del Porto:

Worked at District 10 Caltrans R/W Dept. since 1988 (26yrs). And before that from 1960-1963 worked in traffic with a lot of the guys that attend the District monthly breakfast. I love seeing my "old" bosses, but I'm catching up with them in age. I have 9 grandchildren now and with working full time also, that keeps me busy and on the road. My families live in Petaluma, Los Gatos, and Mission Viejo in Southern CA. I get to see lots of beautiful country as I go visit each one. I'm looking forward to being able to retire in 2015 and moving to southern California with my youngest son and his family as I love the ocean.

Virginia Evinger and her daughter Sheila Desmond, took the train from Stockton to Bakersfield December 20th, where her daughter-inlaw Joan Desmond met them and took them to Lake Isabella. Virginia stayed with her son, Denis and Joan through Christmas and New Year's Day. She enjoyed riding around the lake, seeing the Christmas lights and decorations. She got to spend time with the house bound kitties, though not as much as she would have liked. The lake was extremely low, almost down to just the river. Sheila went home for Christmas. Denis and Virginia came north by then just after the New Year.

Bob and **Ardyth Biffel** and their daughter Bonney Kangas are leaving for Santiago Chile (again) in March for a two week cruise on the Princess Line. Last year they went there too, but from Valparaiso they went south all around the southern end of South America and up to Buenos Aires. This time they are heading north back up the Pacific Coast to CA. Hopefully they will avoid the "ship bug" they caught last year and have a smooth safe trip this time.

From **Dennis Smith**:

Al Wells and I went on our annual "old man's elk hunt" in Colorado in the first week of December. We hunt with an outfitter who has hunting rights on two or three very large private properties. The outfitter's family owns most of the area where we hunt and the cow elk are so numerous that the property owners are glad to see them thinned out a We started hunting with Trent Snyder, little. owner of Silver Spur Outfitters, in 2008. We go after the regular elk season is over and hunt where cow elk only are legal to take. Al and I and any one in our party are usually the only hunters that are there at this time, so we have formed a great friendship with Trent and his family. This year we both got our elk before 9 A.M. the first morning of our three day hunt. It was a good thing we did because that night it snowed almost two feet and we could have never gotten back into that area. We had a couple of days to wait for the elk to be cut wrapped and frozen and the weather turned cold, 17 degrees below zero at the coldest. We had a great time until we started for home and my vehicle wouldn't start. We had to have it towed to a garage where we waited about 8 hours for the fuel pump to be replaced. On the bright side, we did each get our elk, as we have done every year we have hunted with Trent.

Road Last Traveled

Linda L. Orozco passed away peacefully in her Stockton home on November 6, 2013 with her husband Frank at her side. They were married 67 years. She was his "Honey Bunch". She was born on April 20, 1929 in Denver, Colorado and grew up in Colorado Springs.

Mildred Gilkey, of Stockton, widow of Wesley Gilkey, passed away on February 19, 2014 at the age of 89.

Dana C. Willard of Stockton died on December 6, 2013 at the age of 92. Dana was retired from District 10 and San Joaquin County. He was a regular at the retiree's breakfast monthly meetings.

James (Jim) Schultz passed away on February 14, 2014 at the age of 84. He was born on July 8, 1929 to Frank and Rose Schultz in Avon, South Dakota. As a result of the Depression, the family moved to Lodi in November of 1937. He graduated from Sacramento State, was drafted in 1951 and served at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. He married Jean Defenbaugh, at First United Methodist Church of Lodi and they were married for 62 years.

They volunteered in the Mission program, where they helped build and repair houses after natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina. These projects included trips to Slidell, Mississippi, Clear Lake, California, Mexico and other various locations. He also liked to backpack Yosemite via the High Sierra Camps and to cross country ski. They also visited Germany, Australia, Nicaragua and Panama.

Jim worked for Caltrans for over 37 years and retired as Head of the Traffic Signal Division. He was a **QCC** honorary member. For full obituary visit:

http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/lodinews/obituar y.aspx?n=james-schultz&pid=169755354

- Brian Young

The Haps in District 11

he Annual QCC Banquet luncheon at the Barra Barra Restaurant in Old Town was a great success. A special shout out to **Gary Darr, Leslie Franklin,** and **Jösan Feathers** for helping to organize the event. Many others contributed raffle prizes. A total of 78 people attended and all had a great time enjoying the food and conversations. The raffle raised \$368 and a 50/50 drawing raised \$156 for D-11 QCC. In the midst of the fun, some business was taken care of. Leslie Franklin, in a unanimous vote, replaced Jösan Feathers as the D-11 QCC Director. From **Karen K**: I attended an investing seminar and the speaker suggested that audience members consider filling out a "document locator and Letter of Instruction". He gave us a copy of his personal version. I thought it was worthwhile. I have found one online that can be shared.

http://fa.morganstanleyindividual.com/public/facilit yfiles/MSFAH0952/5fcfdf32-2c13-482f-aaa5fbd368de51f4.pdf

From Urika Garner:

My father **Bert Garner, Jr**. wanted me to notify you of his current medical condition. He was initially hospitalized on December 6th of 2013 for respiratory and heart failure. Since then, he has been in and out of the hospital until recently. He spent 2 weeks in a skilled nursing facility to receive rehabilitation in order to build his muscles back up. He is slowly recuperating in my home now. He tells everyone that he wants to go back to work. If anyone would like to contact him, he can be reached at (619) 390-0108.

Road Last Traveled

Peggy (Peg) Anne Tincup passed away peacefully on February 5, 2014. Peg enjoyed a 26 year career with the State of California including Lottery Sales Representative for five years and as an Analyst for Caltrans until 2013. As a co-worker, Peg was known for happily lending a helping hand whenever possible. Family was uppermost as a priority in Peg's life.

Vagadu Varda passed away February 7, 2014 at the age of 67. She had a Bachelor's degree in Biology from San Francisco State and became one of the first women to break into the Forestry Service in California. She then moved on to Caltrans D-11 for many years.

William (Bill) Pope Huston passed away peacefully at UCSD Hospital on February 4, 2014 due to complications related to a recent stroke at the age of 91. After WWII where he served in the US Army, he relocated to Chula Vista where he lived for the rest of his life. He stayed active in the Military and served in the Army Reserve from 1946 until 1982, earning the rank of Lt. Colonel during those years of service. During that same period, Bill had a 40-year career working with Caltrans as an engineer. He worked on many significant San Diego area projects including; SR-75 on the Silver Strand, Interstate 8 through the mountains to the desert in Imperial County, and SR-163 though Balboa Park.

Beverly Turner died from complications of an illness at the age of 78 on Feb 1, 2014 in San Diego. Beverly received her education in drafting in CA and worked at Caltrans until she retired.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Peg, Vagadu, Bill, and Beverly.

- Leslie Franklin

The Haps in Central

S ave the date for the next luncheon at the Dante Club in Sacramento on April 24, 2014, starting at 11am. The Central District had their holiday luncheon at the Dante Club on December 11th. We had 73 members attend the holiday affair and all had a great time!

From Howard Posner:

Just a quick announcement: By the end of this year, I will have served four 4-year terms on the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). Recognizing that it's time for some new blood and fresh ideas on the board, I have decided not to seek re-election in November. Maybe now I can discover what it's truly like to be retired.

Road Last Traveled

David (Dave) Theobald passed away on February 27, 2014 at the age of 89. Dave was a Supervising Transportation Engineer with Caltrans. He designed the "Wrong Way" sign and the 20 foot

directional arrow. He retired in 1986 after 30 years of service and was an honorary **QCC** member.

Maris Rasmussen passed away on January 11, 2014 at the age of 77. Maris worked in D-3 & D-8 before moving to HQ for most of his career. He retired and then moved to Redding. Maris was a faithful **QCC** member and his widow will continue as an Associate member (surviving spouse of a member).

- Gary and Julie Bush

Events

Got a group that meets regularly? Let your director know and we'll add it to the event calendar.

District 1 -

Caltrans retirees and QCC members meet on the 3rd Thursday of the months of January, April, July and October at 11:30 am at the Samoa Cookhouse. Contact **John Sherman** at

or call (707) 498-2629 for details.

District 2 -

Retired Caltrans Ladies Lunch Bunch meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:30 AM, location varies. Contact **Judy Tucker** at <u>linedancerjudyt@citlink.net</u>

Retired folks meet on the 3rd Monday of each month between 7:30 and 9 am at the District Office snack bar at 1657 Riverside Drive, Redding.

District 3 -

Weekly Tuesday Coffee/Breakfast at 8:30 am at the "Green House" in the Raley's Shopping Center in Placerville. Contact: **Doug Becker** 530-622-1665, <u>doug.becker@att.net</u> District 4 -

The Caltrans Lunch Bunch meets on the second Tuesday of every month. Contact: **Ed Coble** 925-465-4219, <u>edcoble49@astound.net</u>

Administration Retirees Lunch meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Mexicali Rose Restaurant in downtown Oakland at 11:30am. Contact **Anita Appiano** (aappiano@pacbell.net) or **Kathy Freeman** (kathy.freeman1@att.net).

The North Bay Caltrans Retirees meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Contact: **Jim Bouler** 707-546-3097, <u>jbouler@comcast.net</u>

District 5 -

Contact Kathy Copeland: 805-544-1834 <u>bcopel4674@aol.com</u>

District 6 -

The Caltrans Retiree Breakfast meets at 9 am on the third Wednesday in March and September at the Waffle House on Route 68 in Lindsay. Contact: **Don Phillips** 559-781-2057

Informal Coffee at 8 am on Thursdays at Country Waffles at the NW corner of Herndon and Cedar.

An informal District 6 bunch meets at Santa Fe Basque Restaurant at 3110 N Maroa Ave, south of Shields in Fresno the first Monday of the month.

District 7 -

The Tom Fera Monthly Luncheon Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month (except December) in Los Angeles.

See **D-7 Haps** for dates, addresses and phone numbers.

District 8 -

Every Wednesday morning at 9:00 Construction Retirees and anyone else interested meet at Coco's Restaurant in San Bernardino.

District 9 -

Contact: Lance Hinek, 760-873-3885, <u>hinek@suddenlink.net</u>

District 10 -

For details on events contact **Brian Young** 209-329-3445 cell or <u>blyoung365@gmail.com</u>.

Lenny's Huddle meets at 7:30 am on the last Tuesday of the month at Denny's, I-5 and March Lane in Stockton. Contact: **Stan Randolph**, 209-957-1278, <u>stanran3672@aol.com</u>

District 11 -

Annual Picnic - October 11, 2014 Sweetwater Summit Regional Park in Bonita More details to follow

ROMEOs meets at Denny's, Navajo Road and Fletcher Parkway at 8:30am the 3rd Wed each month

Central District -

Luncheons at the Dante Club April 24, 2014 August 21, 2014 December 10, 2014

Contact Gary or Julie Bush 530-642-8208

zbusharosa@wildblue.net

To Honorary Members

Have you seen this option- **FREE PRINTED COPIES** on the membership renewal form? Many of you have and didn't know exactly what it was for, or thought it was just a free subscription if you checked the box. Well, here is the rest of the story.

If you are at least 80 years of age, you are classified as an Honorary member of the QCC. Being an Honorary member qualifies you for a discounted rate for the printed QCCer, or the electronic version of the QCCer for free (if you have a working email address). These dues rates are less than our cost of producing and sending the QCCer to you, so it's a pretty good deal. The other free option is for Honorary members who cannot afford the \$5 or \$10 rate and do not have a working email account. In other words, paying the dues would be a hardship for them. In this case, the QCC Constitution allows for the free delivery of the printed QCCer, **if** the Honorary member makes a confidential request to their QCC District Director, **and** the Director provides written approval. This written approval should be sent to the QCC Secretary/Treasurer.

So, if you think this may apply to you, don't hesitate to contact your QCC District Director. We don't want any QCC members to be left out.

2013 Financial Report

Beginning Balance, 1/1/2013	\$22,297	
Income: Dues* 10,585 Returned excess dues payment -15 New member fees 56 Donations 73 Total Income	10,699	
Expenses:2,958QCCer newsletters2,958Postage1,159Editor970Sec/Treas1,836Secretary expenses22District expenses reimbursed828District recruiting exp reimbursed365QCC web site70Total expenses22	-8,208	
Ending Balance, 12/31/13	<u>\$24,788</u>	
Less Future Obligations**	-9,093	
Excess of cash on hand	<u>\$15,695</u>	
* Contains dues paid for years beyond 2013 ** 888 membership years paid in advance		

Welcome New Members: Alan R Radford (D-1), Roberta McLaughlin (D-2), Gloria Gwynne (D-7), Hanh Khuu (D-11), Cookie McWilliam (Central District)