



Looking for Statewide Officers

ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS NOW

From the Side Pocket

The QCC Executive Officers received the resignation of **Christine Valle**, the Statewide President. The QCC Constitution states that “The President shall be elected for a one-year term but may stand for re-election. If successful in the re-election the President cannot run for that office any further time.” So, the statewide President cannot serve longer than two years according to the Constitution. Christine took office in the Fall of 2020 and therefore has fulfilled her commitment as President.

The Constitution also calls for nominations for the Statewide Officers. Here is an excerpt; “The various District Directors and members of the Executive Committee shall act as the nominating committee with the President as Chairman of this committee. Each District Director shall canvas the District for eligible candidates for the Office of President, First Vice-President and Second Vice-President.”

If interested in serving the QCC as a Statewide Officer, please contact your District Director or one of the Executive Officers.

The QCC Secretary/Treasurer and Editor are both appointed positions by the Statewide QCC President and confirmed by the Executive Officers.



Tony Tavares

Governor Newsom Appoints New Caltrans Director

Sacramento – Governor Gavin Newsome today announced the appointment of **Tony Tavares** as Director of the CA Department of Transportation (Caltrans), where he currently serves as District 7 Director.

“Tony Tavares has dedicated his career to serving the people of California, with decades of leadership and deep experience overseeing critical transportation issues spanning the state”, said Governor Newsom. “I look forward to his continued partnership in advancing our innovative efforts to create safer and more sustainable communities throughout the state.”

Tony Tavares, 55, of Elk Grove, has been District 7 Director of the Department of Transportation since 2020. He has served in several positions since 1997, including District 4 Director, Chief of the Division of Maintenance, Chief of the Division of Right of Way and Land Surveys, and Assistant Division Chief of Construction.

Tavares is a graduate of UC Davis, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He is a Professional Engineer (PE) and a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).

Source is from Caltrans Public Information Office.

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Editor's Recruiting Note:

Please check the current news for Caltrans
25- and 40-Year Awards and recent Retirees
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews>

RECRUITING MADE EASY

(Forward the website below to people you know that have 25 years of State Service or more)

Nigel Blampied, D4 QCC Director, has posted a page on the Caltrans website advertising the QCC to all Caltrans employees. The site can be accessed at:

<https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-4/d4-popular-links/forward-issue-2/quarter-century-club>

In Memoriam

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

| Name | District | Date |
|-------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Michael (Mike) Eagan | 01 | 2022 |
| Joseph (Joe) Ferro | 03 | Jun 27, 2022 |
| Beverly (Bev) Larsen | 03 | Jun 10, 2022 |
| Merl Lee Larson | 03 | Apr 04, 2022 |
| Richard (Dick) J Murphy | 04 | Aug 14, 2022 |
| Larry Phillips | 04 | 2022 |
| Monte Vernon | 05 | Jul 11, 2022 |
| Joseph (Joe) Andre | 05 | Jul 14, 2022 |
| Patricia Roberts | 05 | Jul 04, 2022 |
| Jeanne Miller | 05 | Aug 17, 2022 |
| Ali Shabazz | 06 | Aug 08, 2022 |
| Gary Nelson | 08 | Aug 22, 2022 |
| Jack Kincade | 08 | 2022 |
| Doris Peddy | 08 | May 2022 |
| Gene Jere Snyder | 09 | Jul 12, 2022 |
| Bruce Leavitt | 10 | Feb 05, 2022 |
| Arthur (Art) Delmore | 10 | Nov 22, 2021 |
| Bobby Biffel | 10 | Oct 18, 2021 |
| Patty Smith | 11 | 2022 |
| Vic Graf | C | 2022 |
| Melvin (Mel) Johnson | C | May 04, 2022 |

The QCC Website

By Andy Machen, Web Master

Do you have a story to tell? About your world travels; hobbies; favorite places; life experiences - anything at all?

Here's how to get it posted on the Quarter Century Club website: Write your story in an email and send it to: post+speedreportsjs@coffeecup.com Your story is then transmitted to the CTQCC website where

it is stored in a folder accessible only by the webmaster, who then extracts the text and pictures you sent and stores them in a private folder on the Stories page of the Caltrans District specified by you. The webmaster then sends you an email with a link to the page containing your story, accessible only by you and the webmaster. You can then view your story on the Internet, make any changes you would like, then send them in an email just as you sent the original.

The webmaster then notifies you by email when the changes have been made. When you are satisfied with the web page containing your story, send an email to the same email authorizing the webmaster to post the story for public viewing. You can still add to or make changes to the story as described above after it is published by sending an email to the same email. Let us hear from you!

Make sure you try out this website for travel speed, accidents, and other road information. This covers the entire state and even other states and Mexico. It includes local roads also. After you get to the website, select **options**, then click on **road conditions**, and then click on what you want and scroll to the map.

<http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/>

The Haps in District 1

This note was sent in July from **Sadie Shannon**, Caltrans, to all Caltrans Staff:

“We are saddened to announce the passing of **Michael “Mike” Eagan**. Mike began his career with Caltrans District 1 as a junior engineer in 1965 and retired after over 40 years in 2008 as the Design Manager for the Eureka and Redding Offices. Over the years, Mike oversaw the design of more than 300 projects.”

“**Mike** was highly involved with the community where he served as a Planning Commissioner for the City of Eureka, on the State Board of Professional Engineers, and on the Timber Heritage Association Board. He was also a

member of the Historic Preservation Commission, the Humboldt County Historical Society, the Old House Group, and the Humboldt Rose Society. He was a founding member of the Redwood Off road Club, Curry Cruisers, and Lost Coast 4X4s.

Mike is survived by a number of current and past family members who have worked or continue to work for the Department, including **Katharine Eagan** (wife) D-1, **Kelly Eagan** (daughter) HQ, **Dr. Nick Compin** (son-in-law) HQ, and **Tiernan Eagan-Johnson** (grandson) D-1, **Jim Everett** (nephew) HQ, and **Jerry Everett** (nephew) D-3, and proceeded in death by **Henry “Michael” Eagan** (father) D-1, and **Patricia Eagan** (sister) HQ.”

The Haps in District 2

Don Anderson, our District 2 Director of our Quarter Century Club, is standing down from his position due to personal matters that have come up. We are currently looking for a replacement from within the ranks of the District 2 QCC membership.

Please contact me at shastaqcc@yahoo.com for details or if you are interested in stepping up.

- Bill Belcher

The Haps in District 3

District 3 is planning the Fall Luncheon to be held on Sunday October 9, 2022, at Peach Tree Country Club in Marysville. Looking forward to seeing our QCC members. To the District 3 members, remember it’s time to renew your QCC membership. Please see **Carleen Hagen** for any questions.

Libby received the following information on **Nile Ferns Sr.** from his daughter Kathy Edwards:

“June 10 was my dad’s 94th birthday party. He had 20 family and friends in attendance. He’s in excellent health.”

“Last fall, he was 100% independent. He got his COVID booster shot, and that put him in the hospital. There, he got a blood infection, so he had to spend a month in Rehab. Because they identified him as a fall risk, we moved him into assisted living.”

“He and Harriet settled on the Oregon coast in the late 90s. Her health deteriorated so they moved to Medford around 2011 (better doctors). She passed about a year later. So, he lived by himself (always had a dog) for a decade.”

“It is cool that you have this club and I thank you for this communication. I’m sure he would love to hear from everyone.” His new address is:

Nile Ferns, Sr.
Weatherly Court #225
2184 Poplar Dr.
Medford, Oregon 97504
(541)779-0852

Road last travelled:

Joseph (Joe) Ferro was a long-time resident of Auburn, moving here in 1970 to work on Highway 80. Joe was born in Pueblo, Co February 9, 1937, to Joseph and Mary Ferro. Joe was also a longtime **QCC member**.



He grew up in Northern California before joining the Marines in 1954 and was stationed at Camp Pendleton in Southern California. While in the Marines he met his wife **Carroll** and they were married on December 5, 1956. They moved to Northern California where he went to work for

Caltrans. He retired after 40 years and then went to work for Vali Cooper & Associates, Inc. for 6 years.

Joe was a proud Marine, he was part of the Marine Corp League and the Honor Guard for Auburn, American Legion and Semper Fi.

Joe loved camping, water skiing and fishing with his family, sailing with his brother on his boat whenever he could, karaoke, horseback riding, zip lining, traveling and parasailing in Hawaii.

Joe is survived by his wife of 65 years, Carroll Ferro, Sons, Dad Ferro (Lisa) and Steve Ferro. 8 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Sister, Helen Gaines (Jerry). Brothers, Max Young (Debbie), and lots of nieces and nephews.

Joe passed away on June 27, 2022. Services were held at Chapel of the Hills in Auburn on Saturday July 23, 2022 at 11 AM. A second service was held at the Veteran's Hall in Auburn on Saturday July 30, 2022 at 11 AM.

He will be missed so much, but will be forever loved in our hearts.

This information was provided by his wife Carroll Ferro.

Beverly (Bev) Larsen passed away on June 10, 2022 in Marysville, at the age of 84. She was born on December 22, 1937, in Wenatchee, Washington. Beverly was a graduate of Colusa High School and attended Yuba College. She was a past Grand Officer of the Order of the Rainbow for Girls, a 60-year member of Fidilia Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star, and past president of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Bev worked in the District 3 Accounting Office in Marysville for several years.

She is survived by her son Jerry Uhland and

family, and son Mark Larsen and their children.

Obituary from "*The Appeal Democrat*", Marysville, CA, Tuesday June 21, 2022.

Merl Lee Larson passed away at home on April 4, 2022 in Petaluma, CA surrounded by his loving family. He had been dealing with dementia and declining health for several years and had recently moved from Yuba City to Petaluma to be closer to family members.

Merl was born to John and Lucile Larson in Haxtun, Colorado on August 7, 1939. After junior college, Merl and Pat were married in Christ the King Catholic Church in Haxtun. Merl graduated from CSU in Fort Collins, Colorado with a degree in Civil Engineering. He was recruited while in college for a job in District 3 in Marysville, CA with the Division of Highways which is now known as Caltrans.

Merl worked for the next twenty-five years in highway planning design, and construction for Caltrans. He continued to study, take texts and work in different capacities for Caltrans as he moved upward. He became a Registered Engineer.

Eventually he took a position in Caltrans Headquarters in Sacramento where he was a Senior Transportation Engineer. He was responsible for administrating Local Federal Aid Programs for nine counties in the San Francisco Bay Area. He retired after 39 years and was a faithful **QCC member**.

Surviving **Merl** are his wife of 61 years Pat Larson, his daughters Penny Lee Larson and family and Sandy Rose Miguel and family.

A funeral mass was held on June 24, 2022 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Marysville and a reception at the Moose Lodge in Yuba City.

Obituary information provided by "*The Appeal*

Democrat", Marysville, CA., Tuesday June 21, 2022.

That's it from District 3. Stay safe out there, until the next time.

- Jan Johnson

The Haps in District 4

Bob Macpherson forwarded information concerning **Dick Murphy**. Here is a portion of an obituary published from "*The Press Democrat*".

Richard (Dick) John Murphy, former D4 Deputy District Director for Right of Way passed away on August 14, 2022, near his beloved home in Sebastopol and new home in Penngrove, California.

Dick was born on November 11, 1935, in Evanston, Illinois and moved with his parents to California as a young man. Dick had a love of flowers and plants and graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a degree in horticulture. He was married to his loving wife, Gloria, for 57 years. He was a father to his three children and had a successful career with the State of California, Caltrans, for many years.

Beyond his love for family and friends, **Dick** had a passion for gardening including fruits, vegetables, and especially flowers which he entered in many local county fair competitions. He was also a member of the YMI at St. Sebastian Church in Sebastopol, where he was a dedicated parishioner and volunteer. Dick loved to travel and visited many places around the world with Gloria.

He was preceded in death by his father John, mother Ann, and wife Gloria. Dick is survived by his daughters Lisa and Michelle, his son Mike, and their spouses (Bruce, Vic, and Martha) along

with his seven loving grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

A Rosary was said on Monday, August 29 at Parent-Sorensen Mortuary, Sebastopol, CA. A private mass for immediate family will be held at a later date. He will be remembered for his kindness, humor, always finding the good in things, and his unwavering love for family and friends, and will be greatly missed. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Redwood Empire Food Bank, one of Dick's favorite charities.

Samantha Grove, a niece of **Larry Phillips**, sent in the following note. **Larry** passed away about a month ago [late July or early August]. A memorial for Larry was scheduled on Monday, September 19 in Grass Valley. Larry retired from HQ Project Management and was for a long time the PMCS / database expert and all-round historian there.

For several years after retirement, he arranged regular luncheons for retirees and Caltrans friends at the Fox and Goose in Sacramento. He spent most of his career in D4 and, I think, transferred to HQ from D4 about the time that the SF office moved to Oakland.

Here is another story from **Gordon Analla**, below.

- Nigel Blampied

Caltrans Equipment Personnel - Keeping Caltrans On The Move By Gordon Analla

The thing about Caltrans Equipment Shop personnel was they were always very helpful. Without them, the agency would have been at a standstill. I don't know how many pieces of equipment was in their inventory (a creditable source quoted some thirteen thousand), but in servicing this great state of California it was a

formidable job in trying to keep up. Some pieces of equipment were used, particularly every day.

There was preventive maintenance involved and repairs to be done. In my humble opinion they kept the agency humming. On top of that, my memories of almost all of them that I encountered showed them to be very dedicated to their profession, the agency, and its workers who used the equipment. The Shop personnel were like dedicated Maintenance personnel who loved their equipment as if it were their own. They were good people too.

Here is a sampling of some that I encountered in my 25 years with Caltrans.

Bob Lewis. Mischievous, profound sense of humor. A guy you would wish would be your father-in-law. No saint, though he might have appeared to be one. A classic character that every shop should have.

Ron DeMartini. Didn't really know him. I was a Service Assistant at SFOBB. Then I rode with him one day to pick up a piece of equipment at Shop 4. We started talking. And I asked him where he grew up. He told me that I probably hadn't heard about it. "Butcher Town aka. The Bayview District." I asked what street. I believe he either said Quesada or Revere. I forget. And I said what number. I told him I lived on the 1700 block of Revere. We talked some more, and I said I was baptized by Father Ferrigno. He told me he was married to his wife by Father Ferrigno. We became friends on a short ride to San Leandro. RIP Ron.

Ray Heiner. He always had time for me to talk with him. Always. We talked of safety and the equipment. But he also gave me Fatherly advice about switching from sick leave and vacation to annual leave. He also mentioned to me about deferred compensation. I took those conversations to heart. A good, caring Manager.

Stan Cuson. I really liked and admired Stan. I met him when he was part of the District 4 Safety Committee of which we had monthly meetings. I also was the Safety Officer for The Shop back then when he was there. I knew some of his family members and became a very good friend to his daughter Linda. A great Lady. He was gone far too soon.

Chris Bianchi. An old timer. Would swear like a sailor and razz you no end. But if he did so, it was because he liked you. And that made all the difference in the world.

Al Zonio. A very diligent worker. His face often wore grease. A gentleman who was another that had a pleasant personality and a willingness to take time to help you.

Terry Zeithamel. A big-hearted man with a soft spot in his personality. If you didn't know him, you might think he was gruff. Anything but. The twinkle in his eyes told one otherwise.

Diana Kurtz and Bobbi Christensen. Office Manager and support person at Shop 4. Two very nice ladies. Bobbi was always cheerful and helpful. Diana a very gracious and resolute employee whom I can't say enough good things about.

Al Alves. First met him when he was a travelling mechanic at Foster City Region. An A's fan and a member of the trio of Reno, Sutherlin, and Alves. Sounds like a law firm. Went to the District Office for a Maintenance position. A man of many talents.

Steve Curtis. He became the Manager at Shop 4 after I left Caltrans. I did have interactions with him when I was at SFO. Good man. Very good manager.

Larry Fambrini. A good guy. Went to the same high school together. Very dedicated and a very caring individual. Was one of those that

responded to the multiple fatalities on Highway 880 on March 27, 1994.

Tom Johnson. Knew Tom when he worked at Foster City and San Francisco. Just a quiet guy with a ready smile and to continue with the common theme, he was always very helpful with a great disposition.

Pete from the SFOBB. Never said too much, but he was always busy. Constantly in the work mode. Friendly after you got to know him, but he was more at home working with equipment than traversing with people. And I mean this in a good way.

Jerry Castle. Manager at Shop 4. A straightforward guy. A former military person, I'm sure. Serious, but yet sometimes with a sense of humor. I respected him.

Ike Washington. Worked across from 150 Oak St. in The City. And then moved with the rest of us to Grand Ave. in Oakland. Though he always gave me a ration of s---, he couldn't do enough for you. I never heard anyone ever talk bad of him.

Frank Washington. He was a helper at the SFOBB Bridge shop. Tall thin man. Took care of the tires and gas pumps. I loved to tell him jokes, because he had the greatest laugh, straight from the belly. He would bend over sometimes from it.

Ray Ahern. Supervisor for the San Francisco Region. Just a nice guy with a ready smile always willing to help. I can still see him, and my Supervisor Wallace Murphy and two other non-Shop personnel talking and drinking coffee before work started. That was their coffee club. He couldn't do enough for you.

Two Ladies that were trailblazers in the Equipment Shop. **Dee Mehl** (who also became a Supervisor) and **Elaine Jauregui** that were

Resident Mechanics in the Foster City Region.

Each of the above provided a memory of their dedication to Caltrans and to management and the workers to help get their jobs done. All good people.

The Haps in District 5

Happy Fall! It's Labor Day weekend as I'm writing, and San Luis Obispo is having 100+ degree weather. Hope the heat dome will have disappeared by the time this newsletter is published.

Caltrans now has a Quick Map app that can be downloaded to access real time traffic information on congestion, lanes closures, etc. This will help better plan your travel.

A public scoping meeting was held virtually in April to provide information on the new District 5 Maintenance Station and Equipment Shop proposed for property located on Vachell Lane at the south end of the city. Environmental studies are beginning for the project, which has been in the works for many years. This will allow Maintenance and Shop 5 to move to a site with much less traffic than the Higuera St/Madonna Rd location.

Our local paper, *The Tribune*, often revisits stories from years past in their "Photos from the Vault" feature. In June, they repeated a story from October 1999 on working from home, also known as telecommuting or teleworking. Everyone is familiar with this now, thanks to the COVID pandemic, but it was quite novel when it was first introduced at Caltrans. The article featured **Linda Dolling** who was an Associate Transportation Planner.

In the March issue, I reported that Supt. **Monte Vernon** celebrated his 100th birthday. Sadly,

Monte passed away on July 11. No memorial is scheduled, and the family will gather privately.

Joseph “Joe” Andre passed away on July 14. He was a San Luis Obispo native and lived on the family ranch in the hills above See Canyon. He retired from Maintenance in 2001 after 36 years of service.

Mrs. **Patricia Roberts**, widow of **Bill**, passed away July 4. Originally from Montana, she moved to California after nursing school and met her husband on a blind date. They were married for 62 years.

Mrs. **Jeanne Miller**, widow of **Ken**, passed away August 17. She was also a nurse and came to SLO from North Dakota. She and Ken were married from 1947 until his passing in 2014.

Pearl Cole gave me an address and phone number for retired Maintenance Supervisor **Stan Begg**. He and **Jackie** are in assisted living in Fresno. Please contact me if you would like his information.

- Kathleen Copeland

The Haps in District 6

District 6 and all Caltrans had a tragic loss recently. Here is a note from Caltrans Director Tony Tavares.

Dear Caltrans Family,
It is with tremendous sadness that I notify you of a fatal vehicle collision that took the life of one of our own today. The tragic death of Caltrans District 6 veteran **Ali Shabazz** is a devastating loss to his wife, Nia, their eight children, and our entire Caltrans family. Ali was on duty and heading to a job site when he was struck by another vehicle.

Beginning in 2006, **Ali** devoted his sixteen-year Caltrans career to District 6, initially as an engineer in Design for five years, and subsequently as a Civil Engineer in Construction. He was the Assistant Resident Engineer on multiple high-profile construction projects.

On behalf of Caltrans, I extend my heartfelt



Ali Shabazz

prayers and deepest sympathy to Ali's family and all of you who knew and worked with him. In the difficult days ahead, Caltrans will take steps to provide support to Ali's family and co-workers, and I hope our combined outpouring of warm thoughts and wonderful memories of Ali can provide some comfort.

I urge all of you to support and be there for one another, and I also encourage you to take advantage of our department's [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#) (866-EAP-4SOC or 866-327-4762) if you would like to talk with someone.

To help **Ali's** family at this mournful time, a memorial fund is being established through the California Transportation Foundation. Here is a link:

<https://donorbox.org/ali-shabazz-memorial-fund>

In Ali's honor, Caltrans is also lowering the flags to half-staff on department facilities.

TONY TAVARES
Director

The Haps in District 7

District 7 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in District 8

Well here we are sweltering in the heat and we're getting close to the fall and then winter. When will it cool down?

We had our Summer Luncheon on July 9, 2022, at Hannah's Restaurant in San Bernardino. Our menu was either a chef salad or chicken supreme with all the trimmings.

Those in attendance were: **Morgan & Glenna Choate, Gerald & Judie Brown, Janice Feenstra, Wanda Gernux, Doug & Linda Hogue, Vera Holloway, Stan & Ina Lisiewicz, Marsha Lotze, Andy Machen, Sylvia Mata, Jim & Linda Miller, Jerry Lunt & Terri Gibbons**, his caregiver, **Tom Powell, Sybille Phillips, Robert Rios & his wife, Linda Supernaw, Matt & Jo Stringfield, Priscilla Williams** and new member **Jesus (Jay) Rodriguez**, who became a member at the Luncheon. Everyone seemed to have a good time visiting and catching up with old friends. **Butch Biendara**, our past State President donated several gifts. Department of Transportation watches were won by **Priscilla Williams** and **Vera Holloway**, and a History of Construction was won by **Janice Feenstra**. All three members were delighted with their gifts.

Be looking for the Christmas Luncheon information around Thanksgiving which will be at Hannah's Restaurant on the second Saturday, December 10, 2022, at noon.

I received the following from **Linda Supernaw** and thought our members would be interested in it. I know I was, as I remembered the very first building on Third Street.

To All District 8 Staff,
Since 1923, District 8 has served the Inland Empire. We are the largest District in the Caltrans family and have a deep connection to our region. In celebration

of our 100th anniversary, we will showcase our rich history and recognize our accomplishments with an exhibition in our very own District Office in San Bernardino. In early 2023, all District 8 staff will be invited to attend the grand opening of "Caltrans District 8: A Glimpse of Our History."

This will be an event you will not want to miss! It will be an opportunity to revisit records demonstrating how our region has transformed and embraced the importance we have had in our community. We will be joined by special guests from the Caltrans family and the community to view stunning images from projects past and the promise of an even brighter future for the Inland Empire!

District 8 is the largest of 12 statewide Caltrans districts and covers approximately 28,650 square miles within our boundaries. Growing over the years, we employ over 1,700 people and serve nearly 4.7 million residents.

Show your Caltrans pride and be part of something innovative and unique. As one Caltrans family, let's show off our work and how we strive for excellence in public service: let's show everyone why "Eight is Great!"

We look forward to celebrating the opening of our exhibition and our momentous efforts from beginning to present. More information about the exhibit and opening event is forthcoming.

Best Regards,
Diane Morales
Acting District Director, Caltrans District 8

From our President **Sybille Phillips**:
You can borrow free CA State Parks DAY USE ONLY passes at one of the local libraries in San Bernardino County – could vary; in other libraries – you check one out for a week and can renew it two more times for one week each!
Try the Riverside California Citrus SHP – this historical park has more than 50 different types of citrus! Hot in summer – not much shade. Check which parks accept the pass before you go!!! See CheckoutCAStateParks.com.

Next informal QCC lunch – 9-28-22 noon at Sizzler Restaurant at 1800 S on Waterman Avenue north of the I-10 in San Bernardino. Friends and family welcome. QCC membership not required. RSVP not required-but desired...Call or text **LaVerne Archie** at 909-936-9940. The Sizzler asked that we give them two weeks notice of a larger party. Ask for the Quarter Century Club. We will try to sit in the SE corner. Everyone pays their own. Locations may vary. Please RSVP, much appreciated.

Final Thought-Please remember that **Andy Machen** would love to have Caltrans memorabilia – in case your children or relatives do not want them...please make your wishes known. Thank you!

The QCC Informal get together was held on July 22, 2022, at the Black Bear Diner, 1603 W. Valley Blvd, Colton, CA. It's located on the NW corner of Pepper and Valley Blvd. just north of the 10 freeway. It was their "All you can eat Fish Fry" day. The Friday fish fry starts at 4 p.m. but order what u want!

From **Tami McGowan**:

Good morning, Team Caltrans
I'm excited to share with you that Caltrans has officially launched a brand new feature on Quick Map! The app can now send drivers push notifications about nearby road closures and other important traffic updates.

This new feature allows travelers to opt-in to receive alerts on their mobile devices. The alerts are location based, so when a device with the QuickMap app enters an area within 10 miles of a road closure, a pop-up message will alert them. A big shout-out to our Traffic Ops and IT teams for their incredible work developing this cool new feature! Thanks for all you do!

For more information, be sure to check out this new feature.

From **Jean Advincula** on behalf of the Deputy District Director for Environmental Planning:

It is my pleasure to announce the promotion of **Tracey D'Aoust Roberts** to the position of Supervising Environmental Planner (Office Chief) in the Environmental Division.

Tracey graduated with a BA in Political Science in 2005 and a MS in Environmental Studies in 2016 from Cal State Fullerton. Prior to joining Caltrans, Tracey worked in public service for the Town of Yucca Valley and for the City of San Bernardino in administration and animal control. Tracey joined Caltrans District 8 Department of Environmental Planning in 2016 and has worked as a Generalist, Biologist, and Senior Environmental Project Manager. She has acted as a Supervising Transportation Planner with HQ's Office of Sustainability.

Tracey is an avid music fan and enjoys going to concerts and festivals, hiking with her dog, gardening, and traveling the world.

Please join me in congratulating and welcoming Tracey to her new role.

From **Ruben Campos** on behalf of **Terri Kasinga**, Information Officer II

Today, July 29,2002, is my last day with Caltrans. I have retired. I want to thank everyone for all their support with Public Affairs issues, interviews, and other related matters over the years! Caltrans has been the biggest part of my life for 32 years and I am off to find another life – although nothing will ever compare to all the wonderful friends and relationships I have made at this amazing organization. I am proud of our Public Affairs Team 8 and know they will continue to provide the utmost in quality customer service.

Emily Leinen, our new External Affairs Manager, will be handling PIO items until my replacement is hired.

It been a great ride! If you would like to stay in touch with me you can email me at terrikasinga@gmail.com.

My best always,
Terri Kasinga
Chief, Public and Media Affairs
Caltrans, District 8

On July 29, 2022, Terri's family and friends, **Steve Pusey, Fred Rios, Kathy Brown and Jerry, Dennis Green** and his wife, **Cathy Devoe (Gomez), Charlotte Sheehan, Rosanna Roa, Sylvia Mata, Wanda Gernux, Sybille Phillips**, and many, many others attended Terri Kasinga's Retirement Drop in at the Claim Jumper in San Bernardino. We had so much fun! **Terri**, thank you for inviting us!

P.S. The Mountaineer weekly newspaper wrote a lovely article about **Terri** and her service to Caltrans – on the front cover and page 2 inside!!! **Mary Justine Lanyon** – the editor and author – told **Sybille** that she really appreciated Terri's passion and honesty for sharing road information with the mountain people!

Terri is the newest QCC member of District 8. Congratulations!!!

From **Jean Advincula** on the behalf of **Jon Bumps** on July 15, 2022, GREAT NEWS! Today is my last day! I am RETIRED!! This is it my friends and colleagues! Game Over! Finito! End of Story!

After more than 39 years of working for Caltrans, I am DONE! Time to move on to the next phase of life! RETIREMENT!

It is great to be leaving but please all realize I will miss you all! Except for that one guy! You know who he is. It has been a privilege and an honor to work with all of you on so many great projects over the years. We have made a HUGE difference in thousands of peoples' lives over the

years and many of those people do not even know it. Many take for granted there will be a State Highway System for their use without realizing difficulties faced by us in developing and delivering those projects to completion.

And while I do not have a Top Ten Reasons why I am retiring; I want to leave you all with some thoughts from over the years. In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists. – **Eric Hoffer**

To the world you may be one person; but to one person you may be the world. – **Dr. Seuss**

The only reason for time is so that everything doesn't happen at once. – **Albert Einstein**

There are no great men. There are no great women. There are only great challenges, which ordinary men and women like you and me are forced by circumstances to meet. - **Admiral Halsey**

Sometimes the things that may or may not be true are the things a person needs to believe in the most. That people are basically good; that honor, courage, and virtue mean everything; that power and money, money and power mean nothing; that good always triumphs over evil; and I want you to remember this, that love...true love never dies. You remember that. You remember that. Doesn't matter if it's true or not. You see, a person should believe in those things, because those are the things worth believing in. – **Robert Duvall** in Second Hand Lions.

Thank you Everyone!
Jon Bumps, PE

From **Jean Advincula** on the Retirement of **Venyssa Lopez**. I am happy and a little bit nervous to say this is my goodbye to my Caltrans family after 24 plus years. Seems longer, especially these last couple COVID years.

I have enjoyed working with the different units here in District 8, and the other Districts too. The

challenges over the years of working with the many local agencies and private survey companies over the years were always interesting, as well.

There are so many new faces that I have not worked with personally, but for those of you that I have worked with, or just talked with, in passing in a breakroom or hall, over the years, I thank you for your friendship, teamwork, and professionalism over the years.

To the Office of Land Surveys, Field (where I started) and Office (and RWE) staff; there are some of you that are truly like family – even arguing like siblings. I will miss you the most.

Thank you for all the memories. God Bless.

Venyssa L. Lopez, PLS

Geospatial Unit – Survey Control

Caltrans District 8 – Office of Land Surveys

We were saddened to hear of the passing of **Gary Nelson** on August 22, 2022. Caltrans was a part of his life for 38 years as was the **QCC**. His wife Shirley reached out to the QCC to invite us to the August 27, 2022, Memorial Service. **Sybill** attended his service on Zoom at Spirit of our Savior Lutheran Church on Sierra Way in San Bernardino. It was so beautiful as Shirley, his wife of 64 years, his three daughters, grandchildren, and sons-in-law attended. Pastor Steve Anderson, told of his love for them, for life, and God, stories how he touched their lives. One granddaughter said he must have invented rumble strips just for her since she is not a good driver...another mentioned that when they went to Disneyland three months before his passing – both he and Shirley in their wheelchairs – and rode the Star Wars ride – he said that the handrails needed to be painted since they were all scratched up...

Sybill noted that they identified immediate family with red carnations – which were Gary's favorite flowers, white for son-in-law, pink for

grandchildren, yellow for friends, etc! **Sybill** also enjoyed the quotes!

Describing his life philosophy: “Colossians 3:12-14: Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

All our thoughts and prayers are with Gary's family and friends. I worked with **Gary** and one of the things that I remembered is that he always had a toothpick in the corner of his mouth and a great smile on his face.

We are saddened to learn of the passing of **Jack Kincade**. He was a long-time employee of the Division of Maintenance, stationed in District 8 and 11. Jack was highly respected for what he brought to his work every day and was well regarded by all sectors of our transportation partners. Services have already commenced but our sympathy and our heartfelt prayers go out to Jack's family and all those who worked with him. He had many close friends within his work group.

Jack started working with Caltrans fresh out of high school at the Cactus City Rest Area in December 1969. During his career he would hold positions in Indio, Carlsbad, Escondido, Hollister and then back to Escondido. He finally retired as the Supervisor for Desert Center Maintenance in October 2009 and then moved to Lake Havasu. He loved his job.

Jack survived a battle with cancer in 2001 but succumbed to the illness this year. Jack is survived by his wife Cathy and his sons Mark and Jason. He loved coaching Pop Warner football, 4-wheeling, and shooting. Jack will be missed.

Received a note from **Doris Peddy's** daughter in July that Doris had passed away in May. Doris had been a faithful member of **QCC** for many, many years and was the widow of **Jack Peddy**. He had been a long time District 8 Director. He was the first Director that I remembered after C. V. Kane. **Doris** was always regaling us about her job as a volunteer cook and anything else that was done on the Pacific Crest Trail that runs up the central mountain ranges here in California. She really had some great stories to tell.

We also learned of a Caltrans employee that was killed while working, **Quanda McGadney**, a 51-year-old Caltrans Landscape Maintenance Worker in District 4. She was struck by a hit and run driver while working on Interstate 80 near Vacaville in Solano County. She succumbed to her injuries at the scene. The driver was apprehended by CHP and is in custody.

Our sympathy and our heartfelt prayers go out to Quanda's family and all those who worked with her. She had many close friends within her work group, and Caltrans is providing support to her family and co-workers as much as they possibly can. See the link <https://www.the-ctf.org/donate>

That's all for now and until our next article be safe and enjoy your retirement days.

- **Marsha Lotze**

The Haps in District 9

The summer here in the Owens Valley was another hot one. Barbara and I plan our outside work in the morning before the hot afternoons. We stay close to home and do not go very far. Barbara and I are sitting up and taking nourishment. The feedback we received for the Sept QCC'er is that many are slowing down with age.

Our daughter, Rene Walker and husband Wayne, visited for a week in August. They are a great help, as Barbara did not cook, and I did not do any dishes. Life does not get much better than that! Wayne does not mind working outside and spent a couple hours a day weeding the garden after he day hiked in the Sierra's.

From **Bob Watkins: Lance**, since I am now over the Covid-19, Janet and I took a family trip to Sacramento. On our way back to Washington State we left I-5 at Red Bluff and took State Hwys 36 & 3 to Hayfork and Etna. We rejoined I-5 at Yreka. Great country - good roads. Those maintenance crews are doing a great job out there in the mountains. At age 92 I just crossed one more item off of my Bucket List.

From **Ken Rischer: Sorry Lance**, nothing eventful. Just every day living the dream....

From **John Ritter** about **Gene Snyder** Obituary: Thanks for sending this. I was Gene's "office man" a couple of times and spent 2 winters working alone with him in a trailer at the DO. I got to know him fairly well and learned of some of his experiences during the war. He said that he nearly starved to death when he was in Italy. He and **Marv** were in Berlin during its occupation. Gene told me that he and Marv had pillowcases of occupation money from selling Russian soldiers cigarettes, wrist watches and other stuff that were scarce for Russians. **Gene** was certainly one of the greatest generation.

From **Jim Kemp** about **Gene Snyder** Obituary: Thanks, I had not seen it. We head home on the 10th so will miss the get together. I did see where Cristy Galvan's husband, Jeff, died also.

One story that I remember about Gene is when he was in Berlin after WW2. He bought watches in the PX then sold them to the Russians 5 times the PX cost. Anyway, thanks for the update.

Barbara and I hope everyone is doing OK, take care, stay cool and carry on.

"As you get older three things happen. The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two."

- Lance Hinek

The following was published in the *Inyo Register* on August 27, 2022.

Gene Snyder Obituary

Having run his tank completely dry, **Gene Jere Snyder** coasted into the afterlife on fumes on July 12, 2022, a youthful 97 years old. Born October 24, 1924, in San Buena Ventura, the oldest of three children. Gene spent his youth fishing, surfing, and racing cars with his best friend, **Marv Tetrick**, in the Compton and Long beach area. It was in that same area that he would meet his future wife, **Sarg**, on a bus where he claims she "reeled him in with candy," a story that seems incredibly plausible given his notorious sweet tooth. The two elected to wait until Gene returned from his service in the military to make things official.

Gene graduated from Compton Junior College in 1942 and shortly thereafter enlisted in the Army



as a Paratrooper with the 517th Airborne, a task he took on with honor, duty, and the promise of \$50.00 extra dollars a month and "more girls." As was customary at the time, he had to travel to Salt

Lake City, Utah, to complete his enlistment, a journey he made donning a Zoot Suit, the likes of which the recruiters in Salt Lake had never seen consequently earning him the nickname "Zoot," a name that would stick with him the duration of the war. Shortly after completing jump school Gene was dropped into southern

France on August 15, 1944, as a part of Operation Dragoon. From there he traveled throughout the European Theater assisting in the liberation of more than 20 towns throughout France and Italy, a feat that earned him the Distinction of Chevalier (Knight) French National Order of the Legion of Honor thus acquiring another name, "**Sir**" **Gene Jere Snyder**. His combat service continued throughout Europe including 'The Battle of The Bulge', where he earned a purple heart, and ultimately ending in Berlin with the 82nd Airborne as part of the Occupation Force. Worth noting, is that Gene entered the Military as Pvt First Class. **Gene Snyder** exited as the same. The explanation for his lack of promotion was a desire to not take on too much responsibility over the lives of his comrades, however given the stories of Jeep theft, a small-scale gambling ring, and briefly going AWOL over creative differences with the cafeteria workers in boot camp, the jury is still out on what exactly the mitigating factors were.

Upon his honorable discharge from the military Gene went home to marry the love of his life, **Sarg**, on July 28, 1946. He accepted a job with California Department of Transportation, a position which would require him to relocate to the Owens Valley to work on the construction of many projects along the 395 corridor. It wasn't long before he and Sarg would be reunited in the valley with their best friends **Marv** and **Rikki Tetrick** and the four would enjoy many years fishing and hunting in the greater Bishop area, and frequenting The Beacon Tavern, earning him yet another nickname, "Beacon Slim."

In 1950 Gene became a father to his first son, Dean, then a second son in 1951, John, and in 1956 his baby girl, Evelyn, made her appearance. From 1963 to 1970 the Snyder family relocated to Tehachapi, CA, at which time Gene became a Registered Civil Engineer while building HWY 58. **Gene** retired from Cal Trans in 1988 and began traveling, surfing in Hawaii and touring Europe with Sarg. In 1996 Gene and Sarg built

their dream house from the ground up, a home that can best be described as the place where linoleum went to die. The pair spent the latter years of their retirement wintering in Yuma with the Tetricks, pot lucking with dear friends, and enjoying their time together until Sarg's passing in December of 2014 after 68 years of marriage.

When asked how their marriage stood the test of time it was explained simply, "The first 45 years were the hardest, but Gene worked out of town during the week and on the weekends, we drank Manhattans."

Gene lived his life to the fullest powered by grit, brilliance, hard work, an unwavering sense of humor, and honestly, quite a bit of luck. His badassery truly knew no bounds, and while the legend himself is gone from this Earth, the memories will be treasured, and the stories passed down for generations to come.

Gene was preceded in death by, almost everyone at this point, that being the catch of living to 97 years old, among those include his parents Maude Ofelia and Jeremiah Snyder, wife Sarg Snyder, Son Dean Snyder, Daughter Evelyn Snyder, and sister Marty Donahue. He is survived by his sister Jere Plumer, son John Snyder and wife Marie, Granddaughter Cameron Kreizenbeck and husband Garet, Granddaughter Morgan Maillet and husband Miles, Granddaughter Alyse Snyder, Grandsons Ian Snyder and Peter Ascencio. In addition to greatgrandchildren Will and Phoebe Kreisenbeck, Birch, Ridge and Rowan Ray, and Shelby and Payer Gene Maillet.

The Haps in District 10

This is submitted by **Ron Lesan** from Lodi.

Road Last Travelled

Ron was notified by **Bruce Leavitt's** son through Facebook that Bruce had passed away quietly on February 5, 2022, after a short illness. Bruce was a Navy veteran, serving in both the European and Pacific theatres of WWII. After retiring from Caltrans and the passing of his wife, Lee, he moved to Washington State and became a commercial fisherman.

Bruce was very active on Facebook and kept in touch with many. He had been a QCC member before he moved to Washington state.

Bruce worked in Construction and when Ron transferred to D 10 back in 1974, they worked together in construction.

Arthur "Art" Delmore, age 85, passed away peacefully in his sleep on November 22nd, 2021. Art was born in West Hollywood, California, on January 25th, 1936, and was a graduate of Pierce College in Los Angeles. After playing baseball at Pierce College, Art was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates and pitched for the Hollywood Stars, a minor league baseball team in the Pacific Coast League.

Art met Ann Reaves while in college and they were married in 1957 at The Little Brown Church in North Hollywood. Art and Ann grew tired of Los Angeles and moved to Stockton and then bought a house in Linden where they raised their two daughters, Kimberly and Kristina.

For 30+ years **Art** served as a Right of Way Agent with Cal Trans, and for a number of years he owned a real estate appraisal company.

As a licensed pilot, Art loved flying a Cessna 172 in addition to flying remote control airplanes with his friends. Art and Ann traveled the country in their motor home and spent several months a year in Coos Bay, Oregon. In his spare time, Art could be found on the golf course

golfing with his buddies, son-in-law and his grandsons.

Art was predeceased by his parents, Arthur and Helen Delmore, and his brother, Robert, in addition to Ann, his wife of 50 years. He is survived by his daughter Kimberly Delmore, his daughter Kristina Delmore-Davis, his son-in-law Dr. Rex Davis, and his two grandsons Thomas Davis and Jonathan Davis.

Posted online on December 08, 2021
Published in *The Stockton Record*

After 90 successful trips around the sun (as he would call it), **Bobby Biffel** passed away peacefully on 10/18/2021 after a brief illness. He worked for Caltrans for 37 years, before retiring as a Supervising Transportation Engineer. A proud engineer, **Bob** was always concerned with environmental and safety issues, and acted as a mentor to young engineers, participating at Engineering Week at the University of the Pacific.



Following retirement, he volunteered as a TOP Science Partner as the "Science Guy" for seventeen years, going to local classrooms and teaching the children about nature, science, and running fun experiments. **Bob** was an avid gardener, woodworker, golfer, and traveler - having gone on many adventures with friends and family across the world. Bob is survived by his beloved wife of 70 years **Ardyth Biffel**, as well as his daughter Bonny Kangas, his three grandchildren Kelly Zuber, Casey Kangas, and Jennie Jorgens, his great grandson Jack Jorgens, as well as his sister Virginia Vail. He was preceded in death by his sons Terry Biffel and Brad Biffel.

Posted online on October 22, 2021
Published in *The Stockton Record*
<https://www.recordnet.com/obituaries/p0156783>

- Ron Lesan

The Haps in District 11

Continue checking our District 11 QCC Facebook page for updates and other items of interest to club members.

The **ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out)** and **JULIET (Just Us Ladies Innocently Eating Together)** breakfast at the Denny's in Fletcher Hills has resumed, so plan for the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 8am to come out and join the gathering. Some recent attendees were **Fred Dean, Carlene Darrieulot, Jayne Dowda, Jerry Hawley, Jerry Love, Tarbell Martin, Dave Moody, Bobby Moore, Roy Riesgo, Kathie Riesgo, Syndi Sutter, Jim Zopfi, and Butch Biendara.**

Here is some information regarding recent promotions in D-11.

From **Gustavo Dallarda**, District Director-

I am pleased to announce **Nikki Tiongo's** appointment as the Acting District 11 South County and Trade Corridors (SCTC) Director. **Nikki** was previously the Project Manager for SCTC where she managed roadway infrastructure and operational improvement projects delivery into a connected, sustainable freight corridor. She was responsible for the delivery of projects in various development stages including construction of the 125/905/11



interchanges and the planning of the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry.

Nikki’s honed her skills, in-depth knowledge, and abilities as a Project Manager and Resident Engineer for SCTC. In these roles, she has been responsible for all aspects of Caltrans transportation projects from project initiation to construction to closeout. This has included planning and directing project staff and other functional units to produce project initiation documents, attain environmental approval, prepare plans, specifications, and estimates, acquire right-of-way certification and clearances to deliver projects to construction.

Nikki brings a wealth of experience in collaboration, negotiations, facilitation, and communication to develop and maintain strong cooperative working relationships with internal and external stakeholders and partners. This includes the Federal Highway Administration, the San Diego Association of Governments, the County of San Diego, the Cities of San Diego and National City, the United States Navy, and the construction industry. As Resident Engineer on a \$21M Coronado Bridge Paint project, she received the 2019 Caltrans Best in Class Partnering Award along with the contractor, District 11 Maintenance, California Highway Patrol, Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard, Continental Maritime, and the United States Navy.

Nikki has over 14 years of experience with Caltrans, having worked her way through the ranks from a student intern to her current appointment. She graduated from the University of California in San Diego with a Bachelor of Science in Structural Engineering and received her professional Civil Engineer’s license in 2008.

Congratulations Nikki!

From **Barbara Cosio Moreno** -

I am pleased to announce the promotion in the Central Corridors of Tai Lam as the Division’s Construction Engineer.



This position fills the void left when **Manuel Rivas** retired last year.

Tai brings us a wealth of knowledge and experience with his 31 years at Caltrans between Structures and the District. He has worked in construction on over 40 projects including 805/Soundwalls, SR-15 Mid-City Bus Rapid Transit Project and the SR-905/SR-11 Incentive/Disincentive Project as well as many bridge and structures projects within California including remove and replacing 2 structures damaged with the 1994 Northridge Earthquake.

He was previously acting in the CE capacity for the Division and most recently is the Resident Engineer for the I-15 Asset Management CRCP replacement project set to begin next month.

Congratulations Tai!

From **Gustavo Dallarda**, District Director-

I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Mario Orso** as the Chief Deputy of the Capital



Program in District 11, effective July 1, 2022. Mario brings years of experience in delivery, innovation, partnerships, and equity -- all key ingredients for a successful Capital Program.

Mario was previously the Corridor Project Director for the South County and Trade Corridors for Caltrans District 11. In his new

position, he continues to oversee goods movement projects and border issues.

Mario will remain integral to the delivery of the District's Trade Corridor and South County projects, valued at more than \$1.5 billion. He will continue to lead the SR-11/Otay Mesa East Port of Entry project including negotiations with the US and Mexican Federal Governments. He continues to lead a team of Caltrans and San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) staff members and coordinates with multiple public and private agencies both in the U.S. and Mexico to meet the aggressive schedules of these crucial goods-movement projects in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

Mario has over 31 years of experience with Caltrans, having worked his way through the ranks from a junior civil engineer to his current appointment after earning his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from San Diego State University. In addition, Mario holds a Professional Engineers Registration and has completed the Project Management Certificate Program that Caltrans and Sacramento State University offer.

Along the way he has made his mark as the District's First Native American Liaison, the Intergovernmental Review Branch Chief, Project Manager, Acting Chief Deputy District Director and Corridor Project Director for the South County and Trade Corridors.

Please join me in congratulating Mario on his promotion and welcoming him to the new role.

On a sad note, we were notified that **Gerry V Smith's** wife, **Patty**, passed away recently.

Christine Valle recalled, "I knew Patty through **Jerry** who had the pleasure/burden of being my boss for many years. A more gracious, lovely lady did not exist. She will be sorely missed. On a personal note, she made THE ULTIMATE

BOURBON BALLS at Christmas. She gave me her recipe and they are always a big hit."

Regarding an upcoming QCC gathering in the Fall, there is none planned at this time. If you have ideas for one and want to help, please let me know.

- Kelly Manning

The Haps in District 12

As an actor, **Frank Paras Jr** has been trained under the Ricardo Montalban theatre acting school and the Cora Ugalde Yellen theatre school. As a black belt in martial arts, he has received numerous awards, such as, the TRACMA Black Belt of the year.

This year, in 2022 he was one of five inductees into the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame, conducted in Orange County.



Frank Paras Jr.

He is currently working on a movie called 'Fight of Fury 2'. This is a sequel to Fight of Fury that was made a couple of years ago.

Frank is the current 2nd Vice-President of the Statewide QCC.

The Haps in Central

Thanks to the diligence of Director **Wesley Lum** and hard work of our new Recruitment Officer **Lynette Bell** in

implementing Central's new recruitment plan, the August meeting was humming. Eight new



Lynette Bell and Judy Saxby

attendees along with a good showing of regular members boosted attendance and the noise level. We welcomed guests **Lauri and Jeff McCray, Lisa Bubenko, Kris Kuhl, Jeanne Scherer, Cynthia and Greg Hill, and Greg Larson.** The energy and interest of the group



Dave Saxby, Lynette Bell and Judy Saxby

was so contagious, we were graciously invited to wrap it up by staff, which hasn't happened in a long time. We have set our sights on an even more robust group for our holiday meeting on December 6, 2022. Put it on your calendar now!

- Jan Winbigler

New Central District Officer

Recruitment: **Lynette Bell**, 916-747-4068, lynetteannbell219@gmail.com

Vic Graf passed recently. I will remember him from my days in the Traffic Division. He was an engineer's engineer and offered good advice.

In the early days of the Governor Deukmejian Administration, he complained of the new program for hiring consulting engineering firms

for design saying, "no-one can design highways better than the Division of Highways engineers."

Mel Johnson passed away on May 4, 2022. Mel worked for Caltrans until he had a higher calling with the City of Sacramento. **Rich Trimble** fondly recalls the early days in the Division of Highways with **Mel** and **Rod Prysock** working for the Lab and studying for the PE. As custom for the Lab in those days, they celebrated their passing of the PE at Shakey's Pizza Parlor (the original location just 2 blocks from the Lab).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shakey%27s_Pizza

Rich also recalls their fishing expeditions as well as lunches when visiting HQ from District 1 or 2. Lastly, Rich recalls many Lab engineers thinking Mel "nuts" as he left the Lab to work for the City. **Mel** retired as the Sacramento City, Director of Public Works in 1992.

For more info on **Mel**, see link below.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sacbee/name/melvin-johnson-obituary?n=melvinjohnson&pid=202057411>

- Wes Lum

Events

Because of Covid, all these Events may be cancelled. Please verify that the group is meeting prior to attending.

District 1 -

Caltrans retirees and QCC members meet on the 3rd Thursday of the months of January, April, July, and October at 9:30 am at the Pantry on Broadway in Eureka. Contact **Arlene Hartin** at ahartin@suddenlink.net or call (707) 443-8841 for details.

District 2 -

Retired Caltrans Ladies Lunch Bunch meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:30 AM, location varies. Contact **Retha Rubiec** at goldmine@c-zone.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 normally meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30am at various locations on the Peninsula but is currently inactive.

The Birthday Group (primarily retired Admin staff but all welcome) meets on the third Wednesday each month at 11:30am at Guadalajara Restaurant, 1001 Fruitvale Ave, Oakland. Contact **Anita Appiano** 510-813-3667
anita.appiano68@gmail.com

The North Bay Retirees Lunch Group meets on the second Tuesday each month at 11:30am at various locations in the Santa Rosa area. Contact: **Jerry Griffith**,
tallones2@hotmail.com, (707) 494-2084

The NP Lunch Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 11:30am at Chevy's in Emeryville in odd months and Original Joe's Westlake in Daly City in even months. Contact: **Bill Uesugi**, patbillu@comcast.net,
(650) 355-1410

The SF Lunch Group meets on the second Thursday each month at 11:30am in the Dragon River Restaurant, 5045 Geary Blvd (between 14th & 15th Ave).
Contact: **Ron Lee**, retronl@aol.com

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 -

Ventura Monthly Meeting

Caltrans retiree luncheon is held the third Monday of each month at 11:30 AM, in Oxnard at BJ's Restaurant & Brewery

San Gabriel Monthly Meeting

Caltrans retiree meets on the Third Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM, in San Gabriel at the **Golden Soup**, 1039 E. Valley Blvd., San Gabriel.

District 8 -

Informal Get Together meets 4th Wednesday of odd months at 12:00 currently at Mexico Café.

Bring a friend – QCC membership not required. Everyone pays their own. Locations may vary. Please call or text **LaVerne Archie**, 909-936-9940. RSVP desired but not required.

District 9 -

Contact: **Lance Hinek**, 760-873-3885

District 10 -

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

Lenny's Huddle meets at 8:00 am on the last Tuesday of the month. Location has changed.
Contact: **Stan Randolph**, 209-957-1278,
stanran3672@aol.com

District 11 -

D-11 Retirees meet 3rd Wednesday at 8am every month at Denny's at Fletcher Parkway and Navajo Road.

Central District -

QCC Winter Luncheon is Tuesday, December 6, 2022. Where: Old Spaghetti Factory, 1625 Watt Ave, Sacramento
Contact **Dave Saxby** 916-479-2978 or
dpbear74@gmail.com.

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 on page 23.

QCC Membership Renewal Form

Effective 2022

Please complete and return this form, **even if** your dues amount is \$0.

Name _____ District _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zipcode _____

Phone (____) _____

E-Mail address
 _____@_____

Date of Retirement _____ Years of Service _____

Dues amounts: check one

| | | |
|---|------|--|
| 80+ years of age, born before 1931, printed /mailed QCCer | \$5 | |
| 80+ years of age, born after 1930, printed /mailed QCCer | \$10 | |
| 80+ years of age, online (emailed) QCCer | \$0 | |
| 80+ years of age, printed /mailed QCCer* | \$0* | |
| 80+ years of age, NO QCCer newsletter, but keep me on your roster | \$0 | |
| Printed /mailed QCCer for younger members | \$20 | |
| Online (emailed) QCCer for younger members | \$15 | |

*- this option is for hardship situations where the Honorary member does not have email and cannot afford the normal dues amount. Your QCC District Director's written approval must be enclosed with this renewal form.

Make any checks payable to the Quarter Century Club and mail to:

QCC

PO BOX 421292

SAN DIEGO CA 92142-1292