

TheQCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter
Century Club

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CalPERS...

BUTCH SAYS; "FIGHT TO SAVE IT!"

From the Corner Pocket

Proposition to kill CalPERS is drafted. Let me risk being a bit political, but you and I are the targets of a proposition to kill off CalPERS and you might want to help do something about it. Read the rest of this piece and then think about joining either **California State Retirees** or the **Retired Public Employees Association**, two groups fighting for retirees benefits.

The proposition to kill CalPERS has been cleared for circulation with the title of "**Public Employee Pension and Retiree Healthcare Benefits**". The initiative by proponents Chuck Reed and Carl DeMaio, was first named "**The Voter Empowerment Act of 2016**", which gave it a nice sounding name to appeal to voters. They filed papers on this initiative in June and the effort to get voters to sign the petition began.

The proposed initiative would affect **ALL government agencies in California**. As of January 1, 2019, all existing Defined Benefit pension plans now in place for public employees would be **terminated for all new employees**. **No alternative pension is proposed.**

There are currently 1,400 different pension plans covering over 1.72 million members under CalPERS management.

In some ideal manner, between November 2016 and January 2019, voters *could* pass some form of pension for their new employees. **Or not!** What might be the chances of any agreement coming from our extremely partisan legislature on a new pension plan? And the chances of getting voter approval for any pension plan using public funds would be a very hard battle.



Thereafter, voters would have the authority through referendum or initiative to vote on any compensation or benefit enhancement provided to a public employee, even those developed through collective bargaining. That would mean that even a cost of living pay increase would have to be approved by a public vote at election time.

It would also limit the placement of financial conditions upon governments closing out their current defined benefit plans. Unlike the present system, this is a "*get out of CalPERS free card*", which would leave existing retirees at the mercy of a closed system.

Currently, if an agency choose to break away from CalPERS, there is a recognition that current employees have their right to pension benefits

under CalPERS. So an agency breaking away needs to pay CalPERS the equivalent funds to cover the future pensions of current employees.

The City of San Diego is headed down a long road to future debt with their plan to put future employees into their 401k type plan. It means that in a few years, as those with the current pension plan retire, and with no new money coming into their current pension plan, those retirees would see a shrinking pension fund.

Part of the strength of CalPERS and other pension plans is that there will always be new employees with higher incomes paying into the pension fund. That is part of smart money management. The folly of the individual 401k type plans, is that you are expected to set aside and invest a sufficient amount on your own to cover all of your future needs in retirement.

Butch Biendara
QCC President

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Go to
<http://ctqcc.150m.com/qccnewsletter.html>

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

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION

By Kathy Freeman

The California Transportation Foundation recently established two new Workers Memorial accounts. A Workers Memorial Fund in was established in the name of **Oscar Vargas, a District 11 Transportation Civil Engineer**, who passed away in July when he lost control of his truck while working a nighttime project in Imperial County. CTF will match donations made to Mr. Vargas's account dollar for dollar due to the work-related incident.

The other Memorial Fund was established in the name of **Kevin Hanley** who passed away in July after a long fight with cancer. Mr. Hanley served as **Program Manager for Caltrans' involvement with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)**. If you are interested in making a donation to either Workers Memorial Fund, send your check to the Foundation at 581 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento CA 95862. Remember to designate either "**Oscar Vargas**" or "**Kevin Hanley**" in the check's memo line. On-line donations can also be made on the Foundation's website if you prefer (www.transportationfoundation.org).

The NorCal Charity Golf Tournament was held on July 27th and had over 100 golfers and 35 sponsors. This event raised **\$40,000** to help support CTF's scholarships, Fallen and Injured Workers programs. Congratulations go to **John Kenyon** of Parsons as the hole-in-one winner of the tournament. Check out the Foundation's NorCal Golf Tournament page on our website to see the top three teams and photos taken during the tournament. **The SoCal Golf Tournament** was held on **August 31st at the Dove Canyon Golf Club**. Did this event surpass the NorCal event? Check the QCCer's next issue to find out or you can go to CTF's website to see all the photos and winners of both events.

In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Art Velasco	01	Jun 15, 2015
Alan Blomquist	01	Jun 18, 2015
Harrold Christy	01	2015
Lawrence Burroughs	03	Jun 29, 2014
Harold Lee Richins	03	May 11, 2015
Gerald (Jerry) Matthews	03	Aug 14, 2015
Jerry Evans	05	May 30, 2015
Mike Gonzales	05	Mar 22, 2015
Kenneth (Ken) Jones	05	Jul 9, 2015
Dhirubhai Patel	07	2015
Emmanuel Briseno	07	Aug 25, 2015
Donna Silverman	08	2015
Elton W Fletcher	10	Aug 18, 2015
Glen Ivan Baumbach	10	Jul 18, 2015
Roy W Busch	10	Jun 18, 2015
Jack Perry	11	Jul 10, 2015
Lynn (Rocky) Rockwell	11	Jul 26, 2015

The Haps in District 1

On July 4, **Rick Knapp**, retired Caltrans District 1 Director, made the news for riding his 100,000th mile when he crossed the Samoa bridges in Eureka. He started bicycle commuting in Sacramento during the oil embargo and gas rationing era in February 1974. He continued riding ever since, keeping track of his miles every day.

I am currently processing a collection of pages and clippings from our local papers and found this interesting item from 1922. Justice Adams has set a new penalty for reckless drivers on the county highways. Hereafter, instead of \$75.00, the cost of cutting in will be a \$100 fine. This was the penalty imposed on a man arrested for cutting in and wrecking another car near Fortuna. That was a lot of money in 1922. Sadly, we still have that problem today.

I got to attend a fun retirement party for **Ralph Martinelli**, District 1 engineer, who retired after 32 years of service. It was held at Redwood Fields in Cutten and we enjoyed bagels with all the toppings, chips, salads and beverages, picnic style outdoors on a gorgeous day. **Brad Mettam** was the MC. District Director, **Charlie Fielder**, presented his certificate of appreciation. Retirees there included **Bill Henry, Rick Knapp, Lanette Watkins, Linda Dennon, Tim Fisher, Janet Bottini, Mike Eagan, Jack Moore, Mike Yancheff, Stephanie Launer, Vicki Butler, Chris Holm, Bob Kornman, Ray Thomsen** and me.

Royal and Willie McCarthy recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. Royal is our Caltrans materials engineer.

The QCC/retirees group had their quarterly breakfast on July 16. We had 34 in attendance, including **Bill Cotnam**, who travels a long way to get there every year.

Ferndale High School honored their golden grads from the Class of 1965 and our own Caltrans engineer, **Dale Cooley** and his wife, **Shirley**, were included with their own picture in the Ferndale paper. Both were golden grads. They got married a year later and will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary in 2016.

On July 23, District 1 had their annual service award luncheon. For 25 years, **Darin Sullivan, Susan Tappan, Kevin Danel, Mark Sobota**; for 30 years, **Don Campbell** and **Al Ortiz**; for 35 years, **Kevin Balke, Russell Larsen, Mark Leonhardt**, and **John Maple**; and for 40 years, **Daniel Nalevanko**.

Sadly, we lost more of our District 1 family. **Art Velasco** passed away on June 15 at age 85. He worked for the District, then left to run his own art and frame shop.

Alan Blomquist, a one-time District employee and brother of **Len Blomquist**, retired engineer, passed away on June 18.

George Otterbeck reported that **Harrold Christy** passed away this summer. He worked for District 1 in surveys before taking a promotion to Dept. of Water Resources.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families and friends of **Art, Alan, and Harrold**.

- Arlene Hartin

The Haps in District 2

From **Jerry Severson**:

I have been on the go an awful lot in the past few months. A trip to Washington DC and Arlington National Cemetery...on to the military academy at Annapolis, then to the outer banks of North Carolina, where I saw the Wright Brothers monuments at Kill Devil Hills.

Went to the "The Arts in the Gardens" annual August show and sale at the Mendocino Botanical Gardens, just south of Fort Bragg (CA). They always have about 20 local wineries there for wine tasting. This year they also had local micro-breweries represented.

I have moved to Auburn California, so it is a bit more of a trip to Redding. Still have the home overlooking Shasta Lake, but put it on the market in May.

I will be going to Maine in September, and back to North Carolina in November.

In July, I took my first glider ride over Lake Tahoe. The view at 10,000 feet is hard to describe adequately.

I have joined the Auburn Aviation Association, and have been volunteering at Aerospace Museum of California at the former McClellan air base.

A very big change in my life has occurred, but it has turned out for the better. Life is good. Retirement is great! - **Jerry Severson**

The rest of the District 2 members are still out adventuring, so, for now, that's it.

- **Bill Belcher**

The Haps in District 3

Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 15th for the Annual Pre-Holiday Party. Our fall party will be held at the Peach Tree Country Club out of Marysville starting with a no host cocktail party at 1:00 P.M. followed by a wonderful, delicious meal. Join us for an afternoon of memories and future plans. An announcement will be mailed to all members. Those of you who can make the party are asked to return the form prior to the expiration date.

We are sad to report the following:

Lawrence Burroughs passed away last year on June 29, 2014. He retired in 1996 after 36 years of service and was a **QCC** member. He retired as a Manager 1 out of the Materials Lab in Sacramento.

Harold Lee Richins, 89, who lived in Chico, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, May 11, 2015 in Sacramento. Harold was a lifelong resident of Butte County. He was a veteran of the United States Navy and saw action during World War II in four first-wave beach landings in the South Pacific. Harold worked for the Division of Highways/Caltrans for 46 years, retiring in 1992.

Gerald (Jerry) Matthews, a Yuba City resident for 70 years, passed away at the age of 83 on August 14, 2015 at Rideout Hospital in Marysville. Jerry was an engineer with Caltrans for 27 years and an entrepreneur with four restaurants.

Our sympathy goes out to the families of **Lawrence, Harold, and Jerry**.

Many of you out there had fantastic vacations this year. We would certainly enjoy hearing from you along with a photo or two. Please send information to Dan Johnson, Sr. via email at boots3@syix.com. All input will be greatly appreciated and enjoyed by many of your past or present co-workers and friends.

- **Dan Johnson Sr.**

The Haps in District 4

District 4 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in District 5

Hot, dry weather is continuing into September, although the evenings are a little cooler. Hoping for a return to our usual Central Coast temperatures this fall.

This summer's fires have caused a lot of damage. Hope you have not been affected. Driving north on Hwy 101, you can see where the Cuesta fire started burning up and over the hill toward Santa Margarita. The bare earth and exposed rock could cause problems if we get significant rain this winter, and Maintenance will be keeping a close eye on the area.

Work continues on the bridge widening project at Los Osos Valley Road and Hwy 101. Ramp and

lane closures have caused traffic to back up at times, and we try to avoid the area if possible. It will be great to have the wider structure and ramp improvements when work is completed next year.

We heard through the grapevine that more retirements are occurring in D-5, including some employees who were hired when I was in Personnel. **Bob Pavlik** from Environmental Planning and **Mike Counts** from Information Technology are two of the recent group.

The annual District 5 Holiday BBQ is scheduled for December 9 at Trinity Hall. Be sure to mark your calendar.

We haven't gathered much news lately, as we stay close to home these days. We did make a short trip to Eugene to visit **Bob's** sister, and we spent a few days in the Bay Area with my sister. Took in a Giants game and enjoyed a performance by the Glenn Miller Orchestra at Yoshi's in Oakland. We noticed that the construction projects north of Salinas had been completed and traffic was flowing smoothly again.

Had lunch at Dockside Restaurant in Morro Bay with some of Bob's Construction buddies: **RJ Brown, Dyer Campbell, Herb Filipponi, Jack Neal, Vaughn Newlander, John Ritter,** and **Gary Schultz**. **Pete Hom** and **Giff Bland** were not able to attend. Great to see everyone and enjoy the seafood and cooler climate. **Herb** says they are making progress on his wine tasting room and hope to be open for visitors soon.

Attended the CSEA Retired Chapter 10 BBQ and meeting at Rancho El Chorro Park. Always nice to see **Pearl Cole** and other members including **Joan McGrath, Bill Cotnam, Don** and **Donna Cross,** and **Dave Wilding**. We all felt the absence of **Jerry Evans**, who passed away suddenly on May 30. Jerry had been active in CSEA during his 27 years with Caltrans and

continued his involvement after retirement, holding several local and statewide offices. **Jerry**, a QCC member, is survived by his wife **Sharon**, three daughters and their families.

Other friends who have left us: **Mike Gonzales**, the District's longtime Warehouse manager, passed away on March 22 following a two-year battle with ALS. He will be remembered for his dedication to his job for over 25 years, making deliveries with a smile and always ready to lend a hand. He was a big help to me every year when the Sees Candy order arrived, and we appreciated his bowling skills when our Caltrans team participated in fundraisers. **Mike** is survived by his mother, daughter, step-daughter, and extended family.

Kenneth "Ken" Jones passed away July 9 at the age of 88. Ken was a graduate of San Luis Obispo High School and served in the US Navy as a Seabee. He was assigned to Pearl Harbor after the bombing and helped rebuild the destroyed hospital. He worked for Caltrans for 44 years and designed many of our major projects. He enjoyed golf, bowling, photography, woodworking, and gardening. **Ken** is survived by his wife **Patricia**, son and daughters and their families.

- Kathleen Copeland

The Haps in District 6

District 6 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in District 7

Holiday Luncheon Reminder: December 5, 2015, get ready, set and go, for our annual Quarter Century Club Reunion. I'm expecting to hear where it will be.

Monthly Reunion: The second Wednesday of the month (except December) is an opportunity to get out and about, meet, greet and eat at the **Tom Fera** Lunch Group! The next meetings are: **October 14, 2015** at the Steer N' Ale; **November 11, 2015** at the China Olive; and **December 5, 2015** at the QCC luncheon.

Tom Gildersleeve writes, "Last month's luncheon was good, and we even got a new member in the form of **Pat Corcoran**, as well as a visit from **Ron Klusza**, who lives in Henderson, NV most of the time."

RESTAURANTS AND PROPOSED LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2016

[Second Wednesday of every month except December]

January 13, 2016	Joselito's West
February 10, 2016	Steer N' Ale
March 9, 2016	China Olive
April 13, 2016	Joselito's West
May 11, 2016	Steer N' Ale
June 8, 2016	China Olive
July 13, 2016	Joselito's West
August 10, 2016	Steer N' Ale
September 14, 2016	China Olive
October 12, 2016	Joselito's West
November 9, 2016	Steer N' Ale
December 3, 2016	QCC luncheon

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 chuckoconnell@prodigy.net, or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or tgilders@pacbell.net.

Another Caltrans retiree luncheon, is held the third Monday of each month at 11:30 AM, in Oxnard, at:

BJ's Restaurant & Brewery, 461 Esplanade Drive, Oxnard, CA. For more information, e-mail **Dick Stewart** at dick@jps.net.

We recently heard from **Chuck O'Connell** and **Steve Leung** of a third Caltrans retiree luncheon, on the Third Thursday of each month. **Steve** writes, "Just a friendly reminder that we will have our regular luncheon... at 11:30am at our usual restaurant, the **Golden Soup** on 1039 E. Valley Blvd. between San Gabriel Blvd. and Walnut Grove Ave. in San Gabriel."

"If you know anyone who's interested in joining us, especially Caltrans employees whether they are retired or not, please invite them to our luncheon and please let me know their email address so we can contact them in the future. We would like to expand our group as much as possible. Thanks." For more information, e-mail **Steve Leung** <skingleung@yahoo.com>

Sounds yummy to me!

Like a Good Neighbor...

Back in late March, **Marie Martin** wrote, "It's been a hectic day, start[ing] this am with a neighbor calling to say she is very sick and can I feed her cat [and] dogs. When I go there, [our] neighbor looked awful. She then decided to call [an] ambulance and would I take care of her dogs until she gets out of [the] hospital. [The] ambulance takes her away, and we take two little

dogs over to my house and try to make sure they don't harass **Hazel**... (Marie's cat) Then we figure out the dogs are small and can get through the fence, so we go to lumberyard to get smaller net to put over the pickets. We couldn't get the net, did some work with old net we had, [but] ran out, and gave up. Meanwhile, [we] took little dogs and ours to the beach, and then gave them both baths when we returned. The neighbor called and asked if we could pick her up at hospital, so we did. Then she asked if we could bring her some soup when we got back from supper, and could we keep her dogs tonight as she feels too sick to walk them. As of now they're sleeping on my living room floor. And guess who will be walking them in the middle of the night, since they can't go out in the yard because they could escape?"

And how was your day? Apparently, the axiom "no good deed goes unpunished" is still true!

Catching-up with Joan

In early July, **Joan Murdock** wrote, "I have been busy as usual. In 2013 after our usual travels to NY Fire Island and Clearwater Beach I gave my [left] knee a replacement. Then after all the rehab, in 2014 we traveled to Ireland and England. The tour around Ireland was great, weather sunny except when we were inside, and the lands and towns were very interesting. I never knew about their famine in the 1800's and the 2 million that died on that island or on the Famine ships to Canada and the USA. My partner has Irish relatives so this was very sad."

"After Ireland we went to Bath in England to see the structures built by the Romans around 200 AD. They were certainly ambitious builders there and along Hadrian's Wall which we had seen two years before. We also sought out a sight that is much bigger than Stonehenge. This was another grouping of many circles built in BC many years ago, called Amesbury stones, about 50 miles North of Stonehenge."

"We took our regular beach trips, Aug. to Fire Island and Oct. to Clearwater Beach to get a place to stick our toes in the water (Las Vegas doesn't have beaches much less water!). I had a chance to visit my younger son, **Jim** - 53, who lives in Ft. Lauderdale. He is a security officer for a company (following me into the peace officer role)."

"After going to Redding for my older son's wedding in April 2014, I went for a visit there in September in combination for the 60th Reunion of my class. There was a good attendance at that and hope we have another for 70 or 75 years."

"This year has been an exciting time so far. On Jan 3, I tripped on a broken sidewalk at night and broke both knee caps. The [Orthopedic] Surgeon put a brace on my [right] leg because he did not see anything on the [left], but after 6 weeks, when he took the brace off that leg, he discovered the fracture on the left knee, so brace went on that one. Then 5 weeks from that, I tripped on our mini-dachshund and fell to the kitchen floor with a broken hip! So it was June before I was back on my feet ready to travel to Atlanta for a week. We just got back. That's about all for now."

"We still plan on our yearly trips and a river cruise from Amsterdam to Zurich next April. I certainly hope God agrees with these plans even if He laughs! Love to all," **Joan**

PS. "Friday, [July 10th], I broke the right metatarsal bone in my right foot, so I am off for 6 more weeks - sigh."

Judy Reynolds Takes a Flying Leap

"Thanks to my wonderful husband [**Dennis**], this summer has been beyond spectacular. It has been truly a Bucket-List shattering year beyond my wildest dreams", exclaims **Judy Reynolds**. "As we have in the past, we took our motor home across the country, stopping in Kansas to visit with **Irma Lopez**'s son, **Michael**, his wife and grandchildren (adorable), then we motored to

Indianapolis to witness the Indy 500. My cousin met us there and saw the race with us, then on to Massachusetts in time to be present for his daughter to give birth to his granddaughter (also adorable). On the way, we stopped at Niagara Falls. They illuminate that thing now at night which is as spectacular as you can imagine. [The race] was No. 2 on my Bucket List since I was ten years old. That's a long time."

Judy describes her "Bucket List Item No. 3"... "There is a fine line between 'Let's DO this' and 'I want my Mommy' which illustrates the thought process of someone who is about to jump out of a perfectly good plane. This endeavor has been No. 3 on my Bucket List for the past several years since I witnessed my cousin's son do it as a college graduation present from his sister. The *I gotta do that* mentality permeated my entire body since that day in June several years back when we were in Andover, Mass. to celebrate the ending of his relationship with the University of Massachusetts."

"The jump site was a two-hour drive from my cousin's house and during the drive, I expected to experience the feeling of sheer terror to escalate. Well, it didn't. When we got there, it was too windy so we had to wait till the wind subsided before they'd even consider launching the plane. I had been watching a tree outside and I told him I had noticed the tree stopped blowing. An employee stated that 'we have sophisticated instruments a little more reliable than your tree'. Then the word came 'take off all your jewelry' so they'd have to identify me through dental records (just kidding), so I did. The most exasperating part was getting on the flight suit... Picture the Pillsbury Doughboy meets the Michelin Man and you have me. The cuffs on the pants came up to and above my knees. Talk about ridiculous, but the red carpet I walked on was a strip of dirt. I couldn't move very well, so two guys picked me up and threw me in the plane in a large heap."

"My 'tandem man' (I called him my 'Tandem God') hooked me onto himself as the plane soared to a really *really* high place (12,000 to 15,000 feet), as I thought '*gee, I hope I hadn't done or said anything to piss him off*', so I asked him and he said even if I had, he wouldn't unlatch me to him. This is where the mommy thought came into play. The next thing I knew, I was doing a summersault in the sky. At first, it was noisy during the free-fall (45 seconds at 120 mph). The chute opened, it was real quiet, so I waved to God, tried to absorb the beauty of everything below me which was rapidly coming up to smack me in the face. It was an awesome feeling. Then a perfect landing and dammit – we landed, I still had a pulse, and it was all over."

"Family reaction: **Dennis** – 'You go, I'll watch' (and pay) Son – 'With all the problems I've got to worry about, my mother goes skydiving!' Daughter – 'Would you do it again???' IN A HEARTBEAT!!!"

From the road, **Judy** shared the following with **Tom Gildersleeve**, "Then, I want to zip-line which I hope to do before we get home. So, after all this, I must create a new bucket list. I still want to kiss a dolphin, see the Aurora Borealis, and have my way with **David Letterman** (would settle for meeting him). **Dennis** might have some problems with that last one, but the chances of that are so remote that he is not concerned. Gotta go."

The Magic Bank Account

"The author is not known. It was found in the billfold of coach **Paul Bear Bryant**, Alabama, after he died in 1982", shared **Milly Yamada** regarding the following inspirational passage, "Imagine that you had won the following *prize* in a contest: each morning your bank would deposit \$86,400 in your private account for your use."

"However, this prize has rules:

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.
3. You may only spend it.
4. Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another \$86,400 for that day.
5. The bank can end the game without warning; at any time it can say, "game over!". It can close the account and you will not receive a new one."

"What would you personally do? You would buy anything and everything you wanted right? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love and care for. Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right? You would try to spend every penny, and use it all, because You knew it would be replenished in the morning, right?"

"Actually, this game is real... Shocked?? Yes! Each of us is already a winner of this *prize*. We just can't seem to see it... The prize is *time*.

1. Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of life.
2. And when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is not credited to us.
3. What we haven't used up that day is forever lost.
4. Yesterday is forever gone.
5. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time without warning..."

"So, what will you do with your 86,400 seconds? Those seconds are worth so much more than the same amount in dollars. Think about it and remember to enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so much quicker than you think. So take care of yourself, be happy, love deeply and enjoy life!"

"Here's wishing you a wonderful and beautiful day. Start spending it now, and never complain

about growing old! Many people don't get the privilege!"

Thanks, **Milly**, for the wake-up call!

Zippity-DO, DUH!

Apparently **Marie Martin** was listening to **Milly's** advice, and not to be out done by **Judy's** flight of fancy, she embarked on a Zip-Line adventure in Oregon, with her good friend **Gloria Collie**.



Contacts and Recent Sightings

Avon is still calling at Caltrans, in the presence of **Jackie Nichols**, who meets her customers at lunch time in Begins Café. **Jackie** had been planning a vacation to Boise, Idaho, in early June. She writes, "You can still email your orders, call your orders in/leave messages/orders on my answer machine. My daughter will be home in my absence and will take the messages off the computer and phone and forward them to me so I can place your orders with Avon. Hope you are all having a great summer and I will see you again in July. Thank you," **Jackie N.**

Marie Martin and **Bob Walters** who attended the American Fighter Aces Reunion, in Houston, Texas, June 4th through 7th, and again on July 4th, from **Marie's** Tujunga Balcony Hide-away. **Stewart Stahl** had a spectacular uninterrupted view of the continuous fireworks of the San Fernando Valley, as **Bob, Marie, Kirsten Stahl,**

and **Jason (Bob's son)**, enjoyed grilled dogs and burgers. "The 'sound and light' 'show' started at 7:45 PM and ran continuously until 11:15 PM. Imagine the sound of popcorn popping for over 3 hours", explained **Kirsten**. **Daria Smolke** arrived after the "show" in time for strawberry pie, as everyone read paragraphs of the Declaration of Independence, a special holiday tradition.

Tom Gildersleeve reminded us to beware of a "New Style of Phishing", whereby he "got a phone call from an unidentified number, and the person on the other end, who claimed to be working on behalf of Microsoft, also claimed that my computer had been hacked and that he was going to help me fix it. The guy spoke with a foreign accent, not unlike what you encounter when you call tech support, and was hard to understand. He wanted me to fire up my computer so he could 'show me' what was going on. Considering that there was no number display on my phone when he called, combined with his message and the fact that my computer has been behaving normally, I chose to not take it any further and ended the call. I'm pretty sure it was just another method of 'phishing.' I've never seen it done by phone before and thought I would share this experience with all of you in case you also get a call like this." **Marie Martin** shared that she "had something similar happen a couple of years ago. I got an angry East Indian sounding man with a lot of traffic noise in the background. He said that my computer had been sending his computer "dangerous viruses." Well, I didn't know if my computer was or wasn't sending his computer dangerous viruses... but I did know my computer didn't send him my home phone number, so I hung up." **Marie's** experience sounds uncannily like the hostile IRS caller with the foreign accent, stating that folks (who had just gotten a tax refund) owed thousands of \$ in unpaid taxes, and if they did not pay, the IRS would sue them. "It's enough to shake you up," **Kirsten Stahl** remembers, "Until you realize the IRS, like any other legitimate

government agency, would never treat their customers this way or call you at home. Obviously if the IRS sent you refund check, then how could you still owe thousands of \$ in unpaid taxes!" These scammers are "phishing" to reel in as many gullible victims who will take their bait. Beware the phone call from someone you do not know, who wants any personal information.

Steve Leung, Paul and Maxine In, Bowman Lee, Satish Chander, Calvin Lee, Dick Smith, Don Cross, Stan and Ina Lisiewicz, Wah Shum, Paul Hsu, Art Young, Moses Katz, and Paul Perez, to name a few of the smiling faces who recently attended the Golden Soup Luncheon mentioned earlier.



Moving On...

Carrie Bowen, District 7 Director revealed that at the July board meeting, "Metro CEO **Phil Washington** announced some changes to his organization, which includes new Executive Staff from Denver. **Stephanie Wiggins** was appointed as the Chief Deputy, with **Byron Pennington** as the Executive Director of the Engineering & Construction Division. **Jerrel Kam**, Design Division Deputy added, "Byron is the 'big boss' that **Gregg [Magaziner]** and **Aziz [Elattar]** report to under the Highway Program".

Milly Yamada provided an update in early July, of **Joyce Minzey**, who was hospitalized following a mini-stroke. "**Joyce** did have a mini-stroke. I wouldn't say her right side is paralyzed,

it's slightly disabling her. **Joyce** has been moved out of two hospitals, and is now at a rehabilitation facility. She is doing fine on her road to her recovery. She told me that she gets really tired from these therapists, so at 7:00 pm, she feels like its 10:00 PM or 11:00 PM for the rest of us. [Since] the rehab therapists wear her out, so she would like to keep [visitors] to a very small minimum. She... [has] a physical therapy specialist [and] a speech therapist working with her; ...she is working with the 'ca' words, eg. candy, cane, canoe, case, and other words like cola, and picnic. Apparently, it's those muscles at the back of her tongue that have been affected and where her tonsils had been removed. Going forward, there may be a demand for speech therapists as we baby boomers become older."

After 27 years of State Service, **Wayne Harper**, equipment operator, celebrated his retirement in style at a Bar-B-Q, September 2, 2015, at the Camarillo Maintenance Yard 4821 Adohr Lane.



The Road Last Traveled

Marie Smiley shared the passing of **William "Bill" Schaefer**, 87. Bill, an **Honorary QCC Member**, passed away Friday, May 15, 2015 in Sacramento, CA.

[**Editor's Note:** Information on **Bill Schaefer** was also presented in the **June 2015 QCCer** in the "Central Haps" Section.]

Dave Roper fills in the District 7 gaps, "Over the years, **Bill** was one of those guys... a GOOD GUY... that lead the way. In the late 60's/early 70's he was head of one of the Design Departments, and took over the new Freeway Operations Department in the old Tishman Building on Wilshire Blvd. Under **Bill's** leadership... and that of **Karl Moskowitz** in Hdqtrs... we launched into the area of Freeway Ops with the 42 Mile Loop Project... Traffic Ops Center, Incident Detection, Ramp Metering, Changeable Message Signs, Incident Response Teams, the whole Ball of Wax ...**Bill** and **Karl** became members of TRB's Freeway Operations Committee at the National level [and] played a major role in laying the groundwork for the development of Freeway Operations in CA, the US, and for that matter, Internationally."

"In the early '70s, **Bill** was promoted to head up Freeway Operations in Hdqtrs, and I took **Bill's** place as Head of Freeway Ops in D07... here's [when] **Dick Murphy** began to work his magic in the Field of Freeway Ops. And **Bill** continued to advise/counsel/ support yours truly ...and lots of others... as we moved forward. Cheers... stay healthy... take care..." **Dave**

Oswald Elizondo, of Traffic Design, writes, "It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Mr. **Dhirubhai Patel**. Mr. **Patel** worked at Caltrans for many years before retiring. Mr. **Patel's** last tour of duty was with the Office of Design "C". He was also the father of Mr. **Paresh Patel**, current Division of Traffic Operations' employee. Mr. **Patel's** Funeral services were held August 8, 2015 at the Memory Garden Memorial Park and Mortuary, 455 W. Central Ave., Brea, CA 92821

Yadera Garcia writes, "It is with my deepest regret that I inform you that **Emmanuel Briseno**, Caltrans Highway Maintenance Worker from the Torrance Road Crew, passed away on August 25, 2015. Funeral Services for **Emmanuel** were

held Friday, September 4, 2015, at Bible Enrichment Fellowship International Church, 400 East Kelso Street Inglewood, California.

Be like Marie, Milly, Judy, Chuck, and Tom!

Spend some of those precious minutes on your Caltrans family – share your joys and challenges with us! 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 Almany, III 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.

Please send **DUES (checks), membership applications and honorary member status information,** to Statewide QCC Secretary/Treasurer **Mike Ogilvie** directly.


WAKE UP

Send those cards, and letters, or just make a call!

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

- **Kirsten Stahl**

The Haps in District 8

 Our annual summer luncheon was held on July 11, 2015, at Hannah's Restaurant in San Bernardino at 12:00 noon. The members that were able to attend all said that a very good time was had by all. It was a smaller group, but lots of wonderful conversations were going on the whole time and many stayed way beyond the festivities to visit with friends and coworkers.

We had two entrees this time for lunch of a delicious Chef Salad or Teriyaki Chicken Supreme which included salad or soup, a drink and dessert.

Those attending included: **John & Kay Anderson, Dan Armstrong, Jim & Joanne Balcom** (was good to see Joanne again), **Diana Barich** & her guest **Linda Wilford** (a new member for District 8), **Mary Bermudez, Gil & Jeanette Daab, John & Doris Estrada, Janice Feenstra, Bill Feenstra, Les Franz, Wanda Gernux, Wes & Linda Grimes, Dick & Louise Haight, Al & Judi Hudgens, Frances Jacques, Frank Lehr, Marsha Lotze, Gerald Lunt, Maxine Nelson, Ernie Parke** & his niece, **Connie Young,** & guest **Evie Anderson, Sybille Phillips,** and **Linda Supernaw.**

Several of our regular attendees were missing and we hope they will be with us for our annual Christmas Luncheon on the second Saturday of December (Dec 12, 2015) at 12:00 noon at Hannah's Restaurant in San Bernardino.

Heard About Town:

Gil (Design) and **Jan Daab** recently had a family reunion in New Mexico. Along with good times with their family, they went river rafting in rapids on the Rio Grande. Exciting and fun for many family members. However, Gil got a stout cough, and when they returned home he spent time getting well.

Sam Taylor's (Const) widow, **Carolyn** is reported to be on another cruise, this time to Japan, a two month trip.

Jim (Const) and **Pam Landfried,** having completed a move to Colorado last year, spent quite a while remodeling their new home, then went to Branson for a week and then on to visit family in Iowa.

Tom (Const) and **Bonnie Powell** celebrated Tom's 80th birthday twice, hosting Caltrans folk

to a luncheon at Granlund's in Yucaipa, and then a family gathering at their home! Wow, congratulations Tom.

Bon Voyage to **Joe Potwardowski** (Traffic), off to his summer home in Michigan. Joe winters in California and returns to his home state to enjoy the cooler weather!

Joe came by the Coco's Wednesday crew and updated us on the recent services for **Bruce Lutton** (Traffic) who passed away recently.

Linda (Planning) and **Wes Grimes** (Design) travelled to Reno where Linda bowled in the National Ladies Tournament. Not a winner this year, but there's always next year in Las Vegas. Part of the trip included a stop in Sacramento to visit Wes' sister and her hubby. They had a very pleasant trip until the trip home when the Cajon Pass took over an hour due to ongoing construction and an accident that day. (Construction is due to be completed sometime next year, providing weather, fires, accidents etc. doesn't hold things up.)

Roses to **Taylor** (Design) and **Katie Smith** as health issues continue...Katie has had a series of hospital and rehab stays, always with Taylor at her side. Katie is now home, trusting for improvement with continued nursing care at home. Taylor too is dealing with digestive problems.

Taylor and **Katie** were able to celebrate their birthdays with a gathering of family and friends at Mitla's Café in San Bernardino...this following recent health problems, in and out of the hospital for each. Taylor allowed it was better at Mitla's than eating hospital food.

(Taylor and Katie also missed our Summer Luncheon this year.) Yours truly can't remember them missing in all my years with QCC. Too many for me to count!

Roses as well to **Richard Longstreet** who was hospitalized while at his beach home in Carlsbad with double pneumonia. He has recovered and is doing well. (Dick was among those missing at our Summer Luncheon and we all were concerned about him for a time.) Thank goodness he was finally found.

Jim (Local Streets & Roads) and **Joanne Balcom** are off for their annual Alaska trip to visit family there...**Les Franz** and daughter, **Julie**, took a road trip thru Arizona and New Mexico; visiting National Parks and Native American ruins...**Doug Hogue** and **Morgan Choate** continue playing golf as often as possible. Morgan recently had not one, but two car accidents! His Avalon was hit by an errant driver near his home in Fair Oaks and his Kia was totaled on Interstate 10 near Pomona during a heavy rainstorm.

Julie Griffin (Traffic) is set for a trip to Zimbabwe...Have a great time, wow!

Linda Grimes and **Wes** visited a friend from grammar school who lives on Maple Island along the St. Lawrence River. They saw water falling from the sky, some say it is called "rain". They also went on a quick road trip visiting six states in the northeast.

Jim (Const) and **Linda Miller** RV'd on the beach near San Diego for a couple of weeks; followed by their annual month long RV trip to Oceanside.

Congratulations again to **Linda** (Right of Way) **Wilford** as our newest member in District 8.

Roses to **Carl Radsick** (Local Assistance), whose mother, **Edna**, passed away in June. She was 98 and had been married to **Carl (Sr)** for 71 years until he passed away. Another son, **Bob Radsick** (Surveys passed away several years ago.

Received from **John Bulinski**, Caltrans on Thursday, June 28, 2015, that it is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of **Donna Silverman** former Deputy District Director-Administration for District 8. Donna retired in 2010 after a long career with Caltrans. She had been battling cancer for several years and will be missed by her family and friends. Our sincere condolences to them.

- **Marsha Lotze**

The Haps in District 9

District 9 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in District 10

District 10 semi-annual Luncheon date has been set. The votes are in. Several could not make the October 22 date, however, all said they could make it on October 29 (Thursday). So the luncheon is scheduled for that date. Menu and cost the same as last. See details below:

Thursday, October 29, 2015

UJ's Restaurant

7628 Pacific Avenue

Stockton, CA 95207

Price: \$16.00 includes tax & gratuity

Menu: Salmon, Roast Beef, or Chicken

RSVP Lunch selection

A flyer with this same info will be sent out prior to the luncheon. Thank you all for responding and voting. It was a super response.

Dick Mesa, [209-478-6594](tel:209-478-6594)

Wes Schimke and **Larry Claypool** can be found at the Vintage Retirement Community in Lodi at 2145 W. Kettleman Lane, [\(209\) 813-2380](tel:209-813-2380).

Road Last Traveled

Elton W. Fletcher, born May 29, 1926, died peacefully on August 18, 2015 at age 89. He was born in Dade City, Florida to Robert L. Fletcher and Ota Lee Goff. He grew up in Dunsmuir, California and moved to Stockton where he graduated from Stockton High School. He attended University of California, Berkeley and then joined the Navy during World War II. After the war he continued his education at University of the Pacific and married **Patricia Britton** in 1948. He was employed as a registered engineer at CalTRANS for many years and was an **Honorary QCC Member**. Elton enjoyed traveling and drove every highway in California in numerical order. He also was an avid hiker and backpacker, climbing notable peaks in the Sierra Nevada, Cascade, and coastal mountains as well as some in Mexico. He enjoyed traveling worldwide. He was an advocate for the rights of the developmentally disabled.

Glen Ivan Baumbach (died July 18, 2015) was born in 1927 in Sykeston ND. Glen attended Lodi High School, joined the army, avoided gunfire due to his command of the typewriter, and married his sweetheart **Catherine Reith** on July 4, 1948. He attended the College of the Pacific and obtained his degree in Civil Engineering, and worked for the California Division of Highways.

Roy W. Busch passed away on June 18, 2015 at age 73. Roy was married to **Donna Busch** for 26 years. He had a distinguished career at Caltrans retiring after 43 years.

- **Brian Young**

The Haps in District 11

District 11 will have our Annual BBQ Picnic on Saturday, October 10, 2015 at Sweetwater Summit County Park in Sunnyside from 11am to 2pm. A flyer with additional info was already sent to you. You should have responded by September 22nd if you were coming. However, if you didn't respond and want to come, please call Gary Darr at 619-479-0549 or email Fatdog261@cox.net.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of **Jack Perry** on July 10, 2015. He had a long history with Caltrans in D-11 and HQ, mostly in Construction and Traffic departments.

Another long time D-11 friend and co-worker, **Rocky Rockwell** passed away on July 26, 2015. Rocky was a Senior Delineator in Design and a QCC Honorary Member.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to family and friends of **Jack** and **Rocky**.

- Leslie Franklin

The Haps in Central

The Central District (HQs) held its' summer luncheon at the Dante Club in Sacramento on August 20th with 45 members in attendance. Good time and good food had by all including the successful raffle of wine and chocolate going to some of the lucky members.

Jim and **Earlene Borden** write that they went to Cuba in January. They enjoyed the trip, especially the old cars. We were welcomed very graciously. Even had a meal prepared by Fidel's ex-chef. The rum flows freely! Wonderful trip.

Elizabeth Abersold writes that it was great to see everyone at the summer luncheon. Trips planned summer and fall. Reno to see Johnny Mathis – Silver Legacy. Fort Bragg and Half Moon Bay. Hosting wedding reception for my Granddaughter from Nashville in October.

Gary and **Julie Bush** write, "We are off to the Big Island on September 12th for two weeks to celebrate our 52nd wedding anniversary. We are looking forward to the trip as we missed going to Hawaii last year. We'll also be heading for San Diego the end of November. We are San Diego Zoo members and love to spend time there and at Safari Park. Lots of great wine tasting too!"

Our next get-together will be on December 9th for the Holiday Luncheon at the Dante Club. We hope this finds all enjoying the last days of summer and looking forward to fall and El Nino!

- 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 jsherman1@Humboldt1.com 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 linedancerjudyt@citlink.net

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,
doug.becker@att.net

District 4 -

The Caltrans Lunch Bunch meets on the second Tuesday of every month.

Contact: **Ed Coble** 925-465-4219,
edcoble49@astound.net

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 Boulter** 707-546-3097, jboulter@comcast.net

District 5 -

Contact **Kathy Copeland**: 805-544-1834
bcopel4674@aol.com

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 Dec.) in LA.

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,
hinek@suddenlink.net

District 10 -

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

Lenny's Huddle meets at 7:30 am on the last Tuesday of the month at U.J.'s Restaurant located at Hammer Ranch Center, 7628 Pacific Ave. in Stockton. (209-957-2081).

Contact: **Stan Randolph**, 209-957-1278,
stanran3672@aol.com

District 11 -

Annual BBQ Picnic
Saturday, October 10, 2015
Sweetwater Summit County Park in Sunnyside
Contact: **Gary Darr** 619-479-0549 (h) or e-mail
Fatdog261@cox.net

Central District -

Holiday Luncheon at the Dante Club
December 9, 2015
Contact **Gary** or **Julie Bush** (530-642-8208)
zbusharosa@wildblue.net

To Honorary Members

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 paying the dues would be a hardship for you, you may be able to get your dues waived. Contact your QCC District Director and if they approve, send the request to the QCC Secretary/Treasurer. See Renewal Form below.