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# TheQCCer

# The Newsletter of the Quarter Century Club

VOLUME 32, No. 1

**MARCH 2023** 



# **Elections are here!!**

# MAKE SURE TO MAIL YOUR BALLOT BY APRIL 15TH

# From the Side Pocket

he QCC candidates for the Statewide Office of President, 1st Vice President, and 2nd Vice President have provided statements to be presented to the members. There is only one candidate for each office.

### To vote follow these directions:

- Turn to the bottom of page 19 and cut out the ballot portion
- Mark the ballot and insert it into an envelope and seal
- Print and sign your name on the **back** of the envelope.
- Mail to: QCC, PO Box 421292, San Diego, CA 92142-1292.

Maintenance, and the remaining 32 years in Construction.

During my career, I benefited from the experience, perspective, and guidance from my fellow employees, while working from my first day on the job through retirement. The Quarter Century Club, from the Department's evolution from the Division of Highways to Caltrans, has helped me maintain a link with friends and acquaintances shaped by common experiences, shared purpose, and long history.

I am excited by the prospect of multiplying and deepening these relationships and experiences by participating in the Quarter Century Club on a statewide basis.

### President: Alfonso (Al) Ochoa

I retired from Caltrans with 33 years of service. I worked in the Lab for 13 years and 13 years in Construction. The balance was in Project Studies and Office Engineer (Specifications). I retired in December of 2019 as a Senior Transportation Engineer.

# 1st Vice President: Chuck Deyoe

I retired two years ago after 38 years of state service, all of which was in District 11. I worked three years in Design, three years in



**QCC Logo** 

# 2nd Vice President: Jerald (Jerry) Hawley

Thank you for considering me to serve on the QCC Board as Vice President. My 36-year career with Caltrans started in the Design Department in 1979, working in the historic District Office in beautiful Old Town, San Diego. Much of my career was spent primarily in Construction and Materials Lab. During that time, I was fortunate to have worked alongside current

nominees Chuck Deyoe and Al Ochoa, as well as **Kelly Manring**, Director, District 11 QCC.

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My career at Caltrans was highlighted by the many mentors I came to know, who willingly shared their knowledge and expertise. More importantly, I made many life-long friends. Some of my favorite memories include playing softball and basketball with fellow Caltrans employees in Presidio Park, barbecuing at Department picnics, retirements, and FUN-raisers (parties and celebrations). Having retired 7 years ago, I miss the interaction, great advice, and opinions from my co-workers. QCC has provided a way for me to stay in touch and see both current and retired Caltrans employees at many of our annual events, and to be apprised of current happenings throughout the Caltrans organization. In addition, I regularly attend the monthly (ROMEO) breakfasts.

Moving forward, our focus could be on growing the QCC roster, and to recruit more currently employed members. We could also look into other activities such as group trips to sporting events, visiting local and nearby points of interest, wineries or breweries, and supporting local businesses.

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# State & District Officers

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**Treasurer**: Donald Anderson

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Secretary: Bill Belcher 3863 Aster Street Springfield, OR 97478 shastagec@yahoo.com

**District 3 Director**: Jan Johnson

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**Secretary**: Lib Haraughty

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Secretary: Vacant

**District 8 Director**: Sybille Phillips

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Secretary/Treasurer: Marsha Lotze

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Secretary: Brian Young

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**District 11 Director**: Kelly Manring

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**Secretary/Treasurer**: Christine Valle

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Francisco "CDR. Frank" Paras Jr.

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

# CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION (CTF)

By Mallory Fites

**CTF** touches the lives of many in the transportation community. CTF's mission to recognize, remember, and educate has benefitted students, workers, and their families throughout California. Donors, sponsors, and supporters reflect a broad cross section of the industry.

Recently the annual Quarter Century Club letter to current members was mailed out. CTF received a wonderful response from QCC donors and has raised \$2,500 to support CTF scholarships and fallen worker programs. Whether you support CTF because you want to give back or pay it forward, there's a reason you choose to honor CTF with your contributions. And we want to hear all about it. That's why CTF is launching the "What's YOUR why" campaign.

Here's how you can participate:

 Drop CTF a note! We love to hear from our supporters. Snail mail or email is fine by us. With your permission CTF might share YOUR why with our audience in an upcoming newsletter or on social media. Email <u>mallory@the-ctf.org</u> or mail to CTF at 9500 Kiefer Blvd. PO Box 276828, Sacramento, CA 95827.

# In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Gene L Barber	03	Dec 11, 2022
Charlie (Chuck) Dosse	y 03	Dec 19, 2022
Joseph (Joe) H Evans	03	Oct 10, 2022
Dan Young	09	Jan 22, 2023
Mike Curren	11	Dec 30, 2022
Bob Giess	C	Feb 14, 2023
Rebecca Boyer	C	Dec 28, 2022

**Remember** to pay your dues and send back the **Membership Form** (Page 19) so we have your most current address, phone and email.

# 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

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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!

## **Editor's Recruiting Note:**

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

# The Haps in District 1

istrict 1 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

# The Haps in District 2

erry Severson shares that his and Nancy's adventures have been a little limited this year. However, they did do a Viking cruise of the Great Lakes in Sept./Oct. last year. The timing worked out great to see the fall colors. They would recommend that cruise!

They are both in their 80's and fortunately have been enjoying good health....(can still do most everything they did in their 60's)

**Jerry** is currently scratch building another "parade plane" (means it won't fly). This one is



F-86 Saber (Parade Plane) Under Construction

an F-86 Saber. It's constructed with wood and aluminum. All flight control surfaces are functional, including the side opening air brakes. It is 14 feet long, with a 12-foot wingspan.

**Bill** stated, "Personally, I say enough is enough! So tired of shoveling snow. Glad that the drought is finally winding down, however, a sunny beach with a nice libation would be very welcome!"

-Bill Belcher

# The Haps in District 3

ot much news from District 3 other than it's raining in the valley and snowing in the mountains. We've surely needed all the rain and snow up and down the state. These past 10-12 days, we've had roads closed all over. Some for hours and others for days. Caltrans crews are working 24 hours a day trying their best to open or keep open our highways.

It is interesting following Facebook on what is

going on up and down the state. The Districts along with CHP are posting pictures of the various snow operations and accidents or why the roads are closed. It amazes me to see just how dumb some people are when it comes to winter driving,

I recently took a bus trip with the Yuba City Senior Center to San Francisco. We went to the de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park and saw their display of Ramesses II. Amazing displays,



and the marble, huge pieces of work. It's amazing to me to think how did they make those pyramids' as big and tall as they were and the faces and bodies. It's too bad that so many of the

pharaoh's tombs were raided over 100+ years ago and the pieces are still missing today. If you ever get the chance, go and see the displays at your local museum. I'd really like to see King Tut if it's brought back to San Francisco again. Oh, and taking the bus from Yuba City to San Francisco is the only way to go.

Three District 3 retirees have passed since our last newsletter: **Gene Barber, Chuck Dossey** and **Joe Evans**. As we get older we begin to realize none of us are destined to be here forever. I knew **Gene** while I was in high school. His mother Sybil worked at Bank of America with my dad and I baby sat his son Devin and daughter Erin. **Chuck Dossey**, an **Honorary QCC Member** attended our luncheons and was such a nice man to talk with. And finally **Joe Evans** worked at the Special Crews yard in Marysville when I started working for Caltrans. He retired shortly after I started there. – **Jan Johnson** 

Source: Appeal Democrat Dec 16, 2022

**Gene L. Barber** passed away quietly at home on December 11, 2022 at the age of 85. Gene was born in Hetland, South Dakota on March 15, 1937 to the late Darrel and Sybil Barber of Yuba

City. By the time he was two, California became



his home state. For over 70 of the following years, he lived in the Yuba City area where he met his wife, Marlene (Conner) Barber, a born and bred native of California.

Gene loved his family

and consciously set out to raise them well by keeping them close. Water skiing and house-boating accomplished that. All four children became avid swimmers and water skiers, learning to love the outdoors. Summer weekends would find his family at Lake Oroville on the houseboat he designed and built. Although eventually he did agree to several family trips to the Hawaiian Islands, home was the place he loved best.

Gene began working for Cal Trans (Division of Highways as it was then known) immediately upon finishing college, moving through various departments until he ultimately became the Claims Officer for District 3, a position he held for the last 13 years of his career. In total he worked for Cal Trans for 44 years. This was followed by several years of consultant legal work.

Gene is survived by his beloved wife Marlene, his son Devin Barber (Gail), and a daughter, Erin Crawford (Scott). Two sons predeceased him, Michael Barber and Jeffery Barber.

Source: Appeal Democrat Feb 11, 2023

Charlie "Chuck" Dossey passed away at his home in Yuba City on December 19, 2022, at the age of 91. He was born in Shinewell, Oklahoma in 1931, to Homer and Maggie Dossey. After graduating from Idabel High School, he enlisted in the Navy and was an aviation ordnanceman during the Korean War, stationed at China Lake, California.

In 1953, **Chuck** married Mary Vickers in Bakersfield where sons Mark and Gary were



born. He attended junior college there and later moved to Sacramento where son Kevin was born. After graduating from Sac State, he worked for the State Board of Equalization. In 1962, he began his career as a Right of Way Agent

with Caltrans in Marysville and the family moved to Yuba City where he lived for 60 years.

Chuck and the family enjoyed camping, hunting, fishing, waterskiing, and summer vacations to the Midwest. He coached Little League and pitched on several softball teams, playing into his 60s. After retiring, he and Mary loved traveling in their trailer, which included trips to the East Coast and Alaska, monthly campouts with the Yuba Buttes RV Club, and winters in Yuma. He was also an avid golfer and a member of SIRS and the Moose Lodge.

Chuck was preceded in death by his wife, Mary and his brother, Ronald. He is survived by sister, Norma; former wife, Linda; sons, Mark (Michele) of Bishop, Gary (Georgianne) of Yuba City, and Kevin (Ouane) of Oroville; stepdaughter, Carmen (Troy) of Yuba City; grandchildren, Ashley, Jarod, Anna, Jace, and Ryan; and step-grandchildren, TJ and Ethan.

A Military Honors burial service was held on February 24, 2023 at Sutter Cemetery.

Source: Legacy Dec 23, 2022

On October 10, 2022, **Joseph Henry Evans** passed away after a decade long battle with cancer. Born in Okfuskee, OK (a town lost to

the dust bowl) to Granville and Mable (Graham) Evans on December 23, 1936. He was a longtime Yuba-Sutter resident. **Joe** graduated Yuba City



High in 1955 and became a tree service worker retiring from Cal-Trans' special crew. He trimmed trees and oleanders along state highways in summer and removed snow on I-80 and Hwy. 89 in the winter. He was an avid

SF 49ers/Giants and Johnny Cash fan.

He was preceded in death by his daughter JoLynn Ingram of Yuba City and all of his siblings.

He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Lynda N. Evans (McDougle), sons Darcy J. Evans (Diane) of Natomas and John G. Evans of Olivehurst. Five grandchildren, Joey Ingram of Yuba City, Jessie Barrett of Meridian, Joshua Ingram of Yuba City and Raine and Zoe Evans of WA and one great-granddaughter Willow Ingram of Yuba City.

The family would like to express much gratitude and many thank you to the men and women of the Linda Fire District engine #1 for all of their assistance in his waning months. God Bless you one and all.

Hope to have more stories and fun stuff in the next newsletter. We are planning our Spring Luncheon and looking for a different venue. District 3 retirees, please send me updates or input for the next newsletter. janiann47@gmail.com.

Until the next time, stay safe out there.

- Jan Johnson

# The Haps in District 4

his past December 13th, former Caltrans employees from the Bay Area gathered in South San Francisco at the Basque Cultural Center for a Caltrans Retiree Christmas Luncheon. The event was a smashing success and included both the Newly Retired and the Been-Retired-For-Awhile!! Organized by Ed Coble with help from Dianne Steinhauser and Michael Chan, the event included over 60 attendees arriving in their holiday finery, with former compadres happy to see each other, and catch up on travels, health, family, and friends.

Both new faces and long timers attended, from all around the Bay Area, including Ed Coble's Lunch Bunch. All of Caltrans divisions were remembered with fondness, even by executive management who had to put up with all the petulant youngsters from the 1980's!! The Come From Afar award went to a close friend of Ed Coble's visiting from Michigan. Anyone interested in future luncheon events should contact Dianne Steinhauser or Mike Chan at chanhausers@juno.com. The next luncheon, our Spring Fling, is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. Please contact Mike or Dianne to reserve your spot!!

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

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.** 

Similarly, the **North Bay Lunch Group** meets on the second Tuesday each month at 11:30am at

various locations in the Santa Rosa area, coordinated by **Jerry Griffith.** 

Here is another story from Gordon Analla below.

# A Towering Presence, Chet Moran By Gordon Analla

It was a Saturday morning over a week plus from A mountain of a man. He came up from Southern California, the Los Angeles area. He was a Supervisor for a road maintenance crew there. We both interviewed for a position in Facilities Maintenance for Caltrans in the District Office of then, 150 Oak St. Needless to say, he got the position.

A few months later, our paths crossed as I became a Safety Officer. Part of my responsibilities were not only administrative, but I became involved in many activities at the DO. Hence, I would come into contact with him. And though I wouldn't state we had conflicts, there was an air of disagreement with us both. This would continue throughout both our careers. I was assigned to do safety/facility inspections in the building. Me learning the ropes, went over his head on an issue, which was my mistake. However, I didn't take kindly to be called "young man". That didn't sit right with me.

Oddly enough, about a year later, I would work for him on the weekends at the DO, as a security person. This was at a time when Caltrans was really in the hiring mode, with tests being held almost twice a month. The overtime really helped me.

Chet was a good boss. This reputation carried with him his entire career. A bit later, he became the District 4 Equipment Manager. He did the job very well. He was on the upswing. There were those that were intimidated by this big man. He was loud, and gruff, with a booming voice,

very distinguishable. Being the Equipment Manager is really a thankless job as there are so many complaints about equipment. One must also work with the Shop 4 personnel. It can be an uneasy marriage, but he did the job well. Often times, our paths would meet as later I became a field safety officer, and Chet would attend monthly safety meetings.

Flash forward, just a year ago or so. During a discussion with my son, we spoke of an open house day, one Saturday, at the Foster City Maintenance Station. This is almost 40 years ago. My son, then, was five. He remembered Chet and the memories were fond of him. My son commented that he wasn't treated like a child by him, and that he thought he was a nice guy. That really left an impression on me.

Eventually Chet was promoted to Regional Manager of three regions that were combined to form a super region. They being San Francisco, Foster City, and San Jose. This is where we had our disagreements. He felt free to swear when speaking to me in front of his cronies, and I in turn, felt free to swear back at him. In my heart, I know he cared about his employees. One of them was a friend from back in the day. This was a time when Maintenance had to use their overtime allotment for the year or risk getting less the following fiscal year. Personnel were working long hours. When this old friend came over to Chet's home and sat down on the couch, he soon fell asleep. This was when Chet stopped the lot. I can't tell you how much I appreciated that . . . .looking after his employees.

Could he have been easier to deal with? Of course. Yes, it was hard for me to sit in a safety meeting with the crews and hear his booming voice outside the meeting hall, shooting the s—t. He certainly didn't pull any punches when he talked to me. All I could do, was do my best, and let the chips fly. To be honest, it was difficult.

In his later years with the Department, he lost part

of his foot, due to a medical condition. His physical appearance then started to deteriorate. But he was a real trooper, as that didn't keep him from going to work. He passed away a few years after I left Caltrans. I was sorry for the way life treated him at the end. Funny, but each day, he is included in my prayers. We had our problems, but there was something about **Chet**, I don't know what it was, but I did like him and admire him. I truly believe he made me a better and stronger person. RIP.

- Nigel Blampied

# The Haps in District 5

pring is coming, but it still feels like winter here on the Central Coast. We have had higher than normal rainfall, and we even experienced snow for a few days. Thankfully, it came in inches, not in feet as other parts of California. **Tim Griffin** posted a photo of snow around his hot tub at their home in North County. BRRRRR...

With all this weather, Caltrans has been extremely busy. Highway 1 is still closed in a few places, although you can once again reach Ragged Point. They hope to open the road at Mill Creek by the end of March. However, we're expecting another "river" of moisture soon which could change their plans. Maintenance has also been working to fill the many potholes which have developed on Routes 41, 101, and 227.

A public meeting was held in February by the City of SLO to give an update on the proposed Prado Road overcrossing. It would provide access from Higuera Street to the new San Luis Ranch development bordered by Highway 101 and Madonna Road. The project is expected to be completed by 2029.

I am pleased to tell you that **Scott Eades** has been named the new Caltrans District 5 Director. He replaces **Tim Gubbins** who retired last year. Scott has almost 30 years' experience in transportation planning, engineering, and project management. Since August 2020, he served as the DDD for Transportation Planning, Local Assistance and Sustainability. Congratulations, **Scott**!

A February article in the LA Times caught my eye. As part of its Cone Zone campaign, Caltrans has created a traffic cone mascot to help teach driver safety. The oversize orange figure wears a seat belt and a Caltrans cap topped with flashing lights. To name the new mascot, Caltrans hosted a naming contest for children 5 to 18, and they received over 1,800 entries. The winner was a young man from Huntington Beach who submitted the name "Safety Sam". He and his teacher both received prizes. I hope to see Sam on a TV spot or in the news.

I was pleased to be included in a very special party on March 5, when **Pearl Cole** celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Her daughter organized the event, and it was wonderful to meet Pearl's extended family and see old friends. Among the guests were **Joan** and **John McGrath, Gary Saunders**, and **George Phebus** who came from Oregon. We enjoyed seeing a slide show of Pearl's life, starting as a young woman in South Dakota. **Pearl** continues to be active in her community and is an inspiration to us "younger" folks.

- Kathleen Copeland

# The Haps in District 6

istrict 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.

# The Haps in District 7

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

# The Haps in District 8

istrict 8 has a new District Director. The following note is from the Caltrans Director **Tony Tavares.** 



I am pleased to announce **Catalino A. Pining III** has been selected as the Caltrans D8 Director. Catalino has over 29 years of service with Caltrans and his leadership experience spans three Districts (4, 7, and 8), and multiple

divisions. Catalino's most recent assignment was as the District 8 Deputy District Director in Traffic Operations.

Under his leadership, Catalino was instrumental in the reorganization of the Division, which efficiently managed the resources that addressed safety and operation of the State Highway Network in the Inland Empire. In addition, Catalino shifted the Division's focus to innovation by upgrading Transportation Management System (TMS) elements to help improve communication, data analytics, shift to electrification, and remote access to field assets.

In his new capacity, **Catalino** will manage a \$5.6 billion budget and transportation investments in

**March 2023** 

San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. As the District 8 Director, Catalino will lead nearly 1,700 employees and oversee a region that has an approximate 5 million residents with 49 incorporated cities over 28,000 square miles of roadway, 32 state routes, and 4 interstate routes adding up to 7,200 lane miles.

Catalino has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from California State Polytechnic University in Pomona and is a licensed Professional Engineer (PE). Outside of work, Catalino enjoys travelling the world with his wife **Roselle** (also a Caltrans employee in PPM), spending valuable time with family and friends, playing with their 2 dogs, and also playing tennis. Please join me in congratulating and welcoming Catalino to his new role.

I would like to thank **Rebecca Guirado** for the remarkable job she did as the Acting District 8 Director since December of last year. We all wish her well.

**Linda Supernaw** received all the following announcements from District 8 e-mails:

**Brenda Lopez** from Facilities retired after 30+ years on Tuesday 2/28/23.

**Shelli Lombardo** is retiring after 30+ years on March 28, 2023 with a lunch reception at Cluster Yard.

**Stephanie Smith** retired 1/13/22 after 21 years of loyal service working as TMC Dispatch and Legal Claims.

On 2/21/23 the District 8 Time Capsule buried 25 years ago in the Basement of the "New" Building was opened with all of 5 people in attendance! There was a youtube video sent out to all of the employees. **David Bricker**, retired DDD Environmental was one of the lucky few to have a front row seat at the opening. He will be a guest speaker at the next luncheon on July 8 at

Hannah's Restaurant in San Bernardino so be sure to join us for this luncheon!

Sent on behalf of the Acting DDD, Program Project Management by **Jean Advincula**.

We have 2 new Senior Transportation Engineer, Project Managers in the Division of PPM. **Touhida Haider** who has been with Caltrans for 22 years. She has worked in Design and PPM. Also joining PPM is **Ahmad Nabulsi** who joined CT D8 in May of 2021 after helping develop the San Francisco skyline, working on many highprofile high rise buildings in the project management industry. Both are welcome additions to PPM.

Sent on behalf of the Deputy District Director, Planning by **Jean Advincula**.

Announcing **Huong "Mindy" Bui** has been selected as the Senior Transportation Engineer in the Division of Planning - Pre-Programming/Engineering Studies (PID unit), effective March 01, 2023.

Mindy started her career with Caltrans District 8 in 2016 as a Transportation Engineering Technician in the Division of Design. One year later, she was promoted to a Transportation Engineer(Civil) in the Division of Planning -Pre-Programming/Engineering Studies. She has worked on multiple projects, such as Route 58 Kramer Junction, Route 10 Redlands Lane Replacement, Route 60 SWARM, Route 15 CAPM & Slab Replacement, and on various inhouse and oversight projects throughout her rotation assignments in the Division of Design, Construction and PPM. Mindy has served as an Acting Senior Transportation Engineer in the Division Planning, of Pre-Programming/Engineering Studies (PID unit) since May 30, 2022.

District 8 is welcoming **Mindy Bui** to her new assignment.

Sent on behalf of the Deputy District Director, Planning by **Jean Advincula**.

Announcing the appointment of **Cuong Phu Trinh** as a Senior Transportation Planner, Active Transportation Portfolio Manager in the Division of Transportation Planning's Office of Modal Planning Programs effective March 8, 2023. He will be leading the effort to develop projects to improve safety and equity, as well as address needs for our most vulnerable roadway users, including bicyclists and pedestrians.

Cuong began his state service in 2015 as a Transportation Planner with Caltrans District 8 and in 2017 promoted to an Associate Transportation Planner in District 4 with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordination Branch. He returned to District 8's System Planning Branch as the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, where he worked with other divisions to incorporate Complete Streets elements into pipeline and encroachment permit projects. Additionally, he served on various technical advisory committees to guide the development of local and regional Active Transportation Plans for cities and Riverside communities across and San Bernardino counties.

In 2018, Cuong went to District 7 for an acting assignment to commence the development of the Caltrans District 7 Active Transportation Plan (D7 CAT Plan). After completing the acting assignment in 2019, he returned to District 8 to commence the development of District 8's Active Transportation plan. In 2020 he returned to District 7 for the permanent Senior Transportation Planner Assignment. As the Complete Streets program advisor and District Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, he worked across the Transportation Planning, PPM, as well as the Sustainability and Innovation divisions to complete the D7 CAT Plan, provide Complete

Streets support for in-house, Design Oversight, HM, Safety and Permit projects, as well as respond to legal, partner agency and public inquiries regarding Complete Streets efforts across the district. He worked to develop the district's first Class IV separated bicycle facility that was designed in-house and constructed in Fall 2022.

District 8 is welcoming **Cuong Phu Trinh** back in his new appointment.

The next CT QCC Monthly Informal Meeting will be March 22, 2023 at the Sizzler in San Bernardino at noon. The last meeting in January was attended by **Andy Machen** (QCC President), **Wanda Gernux** (QCC Treasurer), **Jesus Rodriguez**, **Jo Stringfield & Matt Fleming**, **Charlotte Sheehan**, **Priscilla Williams**, **Walt Griffith** and **Lavern Archie**. This group meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of odd months at the Sizzler. All are welcome, come when you can...

Stay Safe you all and remember D8 is GREAT!

- Linda Supernaw

# The Haps in District 9

ot much to report for the newsletter, no feedback from the emails. John & Marry Ritter, Wayne & Rene Walker, Ken & LaDonna Rischer did not have any updates.

Lots of snow fell in the Owens Valley on Feb 24, 2023. We measured 11 inches on the 24th and about 4 more inches spread out over the 25th, through the 27th. The Sierra's and the White Mountain ranges are covered as of this writing Feb 28th. **Barbara** and I stay close to home and don't drive much. We keep busy around our

home. The past few snowy days, I have been clearing off the driveway and keeping the mailbox accessible using a Kubota tractor with a loader bucket and helping the neighbors also.

**Dan Young** recently passed away. He was a Right of Way Agent in District 09 and was a well-respected and dedicated employee. I had the privilege to work with Dan for 19 years.

Source: Inyo Register Jan 28, 2023

Dan Young passed away on Sunday, January 22, 2023 peacefully at home. He was born in Burlingame on January 14, 1929 to Lloyd and Kathryn Rupp Young. But **Dan** was always a Bishop boy having moved to Bishop as a baby.

He was always a hard worker. No grass grew under his feet they would say. From the 4th grade until he was a sophomore, he worked at the Bishop Theatre passing out fliers for \$1.00 a week. At 16 he worked for old interstate telephone company as a cable splicer.

In 1946 he worked as a surveyor on the first subdivision in Mammoth at which time he was offered cash or the opportunity to buy a lot for \$25. He took the cash to buy his first car, a 1930 Chevy but he had spent all of his savings and couldn't afford gas. At BUHS Dan lettered in track, basketball and football, Captained the basketball team and was voted student body president.

In 1947 after graduating from high school he went to work for USGS doing triangulation work in the Sierras for topo maps. He rode a mule all summer and climbed most of the peaks between Big Pine and Convict Lake. The supervisor needed a small word to name one of the mountains. "What's your name, kid?" he asked. So to this day there is a small mountain in the Whites named Mt. **Dan**. He was also very proud to be a direct descendant of Alexander Hamilton.

When Dan was a junior in High School his father was killed in an avalanche. His Dad had always encouraged him to get a college education. He graduated from UNR with a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Science and a Jr. High School teaching credential. As a member of ROTC, he was able to join the Army as an Officer. He trained on the Patton and Walker tanks and was unfortunately in one of them when it fell over causing serious injury to his back which plagued him the rest of his life.

After returning to Bishop, he taught for a year and was lured out of teaching when he was offered a position at Cal-Trans making 1/3 more money. He worked for Cal-Trans for 26 years before retiring. Dan was a consultant to the State Archeologist because of his undying interest and expertise of Paiute Indian artifacts. He helped save and establish the Commander's House in Independence while on the Board of the Eastern California Museum Association. He was instrumental in their buying the "Jack Black" collection of Indian baskets for the Museum. He was also instrumental in founding the Laws Museum and sat on the first set of Board Members in 1963. As a young man he discovered a cave and for 20 years tried to get Archeologists to look at it. Finally, Dee Simpson of the Southwest Museum listened. A dig was started in 1964 with 30 people working it. They concluded that people had inhabited it from the time Crowley Lake was a natural lake until the white man came. He was a member of the Elk's for 67 years and played Santa many times for the handicapped children and rest home residents. He even got conned into being the Easter Bunny at the Elk's Park on Easter.

"Wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age. Sometimes, age just shows up all by itself."

- Lance Hinek

# The Haps in District 10

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

# The Haps in District 11

appy Spring to all of you. We're starting to plan our 2023 events and will begin with a luncheon to kick things off on April 19th. We have the list of those who paid for the last luncheon in 2020 that was cancelled and have emailed you to confirm your attendance at this year's event. If you didn't get an email and want to come or think you paid, please let me know as soon as possible so I can add you to our list.

If we don't have your emails, we can't contact you, so please send me those if you haven't already shared them with the QCC. I won't add them to my contact list unless you specifically indicate you want to receive emails from me.

We're also in the beginning stages of planning a happy hour event this summer and a fall picnic as well. Send me your choices as far as picnic spots if you have a preference or know of a good park that would work for the group. We'll also need people to help with the set up and clean up for the picnic. Email me to sign up for that. Keep checking our District 11 QCC Facebook page for updates, and other items of interest to club members. Remember to send in your dues so you can continue to be members in good standing! Dues have to be sent in to the QCC post office address. Your renewal form was included on the last page of the December Newsletter so make sure you fill it out and stay included! In the past, I continued to send out email updates to prior members but have recently updated my email list to only include active members.

The **ROMEO** (Retired Old Men Eating Out) breakfast at the Denny's in Fletcher Hills has resumed, so plan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month to come out and join the gathering. The next one will be April 19<sup>th</sup> which is also the same day as the QCC luncheon.

A notice of an extended lane closure was sent out by the District in February. It concerns the I-15 Pavement Replacement in Escondido and just north. On February 23, temporary concrete barriers were placed to close the outside lane on SB I-15 between Deer Springs Road and SR-78. This closure will be in effect 24 hours per day for 8 months. When the work is complete, crews will reopen the newly paved SB lane and shoulder and then close the NB outside lane with concrete barrier. The closure of NB I-15 between SR-78 and Deer Springs Road will also be in effect 24 hours per day for 8 months.

### A Road Last Traveled

Former Caltrans surveyor party chief, Mike Curren passed away on December 30, 22 at the age of 92. Mike was famous for founding the "OVER-THE-LINE" Old Mission Athletic Club tournament. He was remembered discussing the OVER-THE- LINE tourney during his lunch break. He would say "you have to have something to do during the summer months in Mission Beach." Mike was the unofficial mayor of South Mission Beach and a regular at the Pennant Bar. Mike was a party chief on several San Diego City Caltrans freeway projects before he left State service to work in the private sector. Mike was regarded as having a great sense of humor and being an intelligent leader. Per his fellow surveyors, "there were lots of close calls on our San Diego freeways and thanks to Mike Curren, we all made it home safely".

**In other news:** Marcelo Peinado retired after 39 years with District 11. Marcelo began his State Service in 1982 as a Jr. Civil Engineer and

retired on Dec. 31, 2022 as the District Division Chief of Engineering & Asset Management.

**Rick Frey** celebrated his retirement on Feb 8, 2023.

**Greg Slater's** retirement was celebrated on Friday, January 6, 2023. Greg began at Caltrans in 1988 and retired in December 2022 after 34 years of service. Greg worked for most of his career in the Construction Department.

- Kelly Manring

# The Haps in District 12

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

# The Haps in Central

pring Luncheon for Central District is scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2023, at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 1625 Watt Avenue, Sacramento. Please contact Dave Saxby at 916-479-2978 or <a href="mailto:dpbear74@gmail.com">dpbear74@gmail.com</a>

Central District is mourning the passing of two Caltrans colleagues and friends, **Bob Giess** and **Rebecca Boyer**.

Bob Giess was a main stay in the Caltrans Environmental Division and an Honorary QCC Member. He was always helpful and friendly. I'll miss him. Bob Giess passed on February 14, 2023 from leukemia. His memorial service information is Sunday 2:00PM, April 16, 2023 at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 2620 Capitol Ave, Sacramento, CA 95816 (http://trinitycathedral.org) phone 916-446-2513. There will be a reception following the service where the family is interested in meeting **Bob's** friends. Please share information on Bob's Memorial with others.

Wes Lum recalls, "I was blessed to have Rebecca Boyer as a colleague in my last year of



my Caltrans career. She quickly and easily became a friend who helped me better understand how to navigate my technology, especially as I retired with my brand new iPhone and MacMini. Of course, she and I agreed on the need to improve

our communication products. She made friends quickly in our Headquarters Division of Research and Innovation (DRI)".

Here are remembrances from her colleagues/friends:

Christopher Urkofsky, Chief, Office of Data Management, Division of Right of Way & Land Surveys, Caltrans District 4 (Most Recent Supervisor): It is with the deepest sadness that we announce the passing of Rebecca Boyer. Rebecca began her career with the state in 1998 as a student assistant with the Department of Water Resources, graduating from California State University Sacramento in 2000 with a degree in Sociology. She joined state service immediately after graduation and spent the early part of her career in assignments with the Air Resources Board and the Department of Water resources. Rebecca came to Caltrans in 2009 as an Associate Transportation Planner working in the Division of Research and Innovation. Her love of new technologies led her to move to District 4 Right of Way & Land Surveys in 2014 to become the administrative lead for a \$2m Federal Highways for Life grant that facilitated the adoption and earliest deployment of Virtual Design & Construction technologies at Caltrans.

She made indispensable contributions in the first large scale use of mobile & static lidar data collection and processing for the delivery of District 4 projects. Rebecca was a leading member of the teams that delivered uniquely large and complex projects by collecting and processing a mix of photogrammetric, conventional, mobile & stationary lidar data and processing with an innovative synthesis of machine learning and GIS technologies. Since 2020 she was the Chief of District 4 Right of Way & Land Surveys Administrative Services branch.

Rebecca loved her work with Caltrans. She had wide ranging interests in and, an encyclopedic knowledge of, diverse areas of planning, project development, maintenance, materials, operations and transportation policy. She was truly fascinated by and took delight in a wide range of transportation related topics. Most importantly, Rebecca was a valued colleague and dear friend who is and will continue to be missed in the years to come.

Lynnette Bell, Division of Research and Innovation, Sacramento: I was Rebecca's supervisor when she worked at DRI. She was Larry Orcutt's special assistant for marketing Soon she became the and communications. Divisions expert on conducting webinars and was quite skillful with technology. Her health was failing, and she was in my office often with personal concerns which we discussed at length. The day she received the call that a pair of lungs were available for her transplant, she and I were in a meeting with someone outside of the Division. A follow up meeting was needed, and **Rebecca** jokingly told the lady that she may not be available because she was on a transplant list. She had been on the list for months with no calls so she said that with tongue in cheek. Unexpectedly that evening she got the call and immediately left for the hospital in the Bay Area with her mother. She had a very successful surgery and did great!

Being her supervisor, I was in constant contact with her lovely, supportive and gracious mother, Mary Boyer, who was quite forthcoming with

information on Rebecca's progress which I shared with the Division by email. After months of recovery, Rebecca returned to work and got right back into the swing of things quickly. She had a sweet little black and white tuxedo kitty, Ali, whom she adored and who brought her much comfort and love especially during recuperative period. She left the Division for D-4 so she could pursue her interest in land surveying. While working at DRI, Rebecca had many friends and enjoyed socializing over lunches and participating in Division activities. She particularly enjoyed dressing up in costume for Division Halloween parties. She left a legacy of contributions, especially in the field of technology, which moved our Division ahead of others. She was always of good cheer and dedicated to her work. Rebecca was missed by many after she left and especially after we learned of her much-too-soon passing. Rest in Peace sweet lady.

Pete Zaniewski Division of Research and Innovation, Sacramento: I met Rebecca in 2010. She had cystic fibrosis which means that her lungs were slowly failing. By the Spring of 2012 she was on oxygen and her mobility was becoming severely limited. At the end of April we had to walk one block to a meeting and she had to stop three times to catch her breath. Luckily that night she received a call from UCSF that they had a set of lungs for her. The next time I saw her was ten weeks later when we met to go for lunch. We walked for seven blocks, and she never stopped talking. I felt sorry for the folks with short legs because they practically had to run to keep up with her.

For the anniversary of her lung transplant, **Wes** and I got her a cruiser bike. All that Summer we would meet on Saturday morning for breakfast. Her favorite was the old Cafe Bernardo on Capitol Ave. We would sit outside and enjoy breakfast, watch the people go by and enjoy numerous cups of coffee. That woman sure could drink coffee. We would then head to the farmer's

market and wander around. We had to stop for coffee at Peet's and sit on the deck watching the people go by. We would spend the rest of the day wandering around to various restaurants and cafes. We would end our day with dinner and a last cup of coffee, Hug goodbye and head home. I always worried about her biking home in the dark. We were a family on iPhones so I could always track her on her way home. Even though she knew I could track her, she always texted when she got home to let me know she was safe.

Rebecca liked to go car camping. Her favorites were Santa Cruz and Half Moon Bay. When we woke up in the morning, I would, you guessed it, make coffee so when she was dressed and came out of the tent her coffee was ready in her insulated mug. She was getting pretty good at cooking with a cast iron skillet and backpacking stove. I did the prep work, and she did the cooking. She got so she could make darned near anything in one skillet. She liked to walk on the beach. Well, truth be told, I liked walking on the beach and she liked walking with me. We would always end our day with a moonlight walk to the sound of the waves. Fair Winds Bex.

Larry Orcutt, Chief, Division of Research and Innovation Sacramento: During my time at Caltrans, as the Division Chief of Research and Innovation, I had the pleasure of working with Rebecca Boyer. It was both challenging and rewarding to work with someone with her energy level and drive to make things better. Rebecca was my Chief Communications and Marketing advocate. Caltrans spends millions of dollars on transportation research that does not get implemented. Often times, the research reports are very technical and difficult to understand basic questions, such as: (1) What are the benefits of this research project? or (2) Should I implement this research to improve transportation or my business processes?

According to a University Transportation Center, UC Berkeley paper "The Benefits of

Transportation Research" (Deakin and Yip, April 2018): "...materials are needed that are accessible to those in practice – shorter, written in less technical language, and pointing out why the research findings or products matter. Production of the latter materials may require investment in communication specialists – editors, bloggers, and writers who are adept at translating complex research papers for a wider audience."

Rebecca had these skills and was a key person in the communication and marketing of Caltrans Transportation Research. She was an advocate for innovation and change which can be difficult and challenging when there is resistance to change in a large organization like Caltrans. She was able to synthesize research reports that were written very technically and for publication. She was instrumental in developing the research reports into marketing type documents, so the users could understand the research purpose and the potential benefits of implementing the research results. In other words, Rebecca was able to allow the users to answer the question: "what is in it for them?" Rebecca welcomed challenging the process and working to make a difference. In her life she faced many challenges with her health, but she never let that hold her back. I admired her strong desire to overcome huge obstacles -- she would not accept a lesser outcome. She was a very strong advocate for making positive change for Caltrans. positive energy and drive will be missed. She definitely made a difference in the world around her. - Larry Orcutt

- Wes Lum

# Events

Please verify that the group is meeting prior to attending.  $\label{eq:District 1} \textbf{District 1} \text{ -}$ 

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 <a href="mailto:ahartin@suddenlink.net">ahartin@suddenlink.net</a> 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 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**, <a href="mailto:tellows2@hotmail.com">tellows2@hotmail.com</a>, (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, <a href="mailto:retronl@aol.com">retronl@aol.com</a>

### District 5 -

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

### District 6 -

The Caltrans Retiree Breakfast meets at 9 am on the third Wednesday in March and September at the Waffle House on Route 68 in Lindsay.

Contact: **Don Phillips** 559-781-2057

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

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

### District 7 -

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 -

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 8am every month at Denny's at Fletcher Parkway and Navajo Road.

### **Central District -**

QCC Spring Luncheon is Thursday, April 13, 2023. Where: Old Spaghetti Factory, 1625 Watt Ave, Sacramento. Contact **Dave Saxby** 916-479-2978 or <a href="mailto:dpbear74@gmail.com">dpbear74@gmail.com</a>.

QCC Summer Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, August 17, 2023, at the Old Spaghetti Factory.

# **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 <u>PRINT</u> LEGIABLY)				
Name	District			
Address				
City	_			
State Z	ipcode			
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Date of Retirement Years of Service				
Dues amount:	check one	e		
80+ years of age, born <b>before 1931</b> , <b>printed</b> /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 cannot afford the normal dues amount. Your QCC District Director's written appreenclosed with this renewal form.				
Make any checks payable to the Quarter Century Club and mail to: <b>QCC</b>				
PO BOX 421292				
SAN DIEGO CA 92142-1292				
QCC Statewide Ballot  Make a checkmark on the line next to your selection for				

# President Al Chuck Jerry Ochoa Deyoe Write In W