



Caltrans Bridge Department

HAPPY CENTENNIAL!

From the Side Pocket

The following is a notice from Engineering Services regarding the Bridge Department's 100-year anniversary sent in by **Ray Zelinski**.

Caltrans Bridge Department Centennial Celebration -BD 100

Dear Caltrans Team,

In 1923, State Highway Engineer **R. M. Morton** directed that all State Highway bridges be designed and their construction overseen by state engineers. This policy change resulted in the creation of the Division of Highways Bridge Department that now is contained within the Division of Engineering Services and the Division of Maintenance.

2023/2024 marks the centennial of this significant event and I invite all of you to join in celebrating the hard work, dedication, and innovation that have been hallmarks of the Bridge Department's journey over the last century. From the construction of iconic bridges to the advancement of engineering practices, the Bridge Department and its successor

organizations have been an integral part of Caltrans' rich history.

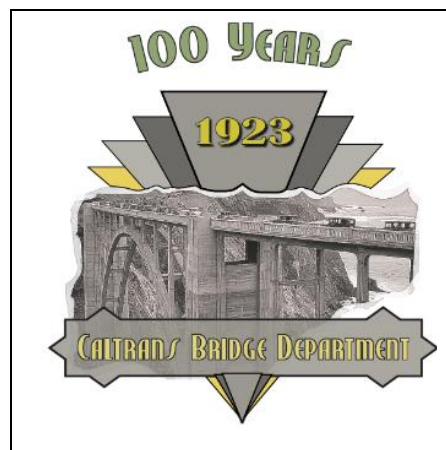
We have an array of events, activities, and video vignettes planned to commemorate our past achievements and recognize the current contributions of the over the 1,500 engineers, geologists, architects, technicians and administrators who design, construct and maintain the 13,000 bridges on the State Highway System. Whether you are a long-time member of our Caltrans family or a recent addition, this celebration is for all of us who contribute to the success of this remarkable organization.

The first YouTube link below will direct you to BD100 centennial kickoff video. The second video link is a retrospective look at our state highway bridges.

Centennial Kickoff <https://youtu.be/z1XrALCbj8>

A Century of Bridge Building Excellence
https://youtu.be/OUIh_tyWIP4

Thank you all for your ongoing support, and here's to the next 100 years of building bridges and connecting California communities! An



open house is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at Caltrans TRANSLAB to showcase exhibits and video interviews of Bridge retirees/employees.

Tom Ostrom
Division Chief
Caltrans Division of Engineering Services

Time to pay your Dues
See Page 23, Membership
Renewal Form. Fill it out, update
your information, and mail it in.

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Try this link to Historic 'California Highways and Public Works' Magazine.

<http://www.americanroads.us/forum/index.php?PHPSESSID=2ceb61e97c2d846c20a6107a40e397da&topic=249.msg456#msg456>

In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Bill Barton	01	Nov 23, 2023
Don Comstock	01	Sep 25, 2023
Darrell Cardiff	01	Oct 02, 2023
Nile Ferns Sr	03	Sep 04, 2022
Michael (Mike) W Fouyer	03	Sep 06, 2023
Lori Layne Marino	03	Sep 10, 2023
Damien Harris	04	Jul 11, 2023
Warren Tong	04	Oct , 2023
Hanley Fong	04	Nov 16, 2023
Walt Ross	05	Oct 12, 2023
Sidney Thompson	07	May 23, 2023
Monica Yanis	08	Sep 22, 2023
Leo Haynes	08	Nov 07, 2023
Yvette Kearns	08	Nov 17, 2023
Alice Carlson	09	Jun 05, 2023
Mike Truitt	09	2023
Chuck Gillem	09	Oct 07, 2023
Seana Urquhart	11	Nov 14, 2023
Pedro Vasquez	11	Sep 15, 2023
Warren Weber	C	Aug 30, 2023
Ruth Ann Weber	C	Nov 27, 2023
Earlene Borden	C	Sep 19, 2023

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!

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>

The Haps in District 1

District 1 QCC and retirees had a nice breakfast and visit on October 19th at the Village Pantry.

Sadly, we recently lost some fine Caltrans retirees. **Bill Barton** died on Thanksgiving Day, November 23. He was 89 years old and served in the Coast Guard from 1954 to 1958. **Bill** retired from Caltrans as head mechanic in 1995.

Don Comstock, an **Honorary QCC Member** died September 25, at the age 88. **Don** was an engineer for District 1 for 30 years.

Darrell Cardiff passed away on October 2 at the age of 58. He was an archaeologist for District 1 for many years.

- Arlene Hartin

The Haps in District 2

District 2 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

Check out the QCC website here:
<http://www.caltransquartercenturyclub.net>

The Haps in District 3

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone from District 03. Time sure has flown away this year. It is our age that seems to make the months and years go by so fast. Sure don't remember it happening like this as a kid.

We held our Fall Luncheon at the Yuba City

Moose Lodge on Sunday November 26th. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, the food as great and you couldn't beat the price. We had 40 QCC members, family, and spouses in attendance. Several others had signed up but were unable to be there.

I have already scheduled our Spring Luncheon for April 28, 2024. Hope to see you in the spring.

A few photos of the luncheon tables have been included below. They show how they were decorated. The little gnomes, Santa's, and Snow people were our table drawing gifts. Figuring out how to decorate the tables is always a challenge for me, but it's always fun. I have a friend who gave me three 100' rolls of green garland, so I brought one roll with me and my trusty scissors along with garland and **Jan Agesen** and **Carleen Hagen** helped decorate. Now the question is, what am I going to do with the remaining 200' of garland? Donate it to Goodwill I guess.



Jan Agesen and Marilyn Sanger



Snowman



Christmas Gnome

ROAD LAST TRAVELLED

Libby heard from the daughter of **Nile Ferns Sr.** of his passing on September 4, 2022. Nile, age 94, was an **Honorary QCC Member**. We have no further information available.

Provided by **Sandy King**: **Michael (Mike) Wayne Fouyer** passed away on September 6, 2023 peacefully at the age of 73. Mike was born in Grass Valley, CA. He grew up on the sports fields in Grass Valley and Nevada City. He graduated from Nevada Joint Union High School in 1968. Mike excelled in high school sports where he won numerous awards in baseball, basketball and football.

He also played baseball for Sierra College and the local Grass Valley Greens team. His incredible passion and talent for baseball crowned when he signed with the Oakland A's as a professional baseball player in June of 1969. He attended spring training in Mesa, Arizona and went on to play minor league baseball in Coos Bay, Oregon.

Off the field **Mike** was a loving father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. He had a heart as big as the ballpark and a smile that could light up even the darkest of days. He was known for his sense of humor and his ability to make those around him feel valued and cherished.

When **Mike** wasn't behind home plate, he helped establish Fouyer Bros. Excavating in the 1970's with his father. They built roads for the timber industry and constructed commercial and residential projects.

In the mid-1980s Mike went to work for CalTrans where he worked as an equipment operator at Kingvale and the Nevada City Maintenance Stations retiring in 2009.

Published by The Union on Sep. 30, 2023.

Lori Layne Marino, 57, of Yuba City, California, passed away on September 10, 2023. She was a dedicated loving wife and friend to many.

Lois is survived by her spouse, Frank Marino; and her sister, Leslie Innerst.

She was preceded in death by her father, Frank Kemp, her mother, Molly Kemp and her grandmother Clara Hagen.



Lori attended Encina High School and went on to have a successful career with Caltrans, where she worked for 35 years before retiring in 2020.

In her free time, **Lori** enjoyed traveling and spending time with friends and family. She had a passion for exploring new places and creating cherished memories with her loved ones.

Lori will be deeply missed by all who knew her. May she rest in peace.

Published by Appeal Democrat on Sep. 19, 2023

Not much else to report from District 03. Keeping busy and getting ready for Christmas is what I'm up to.

Until next time. Again, wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Be careful out there.

- **Jan Johnson**

The Haps in District 4

The end-of-year retiree luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center is on December 12, shortly after the deadline for this newsletter but before the publication date, so there is not time to add yourself to the attendance list. To receive invitations to future such luncheons, please contact **Mike Chan** mikegofish@gmail.com.

The Birthday Group continues to meet, on the third Wednesday of each month at the Guadalajara restaurant near Fruitvale Station, Oakland, under the leadership of **Anita Appiano**, anita.appiano68@gmail.com.

The NP Lunch Group also continues to meet 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, coordinated by **Bill Uesugi**, patbillu@comcast.net.

Similarly, the North Bay Retirees Lunch Group meets on the second Tuesday each month at 11:30am at various locations in the Santa Rosa, coordinated by **Jerry Griffith**, tallones2@hotmail.com.

Sadly, we received several obituaries this quarter. **Brian White** forwarded an obituary that was circulated in District 4 and signed by District Director **Dina El-Tawansy**. It announced the passing of **Damien Harris** on July 11, 2023. Damien was with Caltrans for 26 years. He started as a Student Assistant with the Caltrans Division of Human Resources in Sacramento in 1997 as he attended Cal State University Sacramento. He moved to District 4 in 1999 and worked his way up to Staff Services Manager III in the Office of Business Management. **Damien** managed Administrative Services, Audio Visual and Graphics Services, Claims, Facilities Management and Security, Small Business and Logistics Management Branches throughout his career in District 4.

Ron Lee wrote with the news that **Warren Tong** passed away in October.

Ron also wrote that **Hanley Fong** had passed away, and **Anita Appiano** sent a link to Hanley's obituary. Hanley Fong was born on July 9, 1931, and passed away as he wished, still living independently in his own home, on November 16, 2023. Hanley was a native San Franciscan

and lived most of his life in the city he loved.

Hanley attended U.C. Berkeley and received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1954. He worked for Caltrans before serving in the Army during the Korean War. After serving, he returned to Caltrans where he worked until his retirement. During his long history with Caltrans, Hanley was proud to work on many of the highways and roads that we drive on today.

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

The Difference Between A Freeway Find And Freeway Shopping

By Gordon Analla

The difference is don't do the latter, freeway shopping. Why? Because it's dangerous and foolhardy. That's why. I came from the field, Maintenance and Landscape. I foolishly shopped. Sure, I found a few dollars, but what discouraged me from doing so was one time when a co-worker and I were walking along Highway 1, south of the Golden Gate Bridge on a bridge walkway with traffic blazing by us at 55 mph. I thought of my family. My wife and our two children. I said to myself, "Please God. If I get back to the truck safely, I will never, ever do this again," and I didn't.

Fast forward a few years and I was chosen for a safety officer's position, on a T & D (training and development) assignment. I knew what it was like out in the field. I had no problem understanding crews finding "finds," out on the state right of way. I mean, the old metal chairs and tables of the crew rooms, well, if something better had been discarded out on our roadways, so be it. If it was safe. Go for it. Get it. If it hadn't been asked for by Mrs. and Mr. Citizen, well, the

old cliché of "one person's garbage is another's . . ."

It is funny too because most times, when I did find cash, I hadn't been looking for it. As I made my rounds picking up litter . . . why there it was. A dollar. A five. A ten spot! Of course, you had to share with your partner, "the California split," was honored.

I remembered my past when I was a safety person. I would encounter workers obviously shoulder shopping, but when I stopped, I told them I knew what they were doing, and I would give them a one-time free pass. But the next time would be the time they would be written up. Fortunately, I never had to ever do a follow up.

Which leads to one of the most infuriating, and frustrating feelings I ever encountered in all my years (33) in safety and health. The location was Southbound Highway 880, in San Leandro. Right across from the site of the multiple fatalities in 1994 on March 27th, when a Caltrans Lead worker, an 8-year-old little girl, and three MPRO's (volunteers working off their sentences) were killed. I had responded to the tragedies of that day. Every time since I've passed that spot, the memory stays with me. The anniversary of it, too. Where I was and the time I got the call. And there, right across from the scene, a mere few years later, was a Supervisor shopping at the on ramp. I was beside myself. He didn't get a free pass from me that day. Yes, he did though from a higher authority, as he wasn't injured or killed that day. I dropped a dime on him PDQ! I spoke to one of the Superintendents that had been there, that fateful day. I don't know what action if any was taken against the individual. It wasn't my place to inquire or be informed. To tell you the truth, I didn't want to know. I didn't even want to talk to the individual. I was so disgusted and upset.

Do I regret what I did that day? No way, I would do it again in a minute. But I would implore all workers reading this, please do not freeway shop. The risk is far greater than the gain. Please.

Postscript: *I thought long and hard about posting this. I don't like to be negative towards Caltrans workers. Their lives are on the line daily. But, in tossing this around in my mind, I felt the story needed to be told. If I could prevent one person from doing this unsafe act it would be well worth it. This is why I decided to write and post it.*

□

- Nigel Blampied

The Haps in District 5

Hope you enjoyed a happy holiday season. Not much rain here as of December, but we're hoping for some in January which is typically a rainy month.

Caltrans District 5 has been in the news recently. Work continues at the Paul's Slide closure on Highway 1 near Big Sur. A recent news release indicates they are hoping to reopen in late spring of 2024.

Another announced opening became something of a "blooper" in November. The northbound Gaviota Rest Area was set to open with local media present, but it only lasted 45 minutes because of issues in the water supply line. OOPS! There is no new reopening date as of yet. The southbound rest area is planned to reopen next spring.

On November 29, I attended a public meeting to discuss the draft EIR for the Maintenance Station and Equipment Shop Relocation Project. The proposed new location is near the intersection of Higuera Street and Buckley Road at the south end of San Luis Obispo. This project has been in the works for many years, and it will enable our

Maintenance and Shop vehicles to avoid the congestion on Madonna Road and safely access Highway 101. If you would like more information or to request a copy of the Draft EIR, please contact **Lucas Marsalek** at lucas.marsalek@dot.ca.gov. A printed copy is available for review at the District Office.

The Caltrans Holiday BBQ was held on a sunny December 5 at Trinity Hall in Edna. I was told that 240+ tickets were sold, and the serving line was moved outdoors under an awning to allow more seating inside the hall. **Vince Zorn** supervised the BBQ crew, and I saw **Robert Bonilla** giving instructions to two young helpers on how to prepare his delicious salad bowl. There were not many "old timers" in attendance, but it was nice to see so many new people participating in this event. It is one of the few times when employees from all functions come together and socialize.

I am sorry to report the passing of **Walt Ross** on October 12. Walt began his career in Right of Way following graduation from Cal Poly in 1964. He took a break from State service to work in real estate and construction but returned to Caltrans and retired in 2004. He was a longtime member of our local Elks Club and enjoyed wood carving. He is survived by wife Joyce, children and stepchildren, brother Richard, and nieces and nephews.

- Kathleen Copeland

The Haps in District 6

District 6 is looking for a new QCC Director and QCC Secretary/Treasurer. Please let **Terry Littleton** or **Mike Ogilvie**, statewide Secretary/Treasurer, know if you are interested.

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>

The Haps in District 7

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

It was brought to our attention that **Sidney Thompson**, of QCC District 7, was 85 years old with 32 years of State Service when he passed away on May 23, 2023. His older brother, **Leonard**, and his younger brothers, **Walter** and **Melvin** all worked for Caltrans. **Sidney** retired as a Highway Maintenance Superintendent in D-7.

The Haps in District 8

District 8 has informal lunches on the 4th Wednesday of odd months at The Sizzler on Waterman Ave in San Bernardino. We never know who will show up. In November we had **Andy Machen, Linda Supernaw, Sybille Phillips, Walt Griffin, Priscilla Williams, Vera Holloway, Jamal Elsaleh, Tom Powell & Jay Rodriguez**.

The Christmas Luncheon was planned for Saturday December 9th at The Mexico Café. We are anticipating 45 QCC Members and Guests. It's sure to be lots of fun.

The following are new appointments or promotions in the district:

From the D8 District Director:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Haissam Yahya** as the Deputy District Director of Traffic Operations effective September 11, 2023.

Mr. Haissam Yahya has over 32 years of work experience in Caltrans, with the last 20 years in the Division of Traffic Operations. In 2017, he

had the opportunity to serve as the Acting Deputy District Director (DDD) for Maintenance and Traffic Operations in District 9 for three months, from which he gained an overall perspective of the operation & function of all the offices within the Division. He also served as the Acting sustainability/asset/innovation manager for seven months in the district.

Before moving to Traffic Operations in 2003, he was a Senior Transportation Engineer (Project Manager) in PPM and worked in design and planning as a lead worker. On January 1, 2022, he was selected to be the District Division Chief for Traffic Operations/Safety Division where he led a team of 63 employees who are responsible for all facets of Traffic Operation functions. As the District Safety Coordinator, Haissam has served on multitude committees which developed guidelines for new Traffic Safety related programs and represented the district at the statewide Safety Steering Committee.

Haissam has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from California State University, Long Beach and is a licensed Civil Engineer.

Haissam is married and has three sons, one grandson and a second grandson on the way. He enjoys traveling and spending time with the family.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Thomas Ainsworth for doing a great job as the acting Deputy District Director of Program Project Management over the past few months.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Sarah Hartz** to the position of Office Chief, Southern Regional Lab (SRL), Fontana, effective December 1, 2023.

Sarah started her Caltrans journey as a Permanent Intermittent Caltrans Highway Maintenance Worker 27 years ago. After gaining experience

and knowledge of driving State trucks, she pursued and received her Commercial Driver's License within 8 months of being employed just before her 19th birthday.

Sarah decided to go back to school in 2001 and



in 2004 received her bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Cal State Northridge. A year later she started working for the Office of Structures Construction in the Sylmar

Construction Field Office. She acquired her Professional Engineer's License in 2011 and became a Structures Representative on several projects throughout District 7. In 2018, she transferred to District 7 Construction in the Antelope Valley where she was an RE on several construction projects in the northern LA area.

An opportunity for advancement arose in the fall of 2019 when she was promoted to the Independent Assurance South Branch Chief for Materials Engineering and Testing Services (METS). In this role she supervised a team in 4 satellite offices in Southern California including Districts 7, 8, 11 and 12. To continue advancing in her Caltrans career she took on the role as the Acting Office Chief for the Office of Central Laboratories for METS in September of 2021. While in this position she managed 50+ personnel in 5 labs for 8 months. In May of 2022, she returned to her previous role as the IA South Branch Chief through the end of 2022.

Since January 2023 she's continued to challenge herself by taking on the role as the Acting Office Chief for the Southern Regional Lab where she has managed 50+ personnel in 5 laboratories.

In Sarah's free time, she enjoys raising chickens, goats and dogs, gardening, reading, and traveling with her husband and son.

Please help me welcome Sarah to her permanent role.

From **Manuel Farias**, Sup TE Program/Project Management:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Elias Gutierrez** on an Out of Class Assignment as the Consultant Services Unit Branch Chief (SSM1), in the Division of Program/Project Management, effective December 4, 2023.

Elias graduated from the Universidad Panamericana in Mexico in 2003, with a Bachelor's degree in International Business Management. He has 12 years of experience in Budgets and Cost Analysis.

Prior to joining Caltrans, he worked in the food manufacturing industry as Sales Supervisor, Production Planning and Cost Analysis. He began working with Caltrans in 2016 as an AGPA in District 4 Maintenance Support, and later joined District 12 Office of Budgets. In 2018, he began working at District 8 PPM Consultant Services Unit as a Contract Analyst, where he made important contributions in financial reporting and analysis.

In his spare time, **Elias** enjoys spending time with his family, travel and gardening.

Please join me in welcoming Elias to his new role.

Sent on behalf of the Deputy District Director, PPM:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Vida Delrooz** to the position of Senior Transportation Engineer- Project Manager, in the

Division of Program/Project Management, effective October 16, 2023.

Vida started her career at Caltrans District 8 in the Division of Design in January of 1999. Since then, she worked in the Divisions of Construction, Environmental-Environmental Engineering and Program/Project Management.

She has served as Project Engineer, Office Engineer, Construction Inspector, Constructability Reviewer, Hazardous Waste Specialist, Assistant Risk Manager and Assistant Project Manager, and has worked on a variety of complex Transportation Projects.

Prior to Caltrans, Vida worked in the private sector where she worked on planning and designing houses, office buildings and apartment buildings.

Vida has a Bachelor of Science degree in Architectural Studies and Urban Planning. In 1987, Vida and family moved to California. Vida is married and blessed with one daughter. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

Please join me in welcoming Vida to her new role.

Sent on behalf of the Deputy District Director, Right of Way and Land Surveys:

Please join me in welcoming **Nora Gutierrez** to her new position as Senior Transportation Surveyor in Right of Way Engineering, effective October 9, 2023.

Nora graduated from the California State Polytechnic University at Pomona in 2006 with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering with emphasis in Geospatial. She is a licensed land surveyor who has been practicing land surveying for 17 years, both public and private sectors, working on a variety of small- and large-scale

projects, including several transportation projects as field and as office surveyor in the Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties.

In 2020 she was hired by Caltrans District 8 Right of Way Engineering where she was involved in different acquisition projects. Earlier this year, **Nora** accepted a temporary position at Caltrans Headquarters, Office of Land Surveying, where she had the opportunity to work on different tasks statewide, setup the Right of Way Engineering Academy I as well as other training classes as part of the Right of Way Engineering Support team.

In her spare time Nora enjoys eating tacos (mainly al pastor), traveling, camping, watching football and spending time with family and friends.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank **Ruben Rodriguez** for his time and effort over the last four months as acting Senior Transportation Surveyor in Right of Way Engineering.

Sent on behalf of the Deputy District Director, Construction:

I am pleased to announce that **Mohammad (Moe) H. Izadpanah** has been selected for the Senior Transportation Engineer position for Unit 4491 in the Murrieta Field Office, effective October 2, 2023.

Moe joined Caltrans District 7 in 1987 after graduating from California State University, Long Beach. Upon completing his rotation program, he began assisting with plan revisions for the I-105 Freeway while it was under construction as a part of Design A. In 1995 he moved to the Division of Construction where some of the projects he managed included the SR-60/71 Interchange, the Route 60 widening project, and the Baseline Road widening project.

After obtaining his PE in 1998 and as Resident Engineer for District 7, he administered multiple complex projects, including the new segment of the Foothill Freeway and a pilot project for pre-cast slab replacement on Route 101, among other rehab projects. Most recently, he was responsible for supervising two construction field offices on Out-Of-Class assignments as Acting Senior Transportation Engineer and Senior RE, in addition to his regular responsibilities.

As an RE, **Moe** recently and successfully completed the CMGC San Gabriel River Bridge Hinge Project on Route 210. Aside from the numerous environmental, utility, right-of-way, and Accelerated Bridge Construction technical challenges inherent to this project, it also entailed one of the lengthiest road closures in Caltrans history, totaling two extended events of 126-hour traffic closures, executed over the summer. Along with working with multiple cities, agencies, and stakeholders on this project, Moe takes pride in having successfully completed the project ahead of schedule, within budget, and with a strong focus on quality. His keys to success included fostering a great team, keeping the media informed, and partnering with contractors professionally on this Gold Award Partnering Project.

Moe is married to his beautiful wife of 28 years and has two daughters, one in high school and the other in law school. In his free time, he enjoys gardening, walking, and spending time with family and friends.

Please join me in welcoming Moe to his new position.

Sent on behalf of the acting Deputy District Director, Design:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Aung M Naing** to the position of Senior Transportation Engineer in the Division of Design, effective as of October 1, 2023.

Aung M Naing has over 22 years of experience with Caltrans, and he worked in various programs and divisions in Districts 7 and 8, including the Divisions of Construction, Design, Traffic Operations, and Transportation Planning. Aung began his career at the District Traffic Manager (DTM) unit, the Division of Operations in District 7. Then, he rotated through the Divisions of Design and Construction in District 7.

Aung Naing transferred to the Division of Planning in District 8 in January 2005. During his 12 years in Planning, he worked in the Traffic Forecasting, Inter-Governmental Review (IGR), System Planning, and Project Initiation Documents (PID) Oversight units. Then he transferred to the D08 Traffic Operations' Surveillance C unit for two years.

In July 2018, Aung joined the D08 Division of Design's Innovation Delivery Design unit to work on the district's high-profile Design-Build projects such as the I-10 Corridor Contract 1 Express Lanes, I-15/SR-91 Express Lanes Connector (ELC), SR-91 Corridor Improvement Project (CIP) – phase 2, Brightline West High-Speed Rail, I-15 Wildlife Crossing, and I-10 Pavement Rehabilitation Project in Coachella.

Aung M. Naing is a Licensed Professional Engineer in California. He received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2000. Also, he earned his Master's degree in Transportation Management (MSTM) from San Jose State University in June 2022.

He is always eager to find new ways to give back to his community. Aung has volunteered his time at various community events including the 2010 and 2020 U.S. Census Complete Count in California. In his leisure time, he enjoys traveling, volunteering at community events, and spending time with family and friends.

Please join me congratulating Aung and wishing him success in his new role!

Sent on behalf of the Deputy District Director, Maintenance:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Nhan N. Nguyen** to the position of Senior Transportation Engineer in the Division of Maintenance, effective as of October 4, 2023.

Nhan has over 33 years of professional civil engineering experience including 26 years with Caltrans, District 8 with a remarkable 17 years in the Division of Construction. His outstanding contributions in the Construction Division were acknowledged when he received the Resident Engineer of the Year award in 2019. Throughout his career, Nhan has held pivotal roles such as Construction Resident Engineer, Maintenance Assistant Project Manager, and Safety Traffic Engineer. His noteworthy achievements include his role in the development of the Lane Closure Systems (LCS), a system currently in statewide use. In addition, Nhan played a vital role in advancing Construction Boot Camp in District 8's Highway Maintenance (HM) Inspector Program.

Nhan received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1991 from California Polytechnic State University, Pomona and is a registered Civil Engineer.

Nhan is married and has three daughters. He enjoys traveling with family and friends.

Please join me in congratulating Nhan and wishing him every success in his new role!

Retirement Celebrations

Manuel Farias - December 19 (33 years)

Jim Rogers

Robert (Bob) Trujillo – Oct 19 (27 years)

Marta Uranga – Nov 1 (30 years)

A Road Last Traveled

From **Jean Advincula**:

I regret to inform you that one of our District 8 family members, **Monica Yanis**, passed away on September 22, 2023. She started her career with Caltrans as a TMC Operator in January 2003. On May 4, 2015, she transferred to the District 8 TMC and then promoted to a Transportation Engineering Technician on June 23, 2018. Monica was not only an important part of our team, but she was a colleague and friend. She will be greatly missed.

From **Tom Powell** regarding **Leo Haynes**:

I talked with Leo's son, Daniel and he told me that **Leo** passed away on 11/7. There was a celebration of Leo's life on Tuesday, November 21st. BTW, Leo helped me get back to Caltrans when Norton AFB was closing, and I would have to commute to El Segundo every day. **Leo** was a good friend and an **Honorary QCC Member**. There were many retirees that said Leo was a joy to work with, we will miss him.

Sent on behalf of the District 8 Director:

District 8 Caltrans family,

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you that **Yvette Kearns**, D8 Property Controller, passed away suddenly on Friday, November 17, 2023. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Information regarding services will be shared once received.

- **Linda Supernaw**

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 9

It is slim pickings from District 09. **John Ritter** responded that they had nothing to report. Barbara and I are home bodies and do not go out much. So not much to report.

Caltrans District 09 had a 100-year Anniversary Celebration of the creation of the District on October 18, 2023. It was held at the Bishop



Maintenance Yard on Spruce Street with BBQ tri-tip and potluck for \$15.

There were about 160 current employees and retirees that attended. It was well organized with perfect weather and location. The people we recognized were **Ken & Donna Rischer, Katy Walton, Heigo Orav, Bud & Jerri Moody, Kit Birmingham, Mike & Paula Carrington and Craig Holste.**



Alice Carlson passed away on June 5, 2023 at age 90 at the Carson/Tahoe memory care center. She worked in the Caltrans Bishop office for 42 years in Administration and was the first person anyone met coming in the front door.

The Inyo Register published on October 7, 2023 that **Mike Truitt** passed away. Mike worked in Caltrans Maintenance in Lone Pine, Cambria,

Fort Bragg, Tule Lake, and Bishop. He retired as Bishop Administrative Officer in 2001. He was 80 years old.

Chuck Gillem passed away Oct 7, 2023, he was 90 years old. Chuck worked in Caltrans District 09, mostly in Construction and after retirement moved to Oregon for a couple of years and when his wife Nancy passed away, he moved to Sacramento to be close to his son and family.

"It's important to have a twinkle in your wrinkle." – Unknown

-Lance Hinek

The Haps in District 10

District 10 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in District 11

Well, it's almost the end of the year and the holidays are upon us. We held our annual fall picnic this year at Flinn Springs County Park east of El Cajon. The picnic was held on October 21, and we had a turnout of almost 50 members after not having scheduled one since 2019. The venue seemed to be a hit with those who attended. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out this year including **Susie Martin** and **John Manring** with set up, BBQ team of **Jerry Hawley** and **John Manring**, cleanup crew of **Jerry Hawley, Cyndee McGowan** and **Josan Feathers** (and all those who helped with the Raffles). We're grateful to all you wonderful volunteers without whose help we couldn't put on these types of events! I've attached a few pictures of the picnic here, but there are more on the QCC Facebook page so look for those and thanks again to all of you who came out and made the picnic a success, we appreciate it!



L to R-Pat Egre, Kelly Manning, Richard Von Tersch

During the picnic we signed up two new members and renewed several existing memberships. Including the happy hour event this summer, we've added a total of nine new members and five membership renewals. This total doesn't include the new memberships that signed up outside of these events! By my calculations we've added at least 12 new members for 2023. Way to go District 11!



Bruce and Jacque Urquhart



L to R-Dave Medina, Trish Devine, Bob Cordero, Vicki Williams



Chuck Deyoe and Cyndee McGowan



L to R-Paul Von Normann and Chuck Deyoe

Remember it's the end of the year and your renewal notices are on the last page of the newsletter. So please send in your dues so you can continue to be a member in good standing! Dues have to be sent to the QCC post office address. If you aren't able to print the form,

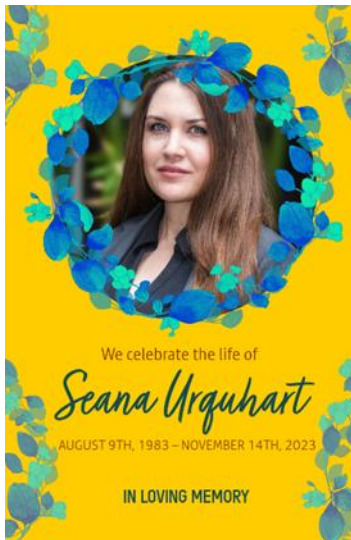
email me and I'll send it out to you. In the past, I sent out email updates to prior members, but now my email list only includes active members. Please note that invitations to all future events will be sent out via email so send us your email addresses or you won't receive notifications regarding happenings!

The **ROMEO (Retired Old Men (and Women) Eating Out)** breakfast at the Denny's in Fletcher Hills is held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Come out and join the gathering. Next month it will be January 17!

A Road Last Traveled

From **Sam Amen**, D11 Division Chief:

It is with profound sorrow that we share the unexpected passing of **Seana Urquhart**, Transportation Engineer (Design). Seana, age 40, succumbed to her battle with cancer on Tuesday, November 14. Her courageous fight began about a month ago, leading her to take a medical leave in October.



Joining the Caltrans District 11 Family in June 2008, Seana brought more than 15 years of invaluable service and was an innovative leader who went above and beyond the call of duty in pursuit of a life of service to others. She always had an explanation for technical

difficulties- it could be either solar flares or sharks chewing on the cables. Keeping an eye out for the future of transportation, she would share her knowledge of Civil Engineering to student assistants and would educate current

Caltrans Family Members during the District's Innovation Fair.

A rising star at Caltrans, **Seana** worked with the Project Initiation Document Pavement group for eight years before moving to the Design Division. She also volunteered her time with the San Diego Chapter of the Women Transportation Seminar (WTS) where she chaired the annual awards dinner and book club.

The memory of Seana's unique and vibrant spirit will be cherished by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

It is with deep sorrow that the unexpected passing of **Pedro Vasquez**, Equipment Operator I (who was a valued member of the El Centro Functional/Landscape Crew) was announced. He passed away on September 15, succumbing to cancer, after dedicating 13 years to serving the state with unwavering commitment, all within Caltrans District 11.

In 2010, Pedro's courage was honored with the Caltrans Medal of Valor. He was one of six District 11 employees who, while traveling on Interstate 8 in Jacumba, encountered a tragic



accident. A van had overturned, sparking a small brush fire. Amid the chaos, two employees discovered an unconscious woman in the driver's seat. **Pedro** and a fellow employee heroically extinguished the fire, ingeniously crafted a

backboard from the wreckage, released the woman from her seatbelt, secured her on the backboard, and successfully rescued her from the vehicle just moments before it was engulfed in flames. Pedro is survived by his wife, Maria Salazar, and their daughters, Amy Vasquez and Desaree Vasquez.

In Other News

Rajpreet S Khangura announced the appointment of **Alaa Elabed** as the new District 11 Branch Chief, Electrical Construction. Alaa graduated from Fresno State in 1993 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He began his career with the Prysmian group first as a manufacturing engineer and ended as a senior datacom design engineer designing Cat6 E cable.



Alaa returned to school for a master's degree in Electrical Engineering from UCSD in 2004. He worked for Wireless Facilities Inc. as an RF engineer designing cellular networks before joining Caltrans District 7 in 2006 as an Electrical Construction Engineer.

Alaa moved to the District 11 Ramp Metering branch in 2007. He rotated to Electrical Design in 2018, where he worked on several corridors designing various TMS elements during the PS&E phase. He also worked in the TMS maintenance branch in 2022. In March 2023, he took an assignment as the acting senior of electrical construction. Alaa is married and has 3 children. He likes to build solar panels from scratch, play soccer and volleyball, and camp with friends.

Everett Townsend announced the appointment of **Harwell Ontoy** as the new District 11

Division Chief, Maintenance Engineering and Asset Management (MEAM) effective December 1, 2023. Harwell has been a member of the District 11 family for over 30 years and currently serves as a Branch Chief in Minor B, a



position he has held for the last eight years. During this time, he also served as the district's Major Damage Engineer, responding, and initiating numerous emergency contracts to repair damages and restore the safe operation of the state highway infrastructure within the district's boundary.

Prior to his role as the Minor B Branch Chief, **Harwell** served for five years as Design Manager for the Interstate 805 South Corridor, and for 10 years as Senior Resident Engineer, Design Manager, and Project Engineer of the high-profile Interstate 15 Managed Lanes project. Born in the Philippines and raised in Houston, Texas, Harwell graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1990 and is a licensed Civil Engineer in California.

Harwell enjoys spending time with his wife Ruth and daughter Hannah, going on road trips, outdoor activities, serving his community through church ministries, and collaborating with fellow musicians.

Everett Townsend also announced that **Clint Peace** will serve as new Division Chief, Program/Project Management beginning immediately.

Clint was born and raised in San Diego and graduated in 2003 from UCSD with a degree in Structural Engineering. Prior to joining Caltrans

in 2007, **Clint** gained experience in the private sector as the director of operations for a local media production company. Clint has more than 16 years of experience with District 11, including three years as part of the I-15 corridor group prior to joining the I-5 corridor as an Assistant Project Manager.



In 2018 **Clint** was promoted to Office Chief of PPM where he also had an acting assignment as D11 Deputy District Director of PPM in 2020.

In his personal life, Clint and his wife Heidi have two boys who keep them busy. Clint enjoys spending time with his family and working on home improvement projects. Please join me in welcoming Clint to this role.

Gerard Chadergian announced **Joel Sims** as the new Senior Branch Chief of Signing and



Striping Design in the Division of Engineering effective October 2nd, 2023. Joel began his career at Caltrans after receiving a BS in Physics from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma and a BS in Civil

Engineering from Oklahoma State University. **Joel** recently passed his 35-year milestone working at Caltrans.

His first assignment was in San Bernardino as a Junior Civil Engineer in 1988, then on loan to San Jose Structure Construction, and after completion of that he made a permanent transfer to District 11. In his 33 years in this district, he has dedicated 25 years in the Signing and

Striping department with 1 year on loan back to Structure Construction in Riverside County and 7 years as a Project Engineer in the TCIF (now SCTC) Trade Corridor.

He looks forward to working with other groups in the district and in headquarters to further advance the department’s efficiency, production and innovation.

In his spare time **Joel** enjoys hiking, reading novels, listening to talk radio, shooting pool, playing guitar and singing in his church choir, and spoiling his two cats. He is grateful for all his blessings in life and extends his thanks to those that have supported him throughout his career, including his wife Rima and daughter Jamila, and his many friends and coworkers.

Retirements

- Gabriel Acero** – November (33 years)
- Gus Silva** – December (35 years)
- Eirik Einarsson** – December (26 years)
- Gustavo Dallarda** – December

- Kelly Manning

The Haps in District 12

District 12 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in Central

The Winter Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, December 14, 2023, at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 1625 Watt Avenue, Sacramento.

Plan to join us for our Spring Luncheon at the same place on Thursday, April 18, 2024. Contact Dave Saxby at 916-479-2978 or dpbear74@gmail.com

Ray Zelinski has informed us of the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Caltrans Bridge Department. See the story on the front page.

Saying Goodbye

Both **Warren Weber** and his wife **Ruth Ann** recently passed. Their presence at our QCC



luncheons (He was an **Honorary QCC Member**) the last 15+ years was a mainstay. We will miss them.

Warren Weber passed this summer. I have fond memories of Warren. I remember sharing with him my experience riding the train from San Juan Capistrano to the San Fernando Valley. It was Saturday morning. I boarded the train and found it full of passengers! I took the one remaining seat and overheard a first timer talking on his phone saying how great his train experience was. I recalled him saying, "I'll never drive to LA again." Upon hearing my account, Warren just smiled. I'm sure many of you in HQ and districts have similar recollections. - **Wes**

Warren is remembered by his daughter, Karen, who speaks of his life and parenting:

*It is with heavy hearts that Cheryl and I have to announce that our dad, **Warren Douglas Weber**, passed away at his care facility on Wednesday, August 30, 2023, in Sacramento, from heart failure. He was 83 years old.*

Our dad was born in Los Angeles, CA on June 14, 1940. He grew up in Burbank, CA where he, as a small boy, was active in cub scouts and boy scouts. He graduated from John Burroughs High School in 1958. He was active in his high school theater group, where he was the lead in several plays. He received Actor of the Year in his senior year. He worked at a local grocery store in high school and through college. Shortly after graduation from Los Angeles State University in 1963, he married his high school sweetheart, our mom, Ruth Ann.

Once they were married, they made the big move to Sacramento, CA. My dad wanted to live and work near the state capitol. He found his passion, and in 2005, he retired, after 40 years of service, with the Department of Transportation. The last 8 years of his career, he was the Chief of Caltrans Division of Rail.

When he wasn't working and traveling with his job, he was home being a great dad. He loved Cheryl and me. He was very protective, and we always felt spoiled by him. He provided well for us, and we never felt like we lacked for anything. He taught us how to value education and instilled in us a strong work ethic.

Being a Weber girl meant we were resilient and could handle anything. We never gave up on what we wanted and always knew to accept nothing less than we deserved. Thanks to my dad we have been well equipped to handle anything that comes our way. Our dad was also a very proud Grandpa to 5 grandsons.

My dad loved all kinds of puzzles, books, playing golf, hiking and going to plays. He had to get his daily fill of TV news, Jeopardy and Family Feud. In fact, Cheryl and I knew never to call between 7 and 8 pm because that's when his game shows were on.

In the last few years of his life, he devoted all of his time and energy to care for our mom, who is currently in a memory care facility with late-stage dementia. There will not be a service or memorial, as that was our dad's final wish. His ashes will be interred at East Lawn Memorial Park in Sacramento, CA. We love you so much dad. You were a stubborn fighter to the very end. You took good care of Cheryl and I and mom. You can rest now. Until we meet again in heaven.

Love always, Karen (Kare-bear) and Cheryl

It is with extremely heavy hearts to announce that **Ruth Ann Weber** passed away after a brief and aggressive battle with Dementia on November 27, 2023. She was 80 years old.

Ruth Ann Weber is remembered by her daughters, Karen and Cheryl:

Our mom was born (Ruth Ann Edstrom) on January 4, 1943, in Chicago, Illinois. Her family moved to CA when she was just a baby.

Our mom graduated from John Burroughs High School in Burbank, CA and started at the local community college while working for the local department store, May Company. She left college and her job and married our dad at the age of 20. From there, they moved to Sacramento.

When we were old enough to be at school all day, our mom decided it was time for her to go back to school and finish up her college degree. In 1983, she received her BA in Business Administration from Sacramento State. She soon was hired on to the Sacramento City Unified School District, starting out in a few schools and then later, as a payroll specialist for the district where she stayed for the duration of her career.

She was an amazing woman. Full of heart and compassion. The last few years, her dementia took that away and robbed our family of precious time. We knew it was her disease, not her. It was

still hard. We grieved our mom about a year ago when she no longer was capable of doing the things she once loved. Our dad took care of her until he no longer could, and then in July, right after our parents 60th wedding anniversary, we had no choice but to move her to a memory care facility.

We can be comforted by the fact that she is with our dad now. She is no longer living in confusion, fear and anger. We love you so much Mom. We will see you again one day!! Take good care of Dad.

Earlene Borden passed away on September 19, 2023. She will be missed. I met **Earlene** when I



began working for **Jim Borden** in 1984. Over the decades she accompanied Jim at a multitude of social events with colleagues. I always looked forward to visiting with her. Many of us will recall

her/their friendship and be thankful to have them in our lives.

Please see the following for her obituary:
[Earlene Borden Obituary \(1935 - 2023\) - Fair Oaks, CA - The Sacramento Bee \(legacy.com\)](#)

- **Wes Lum**

Events

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 Ctr in Placerville.

Contact: **Doug Becker** 530-622-1665,

doug.becker@att.net

District 4 -

The Caltrans Lunch Bunch meets three times a year at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco.

Contact **Dianne Steinhauser** and **Michael Chan** at chanhausers@juno.com to receive invitations to these gatherings.

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

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 Sizzler on Waterman Ave 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 -

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.

Contact Butch Biendara 858-279-5054

eagleayerie@hotmail.com

Central District -

QCC Spring Luncheon is Thursday, April 18, 2024.

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.

QCC Membership Renewal Form

Effective 2023

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

(PLEASE PRINT LEGIABLY)

Name _____ District _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zipcode _____

Phone (____) _____

E-Mail address _____@_____

Date of Retirement _____ Years of Service _____

Dues amount: _____ check one

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

*- 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

