

# The QCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter Century Club

VOLUME 18, No. 4

DECEMBER 2009



## QCC Budget Crisis

*CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES RECOMMENDED*

### *From the Corner Pocket*

In these very challenging times, with budget problems at every turn in every level of government and even among families, the QCC is no exception. Our Treasurer reports that with the printing of this edition of the QCCer we are virtually bankrupt and spending next year's income.

Our condition is made worse by the fact that many members have paid for years (300 collectively), in advance and that should have given us a \$4,000+ reserve, but that is also gone. Another issue is that our membership is 35% Honorary (and growing) with no requirement to pay any dues.

Your QCC Officers have fielded and received district reviews and comments on how to recover. One result is the slimmer newsletter you see in your hands as a part of cutting costs. We are recommending changes to our constitution that require member approval. The main points are listed briefly here with the proposed text of a ballot for your approval and return included elsewhere.

- I - Honorary members may continue as official members on the roster, if:**
  - A - they elect to receive the QCCer via e-mail OR**
  - B - they choose not to receive the mailed QCCer, OR**

- C - their QCC District Director OK's a free US Mail QCCer, OR**
- (I) D - those Honorary members who wish to receive the mailed QCCer pay a nominal \$5/year dues, (less than 1/2 the actual cost.)**
- E - those who become Honorary after 2010 and meet none of the conditions above will be required to pay a \$10 dues, (still less than cost)**
- 2 - Regular members may continue to pay the \$15 annual dues**
  - A - if they elect to receive the QCCer via E-mail.**
  - B - those regular members choosing to receive the QCCer via U. S. Mail will pay \$20 annual dues.**
- 3 - Districts will be encouraged to make a stronger recruiting effort. That effort can be subsidized by reimbursement of up to \$4 per paying member per year on submittal of documentation of recruiting costs. This recognizes the fact that we have more memorials than new members and may soon find that 10% of those paying membership are carrying the entire cost of the organization.**

I respectfully and humbly request your support and approval of the changes as proposed by your board.

*Butch Biendara, your QCC President*

**Index**

President's Remarks.....Page 1  
 In Memoriam.....Page 2  
 Proposed Constitution Change.....Page 3  
 District 1 Report.....Page 4  
 District 2 Report.....Page 4  
 District 3 Report.....Page 5  
 District 4 Report.....Page 6  
 District 5 Report.....Page 7  
 District 6 Report.....Page 8  
 District 7 Report.....Page 9  
 District 8 Report.....Page 10  
 District 9 Report.....Page 11  
 District 10 Report.....Page 11  
 District 11 Report.....Page 12  
 Central District Report.....Page 12  
 Events .....Page 12  
 Officers.....Page 13

**Rather read the QCCer on-line?**

Go to <http://ctqcc.150m.com/qccnewsletter.html>  
 A membership application and a wealth of information about QCC officers, history, and constitution are available at <http://ctqcc.150m.com/qcc.html>  
 Check the current haps at Caltrans at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dnews>

**Editor's Apologies**

**W**e apologize to those correspondents who worked so hard to produce this quarter's QCCer. Because of the budget situation, we've had to chop your copy,

sometimes by three-fourths. We've tried to be sensitive to the meaning and content of your submissions, but surely there will be cuts that seem heavy-handed and insensitive. Among those will be the detailed obituaries of our members who have passed away. For that, especially, we apologize. To assure the integrity of your copy for the next several issues, it would be best if you can squeeze your information into about 650 words.

—Gene Berthelsen

***In Memoriam***

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Date</b>
George Goff	01	September 5, 2009
Mary Catherine Malloy	01	October 12
Lincoln Benson Martin	01	September 4, 2009
Norvin Windbigler	01	November 23, 2009
Robert Robinson	03	September 14, 2009
James Strain	03	October 2, 2009
Harold Buss	05	July 11, 2009
Kathleen Kaetzel	05	September 30, 2009
Gary Romero	07	June, 2009
Stanley O. Buckmaster	07	October, 2009
Robert Hall	08	November 16, 2009
Warren Harvey	08	2007
John Hollensteiner	08	July 10, 2009
Pat Leatherberry	08	October 28, 2009
Jean Moloney	08	July 2009
Alan John Reader	08	August, 2009
Lawrence Sandbval	08	October 17, 2009
Ellen Fansler	09	October 24, 2009
Ed Panabaker	09	September 2, 2009
Juliette Alcove	10	October 27, 2009
Louis Graf Kroeck	10	October 23, 2009
Dick Wantz	10	November 26, 2009
Dwight Alderson	Central	November 7, 2009
Charles Brailleer	Central	November 4, 2009
Phillip Ching	Central	October, 2009
Doris Fowler	Central	2009

Here is the text of the proposed changes to the QCC constitution in three separate sections dealing with 1) – Honorary Member’s dues, 2) – Dues for regular members, and 3) – District reimbursement for recruiting expenses.

Please remove or copy this page, mark your vote for each item and mail it to the QCC Secretary / Treasurer, Ron Lesan, P. O. Box 215 Victor, CA 95253

Last paragraph of SECTION 3: QUALIFICATION FOR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP:

**APPROVE  
DISAPPROVE  
CIRCLE ONE**

Members who have attained the age of Eighty (80) and have paid dues for the five years preceding, shall be awarded an Honorary Life Membership in the Quarter Century Club. Upon reaching age 80, Honorary and Associate Honorary members **may continue as full members if: 1) -they elect to receive the QCC'er via email, or 2)- they decline to receive the QCC'er, or 3) – The QCC District Director OK's a free QCC'er, or 4) - they pay a nominal \$5 for a printed QCC'er. Members attaining Honorary status after 2010 and don't meet any of the above conditions will have an annual dues of \$10.** must make an annual written request to be relieved of paying annual dues and to continue receiving the QCCer publication. With their annual request to be exempt from paying dues, they will continue to receive the QCCer for the following year at no cost. If no written request is made, they will be considered delinquent and dropped from the mailing list.

**APPROVE  
DISAPPROVE  
CIRCLE ONE**

SECTION 6 - DUES: Dues in the Club shall be Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) per year for all **those members who elect to receive the QCC'er via email, whereas those members who wish to receive the printed and mailed QCC'er will pay an annual dues of \$20 .** Dues shall be payable in advance by the end of January, effective January 1, on approval of the **2005 2010** amended Constitution. ~~At that time there will be a 60-day window when current members may choose to pay any number of years with a three year minimum, in advance, at the former \$10.00/year rate. After that date, all new members and renewals will be \$15.00/year.~~

New paragraph at the very end under DISTRICT EXPENSES:

**Approve  
Disapprove** **Circle one**

*To encourage greater district efforts in their recruitment of new members, upon submittal of documentation of expenditures, Districts may be annually reimbursed up to, but no more than \$4 for each of their paying members of record.*

**ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE**

## *The Haps in District 1*

### ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

I cannot believe I am working on my Christmas cards already. I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and avoided getting crushed on black Friday.

I made it to **Vicki Butler's** retirement. District Director **Charlie Fielder** honored her at the office with several certificates for her 30 years of service, including one for safety. That was especially fun, since she was the District Safety Officer.

**Debbie Butler** also got her certificates at that time. She had just retired on September 30, shortly before Vicki. We all enjoyed cake. The next day, Vicki was honored with a barbecue at the Garberville Maintenance Station. We had a great attendance, with several of us retirees, including me, **Debbie Butler, Virgil** and **Wanda Muncton from Redding, Ray** and **Donna Truttman, Tim Fisher, Nancy Pelascini** and her husband, **Bobby**, and **Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Arney**. Lonnie was her first supervisor when she joined Maintenance. We all enjoyed nice words from Vicki's supervisors and co-workers, **Lonnie, Stan Woodman, Tammy Libolt, and Jeff Bowser**. We will miss her and Debbie both.

I recently learned that the mural completed by the Redwood Mural Society that spans two walls outside the Caltrans Maintenance building in Crescent City was dedicated on August 6. It is titled "Building California's Highways". It depicts the early days of the highway system in Del Norte County in sepia tone and the Caltrans workers today in full color. It also includes the likeness of retired Congressman **Don Clausen**, to honor his efforts for the region's highways, along with current maintenance employee **Jamie Camden**. Congressman Clausen was honored at the dedication, which was attended by the city council members,

Chamber of Commerce, Caltrans employees and the artists. Our District Director, **Charlie Fielder**, and Congressman Clausen, were among the featured speakers.

On the sad side, we lost more of our Caltrans family, including **George Goff, Lincoln Benson Martin, Mary Catherine Malloy, and Norvin "Jack" Windbigler**. Our deepest condolences go out to the families, co-workers, and friends of George, Linc, Mary Catherine and Jack.

Stay healthy and enjoy the time we have. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I hope to hear more from our District 1 family. My current email is [ahartin@suddenlink.net](mailto:ahartin@suddenlink.net).

—Arlene Hartin

## *The Haps in District 2*

### ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

**Jim Ceragioli and Sandy** (Jim's lady friend) took a trip August 30th going via Routes 20, 299 and 395 that covered several national parks and monuments, a large portion of the Big Sky Country, and what sounds like a lot of yummy eateries.

"On Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, we finished the last leg of our journey, returning home via U.S. 97 out of Bend, Oregon, south through Chemult. By the way, they have fantastic turkey melt sandwiches in Chemult! Arrived in Redding around 5:30 pm. Total mileage = 2379, and the best part, mpg = 32.31. Not bad for our trip."

**John Stode** advises us that "work is under way" on the underground house! Can't wait to see the pictures when it's completed!

**Jerry and Sharon Severson** have returned from a two-month stay in Lisbon Falls, Maine. "When we weren't going to car shows, car auctions of the Transportation Museum at

Owl's Head near Rockland, we spent nine weeks with repair and maintenance on her recently departed father's home.

"Within 20 miles of Lisbon Falls, there is a car show every day of the week. We also took time to attend the world's largest floatplane fly-in at Moosehead Lake. On display this year was the only remaining flyable 1939 Sikorsky S39, offered for sale at \$1.2 million. Moosehead Lake is huge, at 40 miles long by 18 miles wide.

"We also had lunch at a pub in York Maine (on the coast, south of Kennebunkport), that was constructed in 1637. Yes, that's right, 1637!

"Maine is totally gorgeous everywhere you go, and full of historically significant things to see. The leaf colors were good this year, but the leaves fell quickly after changing.

**Bill Belcher** has accepted the position of choir director with the Oak Grove Bible Fellowship in Palo Cedro. Bill says, "The interest in, and appreciation of, music at that congregation is wonderfully refreshing. A new chapter in life is just beginning (again)."

—Bill Belcher

## *The Haps in District 3*

### ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

**T**he Pre-Holiday party at the Peach Tree Golf and Country Club last November was a huge success, with 104 attending. We'll make this gala event an annual party in the future. A meeting will be held in January 2010 to plan for the Spring Party. Many thanks to Social Committee Chairperson **Ethelmae Waller** for the beautiful decorations and the planning of the event.

**Director Dan Johnson, Sr.** presented Certificates of Appreciation to **Secretary Libby Haraughty, Treasurer Lita Wells** and **Publicity Director Susanna Ford**. The awards were for outstanding dedication and continued support of the District 3 Quarter

Century Club.

**Robert Robinson** passed away September 14 at age 70. He had worked for Caltrans for 34 years. **James Strain** passed away October 2 at age 78.

**Susanna Ford** has been busy: She, along with several friends, attended "Art in the Gardens" in Fort Bragg, then she took off for London, where she rode a double-decker bus and visited the National Museum, Saint Paul's Cathedral, the tower of London, and took a Thames River cruise.

In September Susanna traveled to Italy where she toured Rome, the Isle of Capri, the Amalfi Coast, Tuscany, Locarno, and Venice.

In August she and 41 of her closest friends went to Branson, where they took in 12 productions and had great dinners each night. Also on the trip were **John Sanger and friend Claudia Nightingale** and **Hank and Ruby Anderson**.

**Dorothy Leper** is keeping busy this fall making items for the local craft fairs. She will have her goods in Marysville, Yuba City and Colusa.

**Bob and Janet Cole**, while playing golf together had a small mishap, Janet pulled something in her back. She is doing well now.

**Ray Winton and Pat Steinwert** had a great summer traveling to Denver in May, and to Tulsa to visit Pat's grandson. They also took a trip to Albuquerque to visit Ray's daughter and to Phoenix to visit with friends. Their next trip will be a cruise.

**Jim and Carol Hochstrocker** have been staying around home, gardening and stacking wood. Of course the wood does not cut itself. They recently replaced the windows in their home, and say most of all they're just having fun.

A note from **John Myers** "... finally made it back to my roots. The land of four seasons, good hunting and fishing. John quickly sold his home and moved to Michigan. His mailing address to P.O. Box 252, Lapeer, MI 48446.

From **Ed and Libby Haraughty**: "We

celebrated Ed's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and our 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last April on a cruise from Valparaiso, Chile to San Diego. This completed our sailing around the continent of South America.

At the port of Manta, we visited the Panama Hat Factory! Bought several! We don't usually wear hats! Montecristi is the town where the Panama hat originated.

"In Acapulco and Cabo we just visited old favorite sites and goofed off.

"It is Kauai in Dec-Jan. Maybe Alaska in June. But I can hear Australia and the South Pacific calling. Then there is New Zealand and the jet boat drivers - Who knows?!"

**Joe and Carroll Ferro** took the summer off and traveled to Alaska. **Joe** writes: "In June, we flew into Fairbanks and spent a few days in a cabin on the Yukon River. The sightseeing was great and we took a paddleboat cruise up the Yukon.

"Heading home our ports of call were Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan and Vancouver. We went on several shore excursions where I went flying, jeeping and sightseeing. Carroll went sightseeing and did some shopping. While on the ship, Carroll came in second in the Karaoke contest. We look forward to next year!!

**Joanne Ellis** looked radiant at the QCC Luncheon. She brought her sister **Dr. Robyn Timm** as her guest. Dr. Timm will open new offices in the Bay Area soon and Joanne will help with the moving and the decorating of the offices.

**Charles Vierria** reported that he spends his spare time working on his 1941 Ford hot rod. Ninety nine percent of the work is done and **Charley** is looking forward to driving it.

**Lynn and Margaret Brazelton** keep busy traveling from Weaverville to their new home in Yuba City. **Lynn** enjoys working with wood and building cabinets. **Margaret** is also retired and very involved with making quilts.

**John and Marie Allison** are looking great. Both play golf and travel to Oregon to play and Truckee where their son is the golf superintendent They have played three courses in Carson City and plan to go to Hawaii for

golfing.

— Dan Johnson, Sr. and Susanna Ford

## *The Haps in District 4*

### ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

I hope everyone is having a wonderful holiday season. On September 24, District 4 held its annual tour for retired district directors and deputy district directors. Attending the tour were **Tom Lammers, Harry Yahata, Bob Jacobs Jim McCrank, Ann Hansen, Ruby Louie, Bob Jahrling, Gerry Ducey, Bob Graham, Lincoln Chu** and me.

**Bart Ney**, a public relations consultant who is the public face of Caltrans for the Bay Bridge project, went over the efforts Caltrans has undertaken to get the media the information they need report to the public on what is happening on the project. The computer tools now available and the use of the Internet provide information to the public in myriad forms far beyond what I imagined could be done.

Bart also went over how Caltrans handled the closure of the bridge to remove a section of the old bridge to permit construction of a portion of a new one. The removal of the old bridge went pretty much according to schedule, plus a few hours.

Of course, we are all aware that although the removal went well, the accomplishment was overshadowed by the subsequent discovery of a cracked eyebar during an inspection of the old span. Although this was unrelated to the new project, it prevented the reopening of the bridge.

Bart covered how Caltrans developed a temporary construction patch of the eyebar and how it located the necessary high strength steel for the repair, had it flown into Oakland, and then escorted by the CHP to the project site.

What wasn't covered in the media was that project manager **Brian Maroney** was onsite to coordinate with construction crews sizing the

patch. He built a cardboard mockup based on measurements furnished by the work crews; once he had the mockup sized properly he was able to instruct welders how to cut and assemble the steel pieces.

Unfortunately, as we also know, the patch failed several weeks later. However this should not take away from the extraordinary effort to open the bridge to traffic.

After the presentation we went out to the west end of the East Span, where the removal of a portion of the existing bridge required the Labor Day closure. The work consisted of jacking a portion of the old bridge out and jacking a new section into its place, using a lubricant: dish soap purchased at Costco.

— Paul Hensley

## *The Haps in District 5*

### ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

**H**appy New Year! Hope you enjoyed the recent holidays with family and friends.

It's time to renew your QCC membership. Currently dues are \$15 per year until you become an honorary member at age 80, when there is no charge. However, honorary members should send a note to the Secretary indicating that they wish to continue. See the proposed constitutional amendment regarding memberships and dues.

The annual Caltrans District 5 Holiday Barbecue was held on December 15. I'll have a report in the next issue.

In November I received an e-mail from **Heinz Heckeroth**, asking for help in recruiting a representative for the California Transportation Foundation in the District 5 area. **Richard Elliott** has decided to retire from this position, and Heinz is looking for a volunteer to take over the duties. I have a copy of the job description, which I will forward to anyone who's interested.

**Bill Cotnam** has been keeping busy with rooting for the San Luis Obispo high school teams, seeing his daughter in Henderson, Nevada and visiting other favorite spots. He also enjoys sharing e-mail with friends and family all over the country. Bill would like to make another visit to Thailand and Viet Nam if finances improve.

Congratulations to **Paul Donatelli** for his hole-in-one on October 27 at the Laguna Lake golf course. Paul was playing with several retirees who sharpen their skills on Tuesdays at this nine-hole course.

We had a phone call one evening from **Dave Fitzwater**, asking if we had news of **Nels Martin**. Mr. Martin was the Superintendent in Santa Barbara for many years, and Dave worked for him before transferring to one of the northern districts. I hadn't heard any news recently and referred Dave to **Gary Saunders**. Dave has been retired for 20 years and now lives in Grants Pass, Oregon.

**Joan and John McGrath** enjoyed a month of cruising on Holland America this fall. They sailed from Montreal to Fort Lauderdale and then continued through the southern Caribbean islands. During their stopover in Florida, they visited the Everglades with **Jenny and Joe Linzner**, who were about to depart on a Panama Canal cruise.

We received a postcard in August from **George Phebus** and **Bob Smith**. They are on the move again, having bought a home in Gig Harbor, Washington. George thought they'd relocate from Tennessee at the end of September.

**Gary Ruggerone**, Senior Environmental Planner, received an Environmental Leadership Award from FHWA at its annual meeting in September. The award recognized Gary's 30 years of experience in encouraging environmental stewardship and environmentally sensitive transportation solutions.

We saw **Ken and Edna Taylor** one morning at a local coffee shop. They had been visiting family in Arizona and expected to attend the Barbershop show in Sacramento. They

planned a cruise to Hawaii in December and would miss the barbecue. Ken said he's been retired 26 years—where does the time go?

District 6 member **Virgle Ray** sent e-mail after he read about **Bick Moe's** passing. His recollection goes back to 1977, when he was a new Highway Superintendent in District 6. He had a phone call from Bick, advising he was a neighbor and inviting Virgle to lunch at Reef City. "We shared maintenance of State Route 41. There we became friends while discussing mutual highway issues." That defines how Virgle measured Bick from that meeting; his memory and friendship have survived 32 years.

We received a note from **Pearl Cole** regarding **Harold Buss**, who passed away on July 11 in Le Mars, Iowa at age 88. **Kathleen "Kay" Kaetzel** passed away September 30 at age 97.

If you have any news items you'd like to share, please e-mail or send them to me. We'd love to hear from you!

District 6 member **Virgle Ray** sent e-mail after he read about **Bick Moe's** passing. His recollection goes back to 1977, when he was a new Superintendent in District 6. He had a phone call from Bick, advising he was a neighbor and inviting Virgle to lunch at Reef City. "We shared maintenance of State Route 41. There we became friends while discussing mutual highway issues." Virgle remembered Bick from then; his memory and friendship have survived 32 years.

We received a note from **Pearl Cole** regarding **Harold Buss**, who passed away on July 11 in Le Mars, Iowa at age 88 following a massive stroke. When Harold was young, his family moved to California, and he worked at the Mare Island shipyards before being transferred to Pearl Harbor. Harold joined the Navy and was stationed at Okinawa. He retired in 1984 after 27 years of service and returned again to Le Mars. He is survived by his daughter **Carol**, three grandchildren, two great grandchildren and three brothers.

**Kathleen "Kay" Kaetzel** passed away September 30 at age 97. Kay was born in San Luis Obispo and lived across Higuera Street from her

grandparents, **Robert and Nellie Hollister Jack**. Kay graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and worked in her father's law office before coming to the Division of Highways. She supervised the Personnel Office and was one of the first people I met when I was hired. She and her sister Margie were world travelers, and Kay also enjoyed golf, aqua-kinetics, and the local symphony concerts. She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

If you have any news items you'd like to share, please e-mail or send them to me. We'd love to hear from you!

—Kathleen Copeland

## *The Haps in District 6*

### ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

**F**rom **Irwin Rosa** in October – "As you know I am living in Hawaii (Oahu) where I grew up and am enjoying an active retirement in the community of Kailua.

I want to express my appreciation to you wonderful people of the Division of Highways and Caltrans -- engineers, clericals, right of way agents, planners and administrators -- who worked with me and helped me along the way. If I tried to list names, the list would be too long, but you know who you are. Since retirement I have shared great adventures with hiking buddies, **Chuck Pivetti, Jack Derby** and **Bob Watkins.**"

Aloha friends, *Irwin Rosa.*

Speaking of Hawaii I will be spending some vacation time in Honolulu this December. My son, William, spent almost 10 years in Honolulu after he was stationed in Hawaii while in the service. He became a police officer in downtown Waikiki and he loved it. He then went to work for DynCorp and spent a year in Afghanistan training police officers there. He has since spent a year traveling all over the place; the latest being



in Thailand but next month he is going back to work for DynCorp and I don't know yet where they'll send him but I would imagine the middle east.

From **Bob Tsubota** in September: "As for Cassie and me, we're doing as good as expected. I am still able to play golf about three times a week, but I have to ride a cart every time I play. Anyhow stay healthy and active."

Our Christmas Luncheon was held Tuesday, Dec 1<sup>st</sup> at the Holy Trinity Church. In attendance were **Gloria Adam, Roxie Aldama, Shirley and Roy Andersen, Sandy and Hal Avakian, Bill Bastian, Barbara and Dick Beck, Mary Berg, Stella and Chad Chaderjian, Kay Chessman, Barney Deeter, Aram Garabedian, Joyce and Lee Halderman, MaryAnn and Ed Hokokian, Eva and Owen Helm, Annie Hlywa, Glenn Jensen, Jim and Carolyn Landy, Bob Larson, Betty and Don Massa, Wallace McDougal, Ken Oliphant and wife, Margie and Abe Paregian, Barbara and Don Peaslee, Barbara and Don Peterson, Josie Rendon, Thelma and Chester Sohm, Jane Suo, Emily and Tony Telesco, Koke Uyeno, Walter Vosganian, Ed Wells, Jim West, Pat and Bud Woodson, and John Wright.**

**Ted Winter** missed the luncheon due to having a pacemaker installed. He is doing well and was sorry to miss the party.

**Don Peaslee** made the luncheon even though he recently had a stay in the hospital where his roommate was **Mike Lofstrom**. You will remember many years ago Mike left Caltrans to start a Baskin and Robbins Ice cream parlor at Palm and Shields. Mike had his leg removed in the hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Sad late news: **Miyo Kimura** passed away on December 1.

— Terry Littleton

## *The Haps in District 7*

### ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

**W**hile we figure out who will become our QCC Director, please **send DUES (checks), membership applications and honorary member status information, to** Statewide QCC Secretary/Treasurer **Ron Lesan**, P.O. Box 215, Victor, CA 95253-2548. You can still reach **Tom Almany** directly at 17200 So. Stark Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90701-1822.

The Miyako Inn in Little Tokyo was the scene of our Annual Holiday Luncheon December 5. **Doris Nakamura** got us a \$25 rate. Our guest speaker was Traffic Division Chief **Frank Quan**. The occasion was great for sharing memories, catching up with past acquaintances, "exchanging" gifts, or delighting in the artistic centerpieces.

**District 7 Director Douglas R. Failing** has accepted a position as Executive Director of the Highway Program at Caltrans' partner agency, Los Angeles County Metro. He thanked District 7 staff for their hard work and leadership in the field of transportation. He attributed his move to financial hardship brought on by recent furloughs and pay cuts.

**Andy Machen**, P.E. of District 8 and Chair of the ASCE-LA History and Heritage Committee has been negotiating a plaque commemorating the **Marilyn Jorgenson Reece Memorial Interchange**. **Andy** writes in an update to **Chuck O'Connell** of the Tom Fera lunch group: "Hi Chuck, I have received the **Marilyn Jorgenson Reece** plaque from the plaque-maker, and it's a masterpiece! I'll deliver it to **Carmen Roberts**, Facilities Director, District 7, and she will have DGS mount it on a backing plate for hanging it on the Transportation Museum wall.

**Andy** promises to keep **Chuck** updated as the story unfolds.

**Aurora Borealis Adventure: Marie Martin** recently traveled to Alaska, and shares her Aurora experience, among other excitements, to be shared in installments!

"In Fairbanks, at the Geophysical Institute, we learned the relationship between the Aurora borealis and sun spots, solar activity, geomagnetism and the conversion of motion energy in solar wind into electrical energy.

"The aurora borealis makes a 'whish' sound. The remarkable part is, scientists have never heard the slightest sound they could ascribe to the aurora.' The learned conclusion is the noise made by the Aurora is inaudible only to scientists! Nansen, our Fearless Leader, said the noise you hear while viewing the Aurora is usually, 'Oh Wow! Oooohh! Aaahh!'

"That night was finally time for the Aurora. The local Astronomy Society came out to join our group and set up many big telescopes. That night, the Aurora did put in a feeble show – just a greeny arc on the horizon.

But at the Alpencrest Observatory we got an absolutely awesome show from inside a warming hut near the ski lift, and from the big windows we could see the faint glow solidify into glorious bands of glowing light. The lights looked better if you went outside, but the temperature was 20 below and the winds were horrendous."

#### **Recent Sightings and Retirements:**

Some happy folks who retired in November include **Ralph Thunstrom** with 45 years, **Sue McGinn**, with 29+ years, and **Tahirih Smith** with 31+ years. Others include **Marie Martin, Mary and Carlos Jaramillo, Cheryl Powell**, and **Yin Chang**.

**Manuel Granadoss**, with 34 years of dedicated service, celebrates his retirement at a luncheon on December 21 at Home Town Buffet - \$8.19 w/o taxes, 875 N. Wilcox Ave., Montebello. Call Maria – East Region 562-692-0823, for more information.

— Kirsten Stahl

## *The Haps in District 8*

### **ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE**

I've received a nice note from **Wes** and **Linda Grimes** saying they're finally home after an exciting, two-week, full itinerary of Canada and New York State. Weather was perfect for touring. Linda and Wes flew into and rented a car to journey to Niagara Falls. They spent two days in a hotel in Newark overlooking the Horseshoe Falls on the Canadian side. They took the Mist ride into the falls and explored other sites, then drove to Ottawa, Canada to visit a good friend from their Caltrans days.

"Stayed in Ottawa two days and saw the sites there. We drove to the Thousand Islands in upstate New York by Clayton on the St. Lawrence River. Linda's very good high school friend owns an island there where she and her husband have built a beautiful home accessible only by boat." After leaving the island they headed for New York City—the Big Apple. "In New York, we certainly could not miss the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Empire State Building, Rockefeller Center, Teddy Roosevelt's boyhood home, and John Lennon's last home, where Yoko still lives near Central Park." They visited Macy's, Times Square and rode the Staten Island Ferry. They walked Central Park, rode the subway, and saw "The Lion King" on Broadway. "It's good to be home—after traipsing through crowded subways and congested city streets, we'll take California anytime. New York was very clean and the subways were nice. Graffiti was minimal—not like in California.

Longtime Caltrans employee **Herberta Oliver**, who retired after 46 years with District 8 was honored with a luncheon at the Elk's Lodge in San Bernardino on October 23. She worked exclusively for Administration in Data Processing, Contracts and Legal Support.

Herberta hosted the gourmet buffet for her family her co-workers and friends. She provided a positive environment in the office as well as

many tasty treats for Caltrans holiday and charitable events.

**Sadly, Pat Leatherberry**, 84, a long time Caltrans employee, passed on October 28. **Jean Moloney, Ed Moloney's** widow passed away in July, 2008. **Warren Harvey**, passed away two years ago. **Mary Reeder's** son, **Alan John**, passed away in Sacramento last August. **Lawrence "Sandy" Sandoval** passed away on October 17. **Bob Hall** passed away on November 16. **John Hollensteiner** passed away on July 10.

— Marsha Lotze

## *The Haps in District 9*

### ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

**T**his report is from the personal contacts I've had recently. **Barbara** and I often see **Bud** and **Gerri Moody, John** and **Shirley Nakken, Jim Kemp,** and **Earl Franks.**

I got a phone call from **Bill Dieneman**, Bill and wife **Nancy** are keeping busy around their home in Yerrington, Nevada.

We saw **Dan Young, Marv Nelligan, Linc Stanley,** and **Ed** and **Francis Fortney** at the Good Old Days at Laws. Dan and Marv are the guests hosts at the old school house. **Ed Panabaker** passed away September 2 in Emmet, Idaho.

**Ellen Fansler**, who had worked in the District 09 office, passed away October 24.

—Lance Hinek

## *The Haps in District 10*

### ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

**V**ern Dorsch reports that he went on an Alaskan cruise and saw the Hubbard Glacier, which apparently is getting bigger.

Whom do you believe about global warming?

**Rose Mah** says "Hi!"

**Claude** and **Sharon Stewart** took a trip to Las Vegas for five days. They did lots of sight-seeing and really enjoyed the trip, including their excursion to Red Rock Canyon, a beautiful area.

In late September **Dennis Smith, Glenn Puthoff, Bill Blair, Bill Kosky** and wives toured several southwest states, including Zion and Bryce National Parks and Kodachrome National Monument. When the Koskys returned home, the rest of the group went to Moab, Utah where they observed unusual rock formations and arches in Arches National Park and also spent a day in Canyon lands National Park.

From Moab they headed for an RV park near Mesa Verde National Park, facing headwinds that cut the Smith RV to about 5 m.p.g. and made it tough on pickups towing travel trailers. Near Mesa Verde they hiked down to one cliff dwelling and saw many others from a distance.

At the Canyon De Chelly National Monument in Arizona, where four states—Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico—are supposed to join, they all recognized that the Monument was in the wrong place.

While the Smiths headed home via Flagstaff and Bakersfield, the Puthuffs and Blairs continued touring to Tombstone Arizona, then to Flagstaff via Sedona. Their stay at Flagstaff included a trip to Walnut Canyon National Monument, which has cliff dwellings you can go into and see how the ancient people lived. From there the Puthuffs and Blairs went to the Grand Canyon.

They did as much hiking in the various parks and monuments as could be expected of seniors, even though Glenn Puthuff had knee replacement surgery about eight weeks before the trip began. He spent as much or more time on the trails as the rest.

**Bob** and **Ardyth Biffell** say beware of creatures in the dark! Their son had his little dog out at 4 am to do its duty when it was attacked by a possum that bit a deep wound in her back leg and tummy. Hopefully she will have a speedy recover. The wild animals are having a terrific

time this year so beware! Happy Holidays to you all.

**Lou Donada**, District 10 design Senior, will retire December 29.

**Steve Smith** is celebrating 35 years of State Service.

**Juliette J. Alcove**, 62, died on October 27.

**Louis Graf Kroeck**, a 35-year Caltrans employee, 91, died Oct. 23, 2009. employed there for 35 years. He was honored nationally by Parade Magazine for his design of scenic Highway 88 between Peddler Hill and Carson Pass.

**Dick Wantz** of Lodi, a Caltrans civil engineer, died October 29 as civil engineer for 50 years with Cal-Trans until he retired in 2003.

**Costanzo Michael Ciccone**, 77, a Caltrans supervisor for 38 years, died November 27.

— Brian Young

## The Haps in District 11

### Annual Dues are Due

District 11 did not provide a QCCer report in December.

Kathy Phillips

## The Haps in Central

The QCCer did not get a submissions from Central District in time for publication.

Gary and Julie Bush

## Events

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

### District 1 -

**Ret'd Highwaymen and Road Agents** meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the months of January, April, July, and October at 11:35 am at the Hometown Buffet at the Bayshore Mall in Eureka

### District 2 -

**Retired folks** meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month between 7:30 and 9 am at the District Office snack bar at 1657 Riverside Drive Redding

### District 3 -

**Weekly Tuesday Coffee/Breakfast** at 8:30 am at the "Green House" in the Raley's Shopping Center in Placerville. Contact: Keith Maggini 530-295-1257, [kmaggini@hotmail.com](mailto:kmaggini@hotmail.com)

### District 4

The **Caltrans Lunch Bunch** meets on the second Tuesday of every month.  
Contact: Ed Coble 925 465-4219, [edcoble49@astound.net](mailto:edcoble49@astound.net)

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

### District 5 -

Contact Kathy Copeland: 805-544-1834  
[bcopel4674@aol.com](mailto:bcopel4674@aol.com)

### District 6 -

The **Caltrans Retiree Breakfast** meets at 9:00 am on the third Wednesday in March and September at the Waffle House on Route 68 in Lindsay. Contact: DonPhillips, (559) 781-2057.

Annual Spring Luncheon will be Thursday, May 7 at Yosemite Falls Café located at 4278 West Ashlan Ave in Fresno.

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

**District 7 -**

The **Monthly Luncheon Club** meets on the second Wednesday of the month in Los Angeles.

Contact: Tom Gildersleeve,  
661-259-6226, [tgilders@pacbell.net](mailto:tgilders@pacbell.net); or Chuck O'Connell,  
661-253-3428, [chuckoconnell@prodigy.net](mailto:chuckoconnell@prodigy.net)

**District 8 -**

Contact: Marsha Lotze, 760-247-2119,  
[mlotze12@verizon.net](mailto:mlotze12@verizon.net)

**District 9 -**

Contact: Lance Hinek, (619) 873-3885,  
[hinek@usamedia.tv](mailto:hinek@usamedia.tv)

**District 10 -**

**Lenny's Huddle** meets at 7:30 am on the last Tuesday of the month at Denny's, I-5 and March Lane in Stockton.

Contact: Stan Randolph, 209-957-1278,  
[stanran3672@aol.com](mailto:stanran3672@aol.com).

**District 11 -**

**ROMEOs** (Retired Old Men Eating Out) meets at Denny's, Navajo Road at Fletcher Parkway at 8:30 am the third Wednesday of every month. Contact: Butch Biendara, 858-279-5054,  
[butchbiendara1944@hotmail.com](mailto:butchbiendara1944@hotmail.com).

**Central District -**

**Dante Club Holiday Luncheon** Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd, Sacramento December 9, 11am

Contact: Gary Bush, 530-642-8208,  
[zbusharosa@wildblue.net](mailto:zbusharosa@wildblue.net)

**QCC OFFICERS, 2009**

**President: Emil "Butch" Biendara**

4041 Mt Everest Boulevard  
San Diego CA 92111-2624  
(858) 279-5054 [butchbiendara1944@hotmail.com](mailto:butchbiendara1944@hotmail.com)

**1st Vice President: George E. Gray**

9720 Oviedo Street  
San Diego CA 92129-3827  
858-538-3027 [gray850@aol.com](mailto:gray850@aol.com)

**2nd Vice President: Vacant**

**Historian: Norman Root**

3922 Aberdeen Way  
Sacramento CA 95821-8669  
(916) 483-8669 [norman\\_root@yahoo.com](mailto:norman_root@yahoo.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer: Ron Lesan**

P. O. Box 215  
Victor CA 95253  
[rlesan@gmail.com](mailto:rlesan@gmail.com)

**Editor: Gene Berthelsen**

941 Fremont Way  
Sacramento CA 95818-2135  
(916) 444-7151 [catsnjam@comcast.net](mailto:catsnjam@comcast.net)

**DISTRICT OFFICERS, 2009**

**District 1 Director: Arlene Hartin** ✓

2301 E Street  
Eureka CA 5501-4126  
707-443-8841 [ahartin@suddenlink.net](mailto:ahartin@suddenlink.net)

**District 2 Director: James Ceragioli** ✓

1861 Shasta Pines Way  
Redding CA 96002-0306  
(530) 223-0208 [sirravioli@shasta.com](mailto:sirravioli@shasta.com)

**Treasurer: Burton Brockett**

444 Basalt Ct.  
Redding CA 96003-3331  
(530) 246-4721

**Secretary:** Bill Belcher ✓  
18600 Quail Ridge Rd  
Cottonwood, CA 96022-9058  
[odiebill1@netscape.net](mailto:odiebill1@netscape.net)

**District 3 Director: Dan Johnson** ✓  
901 Dennis Way  
Yuba City CA 95991-6110  
(530) 671-3889 [boots3@syix.com](mailto:boots3@syix.com)

**Secretary: Lib Haraughty**  
2225 Lincoln Rd  
Yuba City CA 95993-9759  
(530) 673-5587 [libbyanneh2@aol.com](mailto:libbyanneh2@aol.com)

**Treasurer: Lita Wells** ✓  
4115-G Butte House Rd  
Yuba City CA 95993-9676  
(530) 674-5945 [billitaw@comcast.net](mailto:billitaw@comcast.net)

**District 4 Director: Paul Hensley**  
161 Allen Drive  
San Bruno CA 94066-1602  
(650) 359-5172

NO

\$ 3,600

**District 5 Director: Kathleen Copeland** ✓  
1255 Orcutt Rd A-2  
San Luis Obispo CA 93401-0918  
(805) 544-1834 [bcopel4674@aol.com](mailto:bcopel4674@aol.com)

**District 6 Director: Terry Littleton** ✓  
6675 N Woodson  
Fresno CA 93711-1132  
(559) 431-8140 [tlittleton@comcast.net](mailto:tlittleton@comcast.net)

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

NO

**Secretary: Kirsten Stahl** ✓  
100 S Main St Suite 100 MS13  
Los Angeles CA 90012-3712  
(213) 897-0470 [kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov](mailto:kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov)

**District 8 Director: Taylor Smith** ✓  
1487 Valencia Ave  
San Bernardino CA 92404-5441  
909-889-7487 [tsmith7022@aol.com](mailto:tsmith7022@aol.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer: Marsha Lotze**  
20250 Majestic Dr

Apple Valley CA 92308-5030  
760-247-2119 [m1otze12@verizon.net](mailto:m1otze12@verizon.net)

**District 9 Director: Lance Hinek** ✓  
1642 S Valley View Dr  
Bishop CA 93514-1958  
760-873-3885 [hinek@usamedia.tv](mailto:hinek@usamedia.tv)

**District 10 Director: Stan Randolph** ✓  
3672 Wood Duck Circle  
Stockton CA 95207-5262  
209-957-1278 [stanran3672@aol.com](mailto:stanran3672@aol.com)

**Secretary: Brian Young** ✓  
1056 Bradford Circle  
Lodi CA 95240-7002  
209-334-6028 [byoung@lodinet.com](mailto:byoung@lodinet.com)

**District 11 Director: Dean Burns** ✓  
7908-50 Rancho Fanita Drive  
Santee CA 92071-3423  
619-448-6728 [dean.burns@cox.net](mailto:dean.burns@cox.net)

**Secretary: Kathy Phillips**  
[Marty-Kathy@cox.net](mailto:Marty-Kathy@cox.net)

**Central District Director: Gary Bush** ✓  
1420 Cougar Track Drive  
Placerville CA 956671-8728  
530-642-8208 [zbusharosa@wildblue.net](mailto:zbusharosa@wildblue.net)

**Secretary: Julie Bush** ✓  
1420 Cougar Track Drive  
Placerville CA 95667-8728  
530-642-8208 [zbusharosa@wildblue.net](mailto:zbusharosa@wildblue.net)

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

TALMANY@EARTHLINK