

TheQCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter
Century Club

VOLUME 21, No. 1

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Focus ---- New Members

RECRUITMENT TAKES CENTER STAGE...

From the Corner Pocket

The Quarter Century Club's purpose is to establish closer bonds of friendship between fellow workers and retirees. Your great durability as a QCC member, (everybody gets older), and our 'Memorial' column getting longer than our 'New Members' column, points to a new opportunity.

It brings up the topic of "How can you be more pro-active in recruiting, which can only be done at the District level where you know your friends and co-workers." At Caltrans the oft-repeated problem was that if there is no 'pay-it-em' for work, you can't enforce compliance. The QCC Constitutional change in 2010 added a \$4 fee to the 2011 renewal dues specifically to cover the anticipated costs for District recruiting efforts. Below is the summary of the 'Recruiting' funds, available for reimbursement to each district in support of recruiting costs in 2011:
D1-\$132, D2-\$168, D3-\$424, D4-\$284, D5-\$168, D6-\$164, D7-\$480, D8-\$356, D9-\$44, D10-\$220, D11-\$712, C-\$704.

With 964 total paid members \$3,856 is available for recruiting efforts. What did you do with your District's share?



If there was no effort or expense in your district, there is no reimbursement, and the above numbers may best serve to advise what the 2012 recruiting budget might be. Every new member that you sign up adds \$4 to your recruiting budget.

There are no 'Rules or Regulations for Recruiting'. This new and uncharted area is a great opportunity for some inspirational ideas. Think of it as a new Federal program, where we have the money, with single stated goal, "Recruiting", now show us what you can do with it. The only restriction is that we can't give out money that didn't come in, so funding is limited to the number of paying members in your district, and not a factor of how many new members you sign up. One might expect that in the first few years there may be some 'false starts' where money is spent with little or no results. (Typical R & D).

The QCC Constitution stipulates that reimbursements are to be made to the District Director, but the Director does not have to do all the work. If you as an innovative member have some ideas for recruiting, contact your District Director to coordinate. Your Director must sign an authorization for reimbursement so be sure to get the Director's approval before you spend money.

One place to start is the Caltrans on-line newsletter at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews/jan12/index.htm> for the

latest 25-year award winners and retirees for prospective recruits. The QCC Secretary/Treasurer **Mike Ogilvie** can send you a list compiled from past issues. Find out where the retirement events are and take a “QCC ‘Candidate’ Certificate” to present to the retiree. (I’ll email a copy to any who wants one.)

Two QCC officers from D-11 showed up at an Employee Recognition event and signed up a dozen new members with just their warm smiles and a plate of cookies to bring people to their table. Another idea is to invite people to put their name and email address on a card to enter for a drawing with the prize of a [Logo Watch?] that I’ll donate to any District QCC doing the work. Then you can email an application to all of them. In addition, I have a few hundred of the “Colorful, Tri-Fold, Silent-Salesmen” fliers that can be handed out at retirements or left where you have access to any of the offices, construction sites, cafeterias, shops or maintenance stations.

At a recent QCC meeting in D-11 a “Recruiting Chair” was appointed to track down retirements and other avenues to find new members (expenses are reimbursable!).

Go forth and let the recruiting begin!!!

Butch Biendara
QCC President

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/ctnews>

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**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION
FOUNDATION**
By **Kathy Freeman**

With this first issue of the year, the California Transportation Foundation (CTF) would like to take the opportunity to share some information about CTF, including how we meet our mission to **“Recognize, Remember, and Educate”** while providing service to Caltrans and California’s transportation community.

CTF was established in 1988 and is now the leading charitable transportation organization in the state. With generous donations from people, corporations and organizations, CTF supports these communities with the following programs:

- Scholarships for students planning a career in transportation;
- Financial assistance to those injured on the job and to the families of transportation workers who died;
- Remembrance and recognition of transportation service with roadway memorial signs and the annual Workers’ Memorial service on the steps of the State Capitol; plaques to honor fallen workers in each District Office and at Headquarters; and

- Career development, awards, and recognition of transportation excellence.

The Foundation also sponsors four main events throughout the year: Transportation Forum in January, Transportation Awards in May, Transportation Education Symposium in November, and the Charity Golf Tournament in August. **These events are also excellent opportunities for you to join the Foundation as a volunteer. It looks like we may need a few extra hands for two of the events this year: the Transportation Awards ceremony on May 23rd in Sacramento and at the Golf Tournament in August.** If you are interested in volunteering to help out at either of these events, contact Executive Director Sarah West at (916) 489-1629.

We are proud to again this year to continue our co-sponsoring of the annual **Workers’ Memorial** service to be held in April on the steps of the State Capitol. This ceremony honors those Caltrans employees who have lost their lives while working for the safety of the traveling public with the placement of a wreath in the center of a large diamond of orange cones. Each cone bears the name of one of the 178 employees that have been lost.

It is a tribute that must be seen to be appreciated. We hope that you will be able to join us this year at one of the tributes being held (either at the State Capitol or in one of the District Offices) as Caltrans remembers and honors the **three District 11 employees** that were lost in 2011: **Stephen Palmer, Landscape Maintenance Worker; Jaime Obeso, Maintenance Leadworker; and Richard Gonzalez, Equipment Operator II.** The names of these employees will also be added to the memorial plaques in District 11 and at the Headquarters Office building.

During 2011, the Foundation’s Workers Assistance and Memorial (WAM) Fund established 14 ongoing accounts to aid Caltrans’ employees and their families totaling over \$20,000. In January of this year, an account was established to assist the family of **Chris Rogers, District 4 Equipment Operator II in North**

Bay Maintenance Region, with expenses related to the loss of a young family member. If you are interested in assisting the Rogers' family in their time of need, your donation may be sent to: California Transportation Foundation, 581 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento CA 95864. The check should be made out to CTF with *Rogers Family* on the memo line of the check.

CTF is very proud to announce that its new Board includes, for the first time, an active Caltrans employee, **Jody Jones, District 3 Director**. District Director Jones is expected to help CTF ensure that, while CTF increases its outreach to related organizations, Caltrans employees are still fully supported. To that end, CTF also decided in December to increase to 50% (up from 20%) the match it provides for Workers Assistance and Memorial grants. Also CTF is now fully funding the Fallen Worker program, recently established in 2011 to provide immediate support to families of Caltrans workers who are killed on the job.

A very special "thank you" goes to volunteer **Nancy Benjamin** again this year for her assistance in getting you the Foundation's newsletter "*Headways*" along with our annual appeal for your financial assistance. We hope you enjoyed the information and encourage your continued support. We depend on your contributions to keep our programs going. If you haven't seen a copy yet, check out the Foundation's website (www.transportationfoundation.org) and remember, CTF is now on Facebook. Join us! www.facebook.com/#!/pages/California-Transportation-Foundation-CTF/111235832303745 to "like" CTF.

In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Bob Elkins	01	Dec 18 2011
Bill Hartin	01	Dec 25 2011
Carl Zander	01	Jan 28 2012
Robert L. Winkelhaus	01	Feb 14 2012

Howard Hardie	03	Feb 2 2012
Don Lawrie	03	Feb 22 2012
Diane Green	05	Dec 2011
James 'Jim' Johnson	05	Feb 20 2012
Robert R. McDonell	06	Jul 13 2011
Nazareth 'Chad' Chaderjian	06	Jan 25 2012
Frank W. Gipson	06	Jan 21 2012
Gertrude D. Winters	06	Feb 3 2012
Keith Herman	07	Dec 11 2011
Irene Lim	07	Feb 5 2012
Dana Cowell	10	Jan 21 2012
Renee Krolikowski	11	Dec 10 2011
Frederick 'Hank' Kreft	11	Feb 4 2012
Frank Bell	11	Mar 1 2012
Charles Edwin Zell	C	Dec 11 2011

The Haps in District 1

The "Retired Highwaymen and Road Agents" group had our first lunch on January 19 that was not at the Home Town Buffet. We went to the Samoa Cookhouse and had a delightful time. We counted up 39 attendees.

We welcomed a new QCC member from that lunch. **David Wilson** worked both in District 3 and District 1 and retired in 2001. Welcome aboard, David!

I found an interesting piece of news from the Del Norte County Historical Society. It reported that Caltrans donated an 8 foot long model of the old Hiouchi Bridge, which was in their Sacramento office. It is now being displayed downstairs in the Bolen Annex of the County museum. Thank you, Caltrans, for finding a way to preserve these wonderful artifacts.

Now, the sad news. My husband, **Bill**, passed away suddenly from heart failure on Christmas Day. He had been having heart and medical issues but was feeling great that day. It was a shock and I sure do miss him. There was a wonderfully large group of people who attended his funeral, including several of our Caltrans employees and retirees and District Director, **Charlie Fielder**. I felt so blessed to see everyone. **George Otterbeck** and **Wanda Muncton** even came over from Redding.

We also lost a retired Highway Superintendent, **Bob Elkins** on December 18, 2011. I remember him well. He was great to work with. His last assignment was the Ukiah Territory.

Our retired engineer, **Carl Zander**, passed away on January 28, 2012 at age 89. He worked for District 1 for 29 years and then enjoyed a very active retirement. We saw him regularly, esp. with his involvement with the Friends of the Redwoods Libraries. He spent many hours volunteering. His Memorial service was a wonderful celebration of his life. Caltrans attendees included **Guy Luther, Jim Siebert, Mike Yancheff, Royal McCarthy, Bob Myers, Sara Hines, Larry Bowermaster, Dennis and Mary Grinsell, Ben Van Zandt, Bert Wythe, Glenn Hoffman, Ray Thomsen, Bruce Miner, Lowell and Esther Allen, Lynette Watkins, and Helen Gersbach.**

Robert L. Winkelhaus passed away on February 14, 2012 at age 87. He worked as an engineer in District 1 for many years, then left to open his own business, Winkelhaus Engineering, in Fortuna. He loved fly fishing and music in his spare time.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Bill, Bob, Carl, and Robert.

- **Arlene Hartin**

The Haps in District 2

Cameron and Ione Garbutt celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on the 21st of February. They have three children, lots of grandchildren, and quite a few great grandchildren. A family dinner was in the works for the occasion, but no big trip plans right now. You certainly have our sincerest congratulations on your milestone!

June McLean and Shirley Shoup went to a bingo blowout in Las Vegas last October. They didn't report any winnings, but had a good time. They are planning

to try their luck at another Bingo Blowout in Reno this March. We wish them luck.

Bill & Michelle Belcher (Curler) have had their hands full lately. Michelle had vascular surgery for a blocked artery in October, and had an additional foot surgery in January. She is doing much better now and they expect a full recovery soon. Bill has been busy with his second career in music. He is currently singing for Simpson University (Trinity Repertory Singers) this season, and wrapped up directing a full length Christmas cantata in December. Suffice it to say, they're both glad for the new year.

- **Bill Belcher**

The Haps in District 3

The District 3 QCC annual Spring Party will be held on Sunday, April 22, 2012 at the Peach Tree Country Club in Linda. Social Hour has been set from 1:00 P.M. to 1:45 P.M. A business meeting will follow with a Buffet served at 2 P.M. Announcements will be sent out soon for all members to return for reservations.

We have a new sponsor for the Peach Tree Country Club. Thank you so much **Leo Trombatore** for stepping forward. It is truly appreciated.

A History Center update from **Libby Haraughty**: We have a budget request into the District for dividers and other items needed for the History Room. The opening Exhibit will start with the 1st state convention in 1849 and work up to 1895 when the Tahoe Wagon Road was designated the 1st state highway. Graphics has put together the old 1855 state map for an exhibit in the lobby of the new building as soon as we get permission to tape it to the lobby wall or obtain display cases for posters. There is quite a bit of history on this map and how it came to be and was printed (Marysville mentioned in a paragraph on the map!).

Several retired Surveyors have agreed to put together an exhibit of survey items. We are seeking items for this display. We have a Rhoades Arc and some rods - this is the old equipment - and should be able to get the new equipment a bit more easily! **Marilyn Speth, Bill Warren's** daughter, will be loaning us some of her father's survey equipment for a display.

Graphics is working on posters to show the original 10 Territories as they became Counties and morphed into the counties we know today. Those counties then were designated Divisions for transportation purposes - 7 of them to begin with - and finally became Districts as we know them today.

Carleen Hagen, Palmer Haug, and Bob Mulchay have been faithfully meeting every month, now starting to meet more often, to do the sorting and filing of the many boxes containing the District history. I think they are reproducing! We've met with **Janet Coles**, from the Transportation Library in HQ. She is a wonderful resource as she found a picture and some literature on the Fruit Building in Sacramento, the District's first office. The District was much bigger in those days. The first office in Marysville was in the Marysville Hotel - have a picture with an arrow pointing to the office's window! Through **Dick and Joan Young** we've sent a copy of the 1st California Map to the Tahoe Community Library and hope to share ideas with them.

We meet the 1st Thursday of every month at 9 AM. Anyone is welcome to come and help! Must check in at the Security desk...

We send our best and a huge "Get Well" to **Bill Wells, Bob Adkinson, Dan Johnson, Sr.** and **Jim Waller** who are ill at this time.

We are sorry to report the passing of **Howard Hardie** on February 2, 2012. Howard began his career in 1947 with the Division of Highways (Caltrans) and retired in 1988 after 41 years of service. He was involved in numerous major highway projects in his beloved "Sierras". During WWII, Howard served aboard the USS Intrepid. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Barbara (Bobbie) Hardie of Marysville.

Another sad report is that **Don Lawrie** passed away on February 22nd with acute Leukemia. Don's service will be on March 31st in Dublin, California. More information is available by contacting Harriet Lawrie at (925) 230-8750.

- **Dan Johnson Sr.**

The Haps in District 4

Ed Coble hosted the Caltrans Lunch Brunch's Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco on December 11th. About 40 people attended the luncheon.

Kathy Freeman reports attendance at the Admin Retirees Lunch Group has increased by two. **Algerine McCray** recently found out about the luncheons and has been joining her "long lost friends" for the past few months. Also recently retired **Brian White** joined the group last month. Word is that it's been great fun catching up with these two - hope they continue to attend the luncheons in the future.

John and Nancy Buthenuth went on a two week tour and cruise on the Rhine and Moselle Rivers in Germany. They enjoyed themselves. However John said the flow in the rivers was down because of the drought in Central Europe. In some areas there was only 7 inches of water in the rivers. Where that occurred they took buses to continue the tour. They didn't mind because the wine was flowing freely and the tour company kept them moving.

Ron and Judy Maasberg will be enjoying a Pacific Ocean cruise for several weeks. They'll be flying out to join the cruise in the Pacific.

Anne Hohener and her daughter, Heidi, will be taking a cruise to Hawaii this spring.

Of course all these cruises were booked before the recent cruise line mishaps and disasters. I don't think

they or anyone would anticipate that the cruises could turn out to be outdoor camping trips and abandon ship drills for real!

Of course the main talk this quarter was about the SF 49ers but not because of their winning season and just missing going to the Super Bowl. It was about the construction of the new stadium in Santa Clara and the financial impacts to the season ticket holders. **Anne Hohener, Ed Coble and Glenn Behm**, long time season ticket holders are facing bills of from \$10,000 to \$80,000 for seats in the new stadium but which doesn't include the price of the tickets themselves. They are part of a group of friends who have been loyal season ticket holders since the days when the SF 49ers used to play in Kezar Stadium. The scheme the 49ers are proposing is that the season ticket holder has to purchase a seat in the stadium first at the cost of \$10,000 to \$80,000 depending on where the seat is located. Once they have purchased the seat then they could purchase season tickets so they could use the seats. Anne who has two season tickets would have to pay \$20,000 for her seats to be able to buy her season tickets. They all have appointments to meet with the 49ers at their Headquarters to discuss what their options are. It sounds like a meeting perspective parents have to go through to get their child into a exclusive private school except instead of your child's qualifications they're looking at your credit worthiness.

There may be a cheaper way to buy a 49er stadium seat but just not at the new stadium. There was an article in the SF Chronicle today about companies that recycle old seats when old stadiums are demolished or renovated. One company has the old wood seats from Kezar Stadium, the original home of the 49ers in San Francisco. I'm sure the prices are significantly less than \$10,000 or even \$80,000 dollars. You could set up the seat at home to watch the 49ers on television. You would not only save a great deal of money but avoid the hassles and costs of getting to the new stadium.

However it does have a downside. As I remember the old seats they were not splinter-proof and had a butt with of 18 inches which made for intimate relations

with adjacent seat holders but that was part of the charm of Kezar.

When I was going to college at Santa Clara, my parents moved to the City about six blocks from Kezar Stadium. We used to go down to Kezar to sit in the end zone. This was the era of Billy Kilmer and George Mira when the 49ers were not doing too well and you could go to Kezar and purchase seats easily at the Stadium. End zone seats went for \$2 to \$4. I did get to attend the game against the Minnesota Vikings where Jim Marshall ran the wrong way after picking up a Billy Kilmer fumble. But I do remember dodging empty beer bottles that they used to roll down the aisles to see if they make all the way to the bottom.

On the personal side, next quarter I'll be telling you I'm a grandfather. My eldest daughter **Eden** is expecting to give birth to a girl at the end of March. My wife **Niki** and her mother, **Marie** (a Quarter Century Club member) are excited. My wife and daughter are going through all the old children's clothes and toys my wife had packed away years ago. See, my wife says, I knew we'd need it someday and you wanted to give it away! Aren't you glad I kept it! Of Course they're buying and preparing new clothes for our grand daughter just as if she had no clothes at all.

- **Paul Hensley**

The Haps in District 5

When we see poppies and lupine blooming along the highway, we know Spring has arrived on the Central Coast.

News of importance from Caltrans District 5 is the retirement of Director **Rich Krumholz**. His last day will be April 2. Rich is retiring after 32 years with Caltrans, with nearly six years as our District Director. An evening reception is planned on March 30 at the Monday Club. We would like to thank Rich for his service and wish him many happy years of retirement.

The District's Holiday BBQ was well attended, judging by the lack of empty seats at Trinity Hall. The BBQ team headed by **Richard Gonzales** provided us an excellent meal, and everyone enjoyed the chance to visit with old friends. The retirees were recognized for their years of service; **Ken Miller** won a gift for being retired longest (30 years), followed by **Al Jorge** and **Pearl Cole**. Several lovely gift baskets were raffled off, along with excess BBQ meat and chicken (which tastes just as good the following day).

As mentioned in the previous issue, construction is booming throughout D-5. A new \$3.3 million project has started on Cuesta Grade to install a retaining wall southbound. The first phase of the project includes striping and the installation of 700 feet of temporary barrier; this work will require a six-month full closure of the Number 3 (slow) lane. The project is expected to be completed in December.

Within San Luis Obispo, the City has been making improvements along Broad Street (Rte 227) to increase the carrying capacity of the route, especially in the areas of new development. Drivers should watch for changes in striping patterns and new left-turn lanes at the Broad/South Street intersection. Work will begin later this year on widening and new left-turn lanes at Broad/Tank Farm Road.

Attention golfers: The Caltrans Invitational Golf Tournament will be celebrating its 50th anniversary with a two-day tourney May 17-18 at Rancho Canada in Carmel. The awards banquet will be held the evening of May 18. For information, contact **Tim Craggs** at tim.craggs@dot.ca.gov

The January issue of "The California Retiree" newsletter featured an article about our local Chapter 10, featuring Secretary **Pearl Cole**. Pearl retired in 1985 and began attending chapter meetings, and as she says "suddenly I was the secretary!" Pearl feels we all have to participate and have a voice in the issues important to retirees. She may not run for re-election this year, but she will continue to stay involved with the chapter.

Mrs. Diane Green passed away in December 2011. Diane worked for several years in Accounting, and she was the expert on all things related to Travel Expense Claims (TECs). She then transferred to Special Crews where she continued to use her Accounting expertise, assisting the HFOA and Superintendent. Diane is survived by her husband **Leroy**.

James "Jim" Johnson passed away on February 20. As a young man, Jim served in the Army, was discharged, and then joined the Navy Seabees in the Pacific during WWII. Jim and wife Katie moved to Santa Barbara where he began his 40-year career with Caltrans. Jim worked in Landscape in both D-5 and D-4, and after retiring, he and Katie returned to the San Luis Obispo area to be near family. Jim is survived by his three children and their families.

- **Kathleen Copeland**

The Haps in District 6

The Christmas Luncheon was held at the Holy Trinity Armenian Church on Dec 8, 2011. In attendance were **Gloria Adam, Roxie Aldama, Andy Anderson, Sandy and Hal Avakian, Bill Bastian** and a guest Beth, **Monte Berry, Alma and Ken Cartwright, Kay Chessman, Don and Virginia Chong, Dwight Bianchi, Ron DuBois, Aram Garabedian, Ed Hokokian, Eva and Owen Helm, Annie Hlywa, Lee and Glenn Jensen, Jim and Carolyn Landy, Terry Littleton, LuAnne Pinedo Madden, Annie and Alan McCuen, Alma and Ken Oliphant, Margie and Abe Paregian, Barbara and Don Peterson, Josie Rendon, Elaine Romagnoli, Cliff Romano, Bev and Joe Smith, Bob Thomason, Koke Uyeno, Bob Voss, Lewis Wagoner, Ted Winter.**

Jim West had back surgery on January 26th. He says he is now in less pain and expects to be better as the trauma of surgery subsides.

If anyone knows about **Chubb Gann**, please let Terry know.

From **Bob Tsubota**:

Cassie and I are doing as well as could be expected at our age. Cassie has been to ER a couple times in the last six months, but she is okay now. Thanks for sending me the notices all the time.



This is me (**Bill Bastian**) at around age 3 in front of Grandma's cabin some 30 miles up the Tuolumne River from Sonora in 1925? Our only contact with the world was by daily logging train and the company store printed wooden coins. The current Sugar Pine Railroad, about 12 miles from me up Hwy 41, has the same engine and cars that brought me to this Camp where I spent a number of summers. I have other pictures should you like to see them.

From **Glenn Mills**:

I thought this a good time to give somewhat of an update. We have moved to Morro Bay. Had I remembered the confusion and laboring task of moving I might have not opted to move. But we did. As one might suspect we have yet to find our Christmas mailing list, I'm still looking for the keyboard and mouse to function the computer. A friend was kind enough to lend me a keyboard and I purchased a mouse.

Both **Rita** and I are retired. Rita retired 2006 from St Agnes Hospital where she was a coder in medical records. I retired from Caltrans in 2001 and worked as a consultant engineer thru 2010. We enjoy doing just about anything from boating to traveling. Our traveling consists mainly of going to lakes and ocean with the boat and three weeks each year at Cabo San

Lucas, Mexico. Well that's about it for now. Come see us anytime in Morro Bay (805-771-8298).

From **Virgle Ray**:

We just returned from Sonora, a benefit dinner for a child born with half a heart. The community really turned out; probably 300 folks for dinner and 60 some raffles for items donated, very impressive for such a small area. Of course we passed through the local casino; well they don't pay any better than the one here. Ha.

Sandy and I also visited Los Gatos; a surprise birthday party for her sister at an interesting place called the Cats. The history makes one wonder if they really wanted to go there. In the early days it was a train stop for folks going to Santa Cruz, later a bar, then a brothel, then a bar and now a bar restaurant wall to wall with folks. You almost have to park on Hwy 17, there are so many people there. We felt privileged to have a table for 13 when most tables were for 4.

During the med fly deal, my brother in law, then a CHP officer had an office there as a command center for the med fly operation. Quite a history.



Nazareth M. "Chad" Chaderjian, 86, of Fresno died on Jan 25, 2012. He had a deep love for his Lord, his family, and being with people. Naz, also known as Chad, moved to Fresno, California, with his father, where he met and married the love of his life, Stella, in 1948. Their marriage would last nearly 64 years, and they were blessed with two sons, Neal and Bruce, and two loving daughters-in-law, Wendy and Anie. Naz was a wonderful father who gave his sons the most precious gift he could, his time.

Naz always sought to further himself. He earned the highly respected MAI designation in real estate appraising and he worked for Caltrans for 36 years. He was a member of the Appraisal Institute and a charter member of the International Right of Way Association of Fresno. Naz was an active member of the Fresno Triple X Armenian Fraternity, the Men's Society of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, and the

Men's Forum of Saint Paul's Armenian Church. He also loved attending Bible Study Fellowship, praying to his Lord, and enjoying the many blessings of Christian fellowship and love. Naz went home to be with his Lord on Wednesday, January 25, 2012, in Fresno, after a battle with cancer. Recently he had difficulty remembering things, but each time he was told of his condition he would respond in faith the same way, "We will trust the Lord with this."

Robert R McDonell passed away on July 13, 2011. He was living with his daughter, **Leah Shiers**, at the time of his death. He had taken a fall about 3 years prior and was unable to walk anymore after that but he was still working. His daughter said that he was still able to do surveys with the help of her son and did his last one about a year before he passed away. "He always enjoyed the news from the QCCer. My dad couldn't walk but he still continued to work. His body was shot but his mind was still sharp. His passing left a big void in our lives."

Frank W. Gipson, 88, of Visalia died Jan 21, 2012. He graduated from Tulare Union High School and soon entered the Army and served in France and Germany during World War II. After the war, Frank returned to Tulare and joined the farming business and continued his education and graduated from CSI College and became a registered Civil Engineer and a Registered Land Surveyor. Frank was employed by Caltrans for 45 years, serving as a chief of surveys for many years. Frank is well known for his survey work on the central California Highways. Frank was a member of several civil and professional organizations. He will be missed by family and by all who knew this kind and gentle man.

Gertrude D. Winters, 89, of Fresno died February 3, 2012. She had been a steno in the D.O. Construction office in the 50s and 60s under the name **Gertrude Shipp**.

Just a heads up way in advance, the Christmas Party this year will be on Tuesday, Dec 4, 2012 at the Holy Trinity Armenian Church.

Also, our Spring Luncheon at Yosemite Falls Cafe is set for Tuesday, May 8, 2012.

-Terry Littleton

The Haps in District 7

Annual Holiday Celebration at the Miyako Inn in Downtown Los Angeles' Little Tokyo took place last December. "Caught-up" in the festivities of the season: **Tom and Linda Albany, Lou and Ruth Bedolla, Gordon and Shirley Bone, Walt Bowman, Satish Chander, Dick Drosendahl, Millie Goble** and grandson **Dylan Luther, Bob and Irene Goodell, Mack Hunter** (sans **Betty**), **Paul and Maxine In, Mary and Carlos Jaramillo, Chuck and Loreta Mathews, Paul McElwin, Mike Miles, Ken Miller, Doris Nakamura, Dale Neumen, Al Reece, Doug Richter, Dave and Marjorie Roper, Joe and Gloria Sanchez, Carol Schumaker, Dick Smith, Kirsten and Stewart Stahl, Gus Sulaitus, and Leonard Thompson.**

Mike Miles shared insights into District 7, including high tech airbag sensors that can tell how many people are in the car, to catch HOV lane "cheaters".

Paul and Maxine In shared highlights of their two week Princess Cruise and stay at the new Hawaiian Disney Resort, where they met up with **Wah Shum** and **Steve Leung**.

Among the missing were **Dick Huntwork** (blocked artery surgery the day before), **Betty Hunter** (in assisted living), **Marie Martin** and **Bob Walters** (a conflicting event), **Judy and Dennis Reynolds** (desert living), and **Heinz Heckerroth** (who sends greetings from Mendicino).

Thanks to **Doris Nakamura**, we had a tasty repast of salmon in cream sauce, tempura, teriyaki chicken, salad and fresh fruit. The gorgeous centerpiece included pinecones, pomegranates, and ribbons around

a frosted glass vase. Several of the gifts from the drawing were hand carved wooden boxes, courtesy of **Gordon Bone**.

The 2012 luncheon on December 1, 2012 will avoid conflict with District 8's party (usually the week after ours), so make your plans to be with District 7 and get "caught up" in the season!

For those who crave company, try the monthly **Tom Fera Lunch Group**, your kind of crowd! These active retirees meet on the second Wednesday of each month, except December. Upcoming meetings are: **March 14, 2012** at Joselito's West; **April 11, 2012** at the Steer N' Ale, **May 9, 2012** at the China Olive, and **June 13, 2012** Joselito's West. The remaining 2012 dates and addresses follow below:

RESTAURANTS AND PROPOSED LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2012

[Second Wednesday of every month, except
December]

March 14, 2012 Joselito's West
April 11, 2012 Steer N' Ale
May 9, 2012 China Olive
June 13, 2012 Joselito's West
July 11, 2012 Steer N' Ale
August 8, 2012 China Olive
September 12, 2012 Joselito's West
October 10, 2012 Steer N' Ale
November 14, 2012 China Olive
December 1, 2012 QCC luncheon

China Olive Chinese Restaurant; 9224 Reseda Boulevard, Northridge, CA 91324; (818) 998-3688

Joselito's West Mexican Restaurant; 7308 Foothill Boulevard, Tujunga, CA 91042; (818) 951-2275

Steer N' Ale Restaurant; 3644 E. Foothill Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107; (626) 796-2278

For more information about meetings, etc., contact: **Chuck O'Connell** at (661) 253-3428 or chuckoconnell@prodigy.net, or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or tgilders@pacbell.net.

Recent Sightings:

Linda Vieg, formerly in Construction Office, at Mimi's Café in Whittier, with her niece and great nephew.

Marie Martin and **Bob Walters**, and **Judy** and **Dennis Reynolds**, celebrating the holidays with candles, eggnog, roast beef and green bean casserole!

Larry and **Mary Schulz** at the rosary for **Irene Hetzler**, mother of **Martha Hetzler**.

Monica Moreno, who reported her Mom **Henrietta Moreno**, returned recently from a Mediterranean Cruise, and fortunately, not the one that ran aground! Wouldn't that make for some interesting reading!

Leonard Thompson in the District 7 "Fortress" Lobby.

The Road Last Traveled:

Tom Gildersleeve reported that **Keith Herman** passed away on December 11th. Services were held December 28th at Melrose Abbey Memorial Park and Cemetery, 2303 S. Manchester Avenue in Anaheim. 92082.

Paul In got a call from **Marvin Lim**, on February 3rd that **Marvin's** wife **Irene** suffered a severe stroke and was being treated at USC Medical Center. **Irene** passed away on Sunday, February 5, 2012. Her services were held on Saturday February 11, 2012 at Rosehills SkyRose Chapel.

Keep these families in your prayers.

Be like Tom, Chuck and Paul who have contributed to this article. How hard would it be to send a card, letter, or an e-mail? Stay in touch! Please send your items, to: **Caltrans, attn: Kirsten Stahl, 100 S. Main St. Suite 100 MS 13, Los Angeles, CA 90012**. Phone 213-897-0470, or e-mail: kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov.

Tom reminds you that the District 7 QCC Director and Treasurer are available, and you can reach him directly at 17200 So. Stark Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90701-1822.

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

WAKE UP!!

It time to send in those vacation/ gardening/ concert/ train travel details you've been hoarding. If not you, then who?

Many thanks to **Chuck O'Connell** who forwarded information and who was not otherwise mentioned above.

- **Kirsten Stahl**

The Haps in District 8

First off hope your New Year is going well. Here it's almost Spring! Where did the first two months go!

Our annual Christmas Luncheon was again a great success. It was held the second Saturday of December on December 3 at 12:00 at The Gourmet in San Bernardino. We had a good crowd. Those attending were **Dick Barrett, Loren & Margaret Barnett, Mary Bermudez, Dennis Blakkolb, Gil & Jeanette Daab, Bill Feenstra, Janice Feenstra, Jim & Jan Geller, Linda & Wes Grimes, Ed & Clarice Gritters, Dick & Louise Haight, Angela Hall, Doug Hogue, Frances Jacques, Carolyn Johns, Allan & Jane Kirst, Frank Lehr, Stan & Ina Lisiewicz, Dick Longstreet** and guests **Don & Eudene Troy, Marsha Lotze, Phosie Lotze, Jim & Linda Miller, Maxine Nelson, Sybille Phillips, Tom & Bonnie Powell, Virginia Reed, Taylor & Katie Smith** and their guest **Jim Moore, Roy Smoot & Marjorie Bruhn, and Gil & Cheryl Wilcox. Jim Balcom, Gerald Lunt, and Robert & Hannah Viveros** had reservations but were unable to attend.

We had a large variety of door prizes; including our poinsettia table decorations and our \$100.00 prizes donated by QCC. Those receiving prizes of \$25.00 each were **Doug Hogue, Dennis Blakkolb, Eudene Troy and Louise Haight**. District 8 QCC had a donation many years ago from the old Engineer's Club. When that organization disbanded they gave us the balance left in their bank account. We've been fortunate enough with our raffles to give out these extra awards to members attending our Christmas Luncheon. We've also donated a couple of times to CTF for their donations to Caltrans family members who've had a need for help from CTF. For any members not familiar with CTF, see the article on page 4.

Taylor Smith got a note from **Connie Sanford** in Kanab, UT inviting folks traveling thru to stop by and visit. She writes, "I can't believe that I'm 84, but I'm pretty sure I'm looking good! I love where I'm living but I do miss everyone. If you happen to be going through this area stop by. I even have a covered RV shelter with full hook-ups and I'm close to Zion, Bryce Canyon, Grand Canyon, etc. Of course, close is relative here. Love to all, Connie.

Bits and Pieces:

Ernie Parke was awarded his Honorary QCC membership certificate at a New Year's Eve dinner at Hannah's Restaurant in San Bernardino. **Ralph Wheeler** (former District 8er) writes from Baltimore that he continues working for the County Highway Design and Construction Department in Baltimore and has recovered from shoulder surgery as well as the effects of last year's stroke and his wife, Deborah and family, are all doing well. **Mary Bermudez** and **Richard Haight** received their Honorary QCC membership certificates at the Christmas Luncheon at the Gourmet Restaurant in San Bernardino. **Doug Hogue**, a new member, attended his first Christmas Luncheon at The Gourmet as well.

Roses to **Les Franz**, recovering from an infection and to **Dick Longsteet**, being treated and beating a nerve illness.

Morgan and Glenna Choate celebrating their 50th Anniversary with a family gathering in Redlands, where they were presented with a trip to New York City, all expenses paid! They are looking forward to their first visit to the Big Apple.

On separate occasions, **Mary Bermudez and Taylor Smith** recently visited **Tom Brannick**, a retired District 8 employee. Tom spent the major portion of his in Design Services and retired December 4, 1976. Taylor reports that Tom was one of the first people he met when he started working in District 8 in July, 1950, and that even though they had not seen each other for over 20 years Tom called Taylor by name when he walked unannounced into Tom's room. Tom is 98 YEARS OLD and resides at the Rialto Retirement Home, 1441 S. Riverside Avenue, Rialto, CA 92376. He would be pleased to receive cards AND visitors.

Sybille Phillips is one of our few members still working at Caltrans and she graciously keeps in touch with us retirees and wrote recently to us about **Henry Hardy**. He retired from the Division of Highways many years ago. He broke his hip on 12-9-11 while hurrying to catch a bus. Miraculously, only one pin was needed to fix it. He is (or was) at Vista Cove, 1471 S. Riverside Avenue in Room 14, Wing A in Rialto. Before you visit, please call to make sure he is still there. Telephone No. 909-877-1361.

Sybille saw **Maurice Loge** (aka **Frenchie**) last month. He is enjoying his 26th year of retirement from Caltrans! He and his wife are well.

We received notice of several Caltrans employees retiring at the end of 2011. Those retiring are **Irene Coyazo** from Administration and **Charlotte Sheehan** from Planning. **Deborah Robertson**, past Public Affairs Manager in District 8 is retiring from District 7. Also retiring from the District were **Gino Prudholm** from Banning Maintenance, **Gary Green** and **Clara Lee** from Planning, and **Ron Tanner** and **George Phillips** from Right of Way Engineering. We didn't receive any information on retirement parties.

Fortunately, we haven't lost any members from QCC these past three months. Our President Wes Grimes writes that the local paper recently carried an obituary for **Kirby A. French**, noting his passing in Apple Valley late last year. We have not been able to contact his family. Kirby worked in Design Services before retiring.

Last, but not least, we would like to welcome two new members:

Karen Jessen
Sue Ann Norris

- **Marsha Lotze**

The Haps in District 9

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

The Haps in District 10

About 30 District 10 retirees continue to meet for breakfast at Denny's at March Lane and I-5 in Stockton on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 a.m.

On Thursday April 5th at 11:00 a.m. Caltrans District 10 retirees semi-annual lunch at U.J.'s Family Restaurant, 7628 Pacific Ave, Stockton. The speaker is to be announced. Lunch selections are; \$15.00 Chicken, Beef or Salmon. Make out check with selection noted and payable to: "Caltrans Retirees" and mail to **Dick Mesa**, 6528 Herndon Place, Stockton, CA 95219. For more info, call (209) 478-6594.

On Tuesday June 12 , 2012 there is a San Francisco Bay Bridge construction tour scheduled at 10:15 a.m. For details and to sign up contact **Brian Young** 209-329-3445 cell or byoung@lodinet.com. It is limited to 25.

Vern Dorsch reports that he will be going on a cruise through the Panama Canal with his son, daughter and wife.

At the February 28th breakfast, **Virginia Evinger** says that her two sons Patrick and Dennis traveled by train to Texas- first time the two have traveled together. She reported that her sons survived their train trip.

Also at the breakfast, **Stan Randolph** reports that three strangers, **Tom McDougal, Ken McDaniel and Ed Traube** showed up. It was good to see and talk with them.

Dana Cowell, deputy director of SJCOG (San Joaquin Council of Governments) and prior Caltrans employee, passed away on the morning of January 21, 2012 after a long bout with cancer.

Dana joined SJCOG in 2006 after serving in a number of key transportation posts over the course of 26 years with the California Department of Transportation. Dana was also a QCC member.

SJCOG Executive Director **Andrew Chesley** stated, "We have lost a friend, a colleague, a mentor, a true professional who brought dedication, enjoyment, and excellence to his work. We were indeed fortunate to have Dana's talents in San Joaquin County."

Last year Dana was named "Transportation Manager of the Year" by the California Transportation Foundation for his dedication to overcoming obstacles to transportation projects. "Dana leads by example and has dedicated his career to team work and overcoming opposition to deliver the best transportation projects possible for the citizens of California," Caltrans' District 4 Deputy Director **Julie Dunning** wrote in her nomination of Dana for the award. "He has always instilled a sense of trust between partners."

Among Dana's recent notable accomplishments are critical safety improvements about to go into construction along State Route 12 through San Joaquin County. Dana led a partnership with Caltrans to develop intersection upgrades between Interstate 5 and Potato Slough Bridge highlighted by the complete redesign of the SR 12-Tower Parkway-Glasscock Road intersection. The construction contract for this \$20 million project was awarded earlier this month. Projects on I-5, Route 99, I-205 and Arch Road in Stockton all benefited from his commitment to transportation.

Dana also worked with Sacramento and Bay Area transportation leaders to craft the Northern California Trade Corridor Projects, directed SJCOG's organization of the Valley Wide State Transportation Improvement Program and initiated SJCOG efforts to advance modeling techniques and planning tools in response to Senate Bill 325, which requires reductions of greenhouse gas emissions.

Dana was well-known and respected by transportation planners throughout the state. His significant knowledge and contributions, dedication, and warm friendship will be missed in the profession.

Dana is survived by his wife, Van Ha To-Cowell, and the couple's two sons Evan and Andrew. He is also survived by his mother, two brothers and their families, as well as by numerous members of his wife's family, with whom he was every close.

His Memorial Service was held on Saturday, February 4, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at the Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton.

SJCOG has created a memorial page on Facebook where you can leave condolences for Dana's family or share a special memory.

- **Brian Young**

The Haps in District 11



n January 19, 2012, D-11 QCC celebrated with a buffet luncheon at Barra Barra Saloon across the street from the District Office in Old Town. Over 90 people attended this event and we had a great time.

We were delighted to have former D-11 Caltrans Director **Jesus Garcia** attend the luncheon, as usual. Additionally, we were happy to welcome D-11 QCC member **Doug Tugwell** who came all the way down from San Juan Capistrano for the luncheon. A lot of folks donated some great prizes for the raffle, which made it even more fun. **Dave Moody** was the real winner as his name was called 10 times. Wow, I think that's a record. **Larry Smith** won \$162.00 in the 50-50 drawing. We want to thank **Betty Cleveland** for handling the raffle tickets, and **Karla Winget** for the 50-50. GREAT JOB ladies, thanks again! D-11 also elected a new District Director, welcome **Jösan Feathers**. She brings some great talent to D-11 QCC, and we are lucky to have her help. A reminder for our end of summer picnic, it will be at our favorite spot at Santee Lakes on September 8, 2012 from 11-2. We will send out the announcement later this year.

From **Jösan Feathers**:

Bruce Urquhart, District 11 QCC member and Caltrans San Diego Division Chief for Land Surveys, was recently honored by Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG) with their annual Professional Achievement Award. Bruce was chosen from a statewide list of nominees for this award in recognition of his years of exemplary and innovative leadership with Caltrans Surveys as well as his dedication as a Surveys instructor at San Diego State University and as a teacher of review classes for the Professional Engineers exam, as well as many other accomplishments. Congratulations, Bruce! You made us all in District 11 very proud.

Update from QCC D-11 Executive meeting:

On February 9th the District 11 Executive Leaders met to discuss our plans and priorities for the upcoming

year. We critiqued the recent luncheon and came up with new ideas to quicken the raffle process. We reviewed our plans for our Annual BBQ in September. We brainstormed the crucial issue of recruiting new members. We then voted to appoint **Leslie Franklin** as D-11 Recruitment Chair and **George Gray** as D-11 Museum Chair. We also acknowledged the dedication and hard work **Dean Burns** has been doing over the years often running this District by himself! If you have any ideas how we can increase our District membership from our current 182 members or otherwise improve our District, please contact our leadership team or visit our web site for more information at www.CTQCC.150m.com.

- **Jösan Feathers**, QCC D-11 Director

From **Butch Biendara**:

Everyone is invited to ROMEOS every third Wednesday of every month. The details are that the start of the gathering begins with coffee at about 8 AM at the Denny's restaurant at the corner of Fletcher Parkway & Navajo Road. Go through the entry, turn right at the back hall, go to the end of the hall and turn left into our "Exclusive Private Banquet Room" to fill your own coffee cup. Late-comers have to refill a lot of early cups. At 8:30 the waitress comes by to take your (individual) order.

By 9 AM most have been served, and when all eaters get quiet stuffing their mouths, El Butcho 'dings a glass' to declare "ANNOUNCEMENTS" and gives out any announcements, \$ing\$ \$ong\$, invite\$ contribution\$ (donation\$), offer\$ application\$, tell\$ joke\$, doe\$ magic trick\$, or give\$ award\$, prize\$, gift\$... But don't be afraid, he doesn't show up most of the time. Elections to be voted on include, Best, Biggest, Fastest, Funniest, Meanest, Oldest, Silliest, Slowest, Smartest, Weirdest, (your idea), ...

At January's ROMEOS, 36 guests were in attendance, second in number only to March of last year when 39 people showed up. A quick survey by D-11 QCC Director **Leslie Franklin** found that those at the breakfast had a combined 1,200 years of service. Four Honorary QCC'ers were there with two of them, **Bill Dotson** and **Bob Young** still vigorous at age 90.

R.O.M.E.O.'s, where the brave, bold and strong glorify retirement!!!!

(Editor's note: ROMEO stands for Retired Old Men Eating Out. However, women are welcomed and encouraged to attend.)

From **Russ Plowman**:

Frank Bell passed away on March 1st after a long bout with cancer.

From **Joanne Einhorn**:

On December 10, 2011, **Renee Krolkowski** lost her three year battle with ovarian cancer. Renee's loving and generous spirit built an extended family that consisted of long time family friends and co-workers who were a tremendous comfort to her right up to the time of her passing.

From **Joe and Mallie Odle** and **Dean Burns**:

Frederick (Hank) Kreft, 88, passed away peacefully on February 4, 2012 with his family by his side after a short but courageous battle with cancer. Hank fought the cancer with his typical positive attitude. He was a man of deep faith and set an inspiring example of how to age with dignity.

In 1943, he joined the Army to fight in WWII and became a member of the 11th Armored Division. He was wounded during the Battle of the Bulge while driving a tank. Hank started working for the Div of Hwys (Caltrans) in 1951. He helped design and build numerous freeways and bridges throughout Southern California. Hank thoroughly enjoyed his work and felt blessed to have had so many wonderful co-workers.

Save the date, **Gary Darr** reserved our usual place at Santee Lakes for our September 8, 2012 picnic. Any donations you have for our raffle are greatly appreciated. We hope you can join us for good food and great company.

QCC D-11 welcomes two new members:

Chuck Deyoe and **Linda Seifert**.

From **Leslie Franklin**:

It has been fun, and I enjoyed my year as D-11 QCC District Director and I want to thank you all for your continued support for D-11 QCC. We make a good team...

- **Leslie Franklin and Jösan Feathers**

The Haps in Central

Greetings from the Central District! We had a fun Holiday Luncheon on December 14th to finish off a busy year. It was great to have such a nice turnout. Our annual Spring Fling will be held on April 19th at the Dante Club. We are hoping to have a guest speaker from Cal Trans who will update us on new and refurbished rest areas throughout California. For all of you who love to travel our wonderful state, this should be a fun and informative luncheon.

The following are notes from our December luncheon.

Dave and Beth Crane – Merry Christmas! We took one trip this year. We went back to Denver to see our daughter, Lori, and family. On the way, we took a side trip to Bryce National Park, Great Basin National Monument and Zion National Park. Amazing scenery!! Next year we are taking the whole family to Hawaii for our 60th wedding anniversary! Luckily, our whole family is only 9 people! Other than that, we are just hanging in there.

Ed and Pat Kress – We're still motor-homing around this great country. Thoroughly enjoyed this holiday get-together and sharing memories.

Jack Cropper – I'm off to Kihei, Maui, Hawaii, as soon as the Pan Am Clipper is flyable or my rowboat has its leak fixed!

Ray and Addi Forsyth – We are looking forward to 2012. We had a wonderful Thanksgiving with all of Ray's family. We spent four great days partying! Ray

had a rough October and November, but is feeling better now. I told him he had to stick around for the holiday parties! It was great to see so many friends. Happy New Year to all!

Dave and Jan Nelson – We had a great time in Hawaii this last February and plan to do it again this coming Spring. The remainder of the time has been devoted to granddaughter sitting. Glad to see old friends and co-workers today. Merry Christmas and see you all next year!

Joe Thomas – Hi, Everyone! I just want to let you know I'm still all up and kicking – not too bad! I visit my kids in New York, Illinois, and California as often as I can. I am still doing my yard work. Always have an evening martini or two! It was so good to see you all.

See travel article by **Allen and Joyce Wrenn** on page 19.

On a sad note, Charles Edwin Zell passed away on December 11, 2011. Charles was 85 years old. He graduated from high school in the Bay area and completed his education with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering and a Masters in Transportation and Traffic Engineering, both degrees were from UC Berkeley. Charles retired from Caltrans in 1982. He also retired a Lt. Col. with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

- Gary and Julie Bush

Events

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

District 1 -

Caltrans retirees and QCC members meet on the 3rd Thursday of the months of January, April, July and October at 11:30 am at the Samoa Cookhouse.

Contact John Sherman at
jsherman1@Humboldt1.com
or call (707)498-2629 for details.

District 2 -

Retired Caltrans Ladies Lunch Bunch meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:30 AM, location varies. Contact Judy Tucker at linedancerjudyt@citlink.net

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

District 3 -

QCC Annual Spring Party
Sunday, April 22, 2012

Peach Tree Country Club in Linda
Social Hour has been set from 1:00 P.M. to 1:45 P.M.
A business meeting will follow with a Buffet served at 2 P.M.. More info is coming.

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

District 4 -

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

Contact: Ed Coble 925-645-4219,
edcoble49@astound.net

Administration Retirees Lunch meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Mexicali Rose Restaurant in downtown Oakland at 11:30am. Contact Anita Appiano (aappiano@pacbell.net) or Kathy Freeman (kathy.freeman1@att.net).

The North Bay Caltrans Retirees meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Contact: Jim Bouler 707-546-3097,
jbouler@comcast.net

District 5 -

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

District 6 -

The Caltrans Retiree Breakfast meets at 9 am on the third Wednesday in March and September at the Waffle House on Route 68 in Lindsay. Contact: Don Phillips 559-781-2057

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

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

Spring Luncheon
 Tuesday, May 8, 2012
 Yosemite Falls Cafe

Christmas Party
 Tuesday, December 4, 2012
 Save the date

District 7 -

Annual Holiday Celebration
 December 1, 2012
 Save the date

The Tom Fera Monthly Luncheon Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month (except December) in Los Angeles.
 Contact: Chuck O'Connell at (661) 253-3428 or chuckoconnell@prodigy.net, or Tom Gildersleeve at (661) 259-6226 or tgilders@pacbell.net.

4-11-12 Steer N' Ale, 3644 E. Foothill Blvd, Pasadena (626) 796-2278

5-9-12 China Olive, 9224 Reseda Blvd Northridge (818) 998-3688

- 6-13-12 Joselito's West, 7308 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga (818) 951-2275
- 7-11-12 Steer N' Ale, 3644 E. Foothill Blvd, Pasadena (626) 796-2278
- 8-8-12 China Olive, 9224 Reseda Blvd Northridge (818) 998-3688
- 9-12-12 Joselito's West, 7308 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga (818) 951-2275
- 10-10-12 Steer N' Ale, 3644 E. Foothill Blvd, Pasadena (626) 796-2278
- 11-14-12 China Olive, 9224 Reseda Blvd Northridge (818) 998-3688

District 8 -

Every Wednesday morning at 9:00 Construction Retirees and anyone else interested meet at Coco's Restaurant in San Bernardino.

District 9 -

Contact: Lance Hinek, 760-873-3885,
hinek@suddenlink.net

District 10 -

Semi-Annual Lunch
 Thursday, April 5th at 11:00 a.m.
 U.J.'s Family Restaurant
 7628 Pacific Ave, Stockton
 Lunch selections are; \$15.00 Chicken, Beef or Salmon.
 Make out check with selection noted and payable to:
 "Caltrans Retirees" and mail to:
Dick Mesa, 6528 Herndon Place, Stockton, CA 95219. For more info, call (209) 478-6594.

San Francisco Bay Bridge Construction Tour
 Tuesday, June 12, 2012 at 10:15 a.m.
 For details and to sign up contact **Brian Young**
 209-329-3445 cell or byoung@lodinet.com.
 It is limited to 25.

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

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
EagleAyerie@hotmail.com

Fall Picnic at Santee Lakes
September 8, 2012
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Call Gary Darr for more info

Central District -

Annual Spring Fling
April 19th at the Dante Club
Guest Speaker from Cal Trans
Call Gary or Julie Bush
530-642-8208
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Travel Down Under

By Allen and Joyce Wrenn
Central District

We were traveling for a little more than a month in December and January when we made our first trip Down Under.

Our first stop was in Bali, Indonesia where we visited for just over a week. This is a place we had been considering for a visit for several years. When we were doing our cruising on Holland America Line (when Allen was serving as a Guest Lecturer) we got to know a lot of the ships' crew who are from

Indonesia. A lot of them invited us to visit their homeland, and offered to escort us if they were home. Well, all of the guys we have kept in contact with were away on the ships, but one of them arranged for his brother to be our escort/guide/driver for our entire stay.

Having this local contact meant we got to see things most visitors to Bali do not get to experience. We visited the home of our escort and those of all his relatives. Their world is quite different than ours. Their homes are smaller, they have less furniture, they have much less-modern kitchen and bathroom facilities, some do not have indoor plumbing, most use motorbikes for transportation, but they are all very friendly and gracious people as well as being very strong in their religious beliefs. Even though Indonesia is a Muslim-dominated country, Bali is about 85% Hindu. All of the homes we visited had one or more small temples.

Our overall impression of Bali was generally one of disappointment. It turned out not to be the tropical paradise we have read of. It seems that Bali has been a victim of its own success in attracting visitors. The infrastructure has not kept up with the increase in jobs for locals and the general increase in traffic. There are hundreds of cars, buses and trucks on the roads, along with thousands of motorbikes. Traffic is terrible!!!

Many of the roads we traveled were very narrow with no shoulders and deep ditches alongside. Many of the back roads were a series of potholes connected by very little pavement.

Our hotel was one of the large resort-type. If we had remained in the vicinity of our hotel we would not have seen much of the negative side of Bali, but why go to a foreign place if you are not going to experience what it is really like?

Even in light of the many negatives, we did really enjoy our time in Bali. We were there on our own, not as part of a tour group.

After leaving Bali we went to Australia where we did join a tour group for a 3-week visit to Australia and

New Zealand. Our tour began in Melbourne, went to Alice Springs and Uluru (a.k.a. Ayer's Rock), on to Port Douglas (north of Cairns), and then to Sydney. Along the way we visited the many tourism destinations including The Great Barrier Reef.

What is commonly called Ayer's Rock is now properly referred to as Uluru. The rock and surrounding area is sacred to the Aborigines and has formally been given to them. These native people then entered into a long-term lease with the government to operate the Uluru National Park.

Our time at Uluru and The Olgas (another rock formation) was so different that at other places. Australia, being such a large country, has many different environments. Even though Uluru is in a hot and dry environment, on our first day there we had 0.75 inch of rain in about 30 minutes. From there we went to the eastern coast north of Cairns. We found it was very tropical, even with some rainforests.

In the big city of Sydney we experienced their famous harbor bridge and opera house. No, we did not climb the bridge. Another of our stops was at Bondi Beach where the famous Australian Lifeguard Service was founded 105 years ago.

We found Australia and New Zealand both to be rather expensive. The Australian dollar is about on par with ours. We got about 20% more when we exchanged into New Zealand currency. In US dollars our breakfast at the Sydney hotel cost \$38 each person. Also in Sydney pizza for two and 3 glasses of beer cost \$45.

After ten days in Australia it was off to New Zealand for another ten days of touring. Our Tour Director reminded us we were "on tour," not "on vacation." We were up very early every day and were kept very busy most days. We traveled with Tauck Tours, our first time with them. We were fortunate to have a very competent Tour Director. He has been leading groups to Australia and New Zealand for 14 years.

Our travel in Australia was on Qantas Airlines. In New Zealand we went places that did not have

scheduled airline service, so we were always on chartered flights.

After visiting Auckland we went by bus to Rotorua where we encountered the Maori culture. Then we flew to Wellington, almost. Our plane had a hydraulic failure and we had to make an unscheduled landing a couple of hours drive north of Wellington. For our landing the emergency vehicles were deployed, but we had no problems. This was an example of how well our Tour Director took care of things. About 30 minutes after making this unscheduled stop he had a bus available to take us on to Wellington.

Being mostly a two-island nation New Zealand is very water-oriented. Wellington is on a beautiful harbor. The surrounding hills cause some challenges for home builders. Some homes have no direct street access. The only way to get to them is by using a private tramway up an incline.

On the South Island we visited a mussel farm in Marlborough Sound. Mussels are a very big business here and are shipped worldwide. We enjoyed some, along with lunch, while on a very nice boat.

We flew further south and visited Milford Sound. This part of the country is very mountainous. A Sound is similar to a Norwegian Fjord, but there is a technical difference. We saw mountains with snow and glaciers on them, but the weather was beautiful; sunny and mild.

We were in Queenstown for 3 nights. This is a very outdoors-oriented area with hiking, parasailing, bungee jumping, boating, winter skiing, water skiing and other sports being popular. We sailed on a 100-year old coal-burning lake steamer, visited a sheep station and went on a jet-boat on the Shotover River. Tauck's original schedule had us going to Christchurch, but with the recent earthquake damage our tour was adjusted to eliminate that stop.

After a whirlwind three weeks we returned to Auckland for a night prior to flying home. Our last night included a cocktail party and dinner in the Sky Tower, over 1,750 feet tall. One of the things we

could see looking down was the Golden Arches of McDonald's painted on a building's roof. It almost made us feel at home.

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS	DIST
Paul (David) Wilson	1
Richard G Drosendahl	7
Bob Goodell	7
Karen Jessen	8
Sue Ann Norris	8
Chuck Deyoe	11
Linda Seifert	11

To Honorary Members

Have you seen this option-

FREE PRINTED COPIES

on the membership renewal form? Many of you have and didn't know exactly what it was for, or thought it was just a free subscription if you checked the box. Well, here is the rest of the story.

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 you have a working email address). These dues rates are less than our cost of producing and sending the QCCer to you, so it's a pretty good deal. The other free option is for Honorary members who cannot afford the \$5 or \$10 rate and do not have a working email account. In other words, paying the dues would be a hardship for them. In this case, the QCC Constitution allows for the free delivery of the printed QCCer, IF the Honorary member makes a confidential request to their QCC District Director, AND the Director provides written approval. This written approval is best sent along with the completed renewal form to the QCC Secretary/Treasurer.

So, if you think this may apply to you, don't hesitate to contact your QCC District Director. We don't want any QCC members to be left out.

2011 Year-end Financial Report

Beginning Balance, 1/1/2011	\$12,693
Income:	
Dues*	15,994
New member fees	60
Donations	485
Total Income	16,539
Expenses:	
QCCer newsletters	5684
Editor	1139
Sec/Treas	1851
Secretary expenses	487
Dist expenses reimbursed	745
Total expenses	-9,907
Ending Balance, 12/31/11	<u>\$19,325</u>
Less Future Obligations**	-17,114
Excess of cash on hand	<u>\$2,211</u>

* Contains dues paid for years beyond 2012

** 1152 membership years paid in advance

THE MILK CARTON

Here are names of members with whom we have lost contact. If you know of their whereabouts, please contact the Secretary Mike Ogilvie, at the address shown on page 2.

Kremer, Joe	Central
Gough, Harley M	2
Laird, Lauren L.	2
Lamb, Donald R	2
Chander, Satish	7
Chew, B Tom	7