

# TheQCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter  
Century Club

VOLUME 24, No. 4

DECEMBER 2015



## Focus on History

### “EL CAMINO REAL”

#### From the Corner Pocket

News at the State QCC Officers level has our First Vice President, **George Gray** moving to the position of Historian. He has uncovered news of a move to recognize the **El Camino Real** in California and Baja Mexico as a World Heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, and he seeks to put some of his time and talents to work for that. Not only will George be a great asset for that, but we expect to get more exposure for the QCC with one of our State Officers involved with that work. Be certain to read George's piece elsewhere in this QCCer with his plans and where you may lend some help tracking down sites in your local area. You just might know of important details and be able to add your contribution to the effort.

With **George's** move to fill the spot of Historian, the Second Vice President, **Dave Weiss**, moves up to First Vice President. I polled the District Directors without getting a nibble so we are glad we found a talented and willing volunteer. We have a new man on line stepping into the Second Vice President spot. **Francisco Paras Jr.** has agreed to step up and join the team.



The QCC Constitution calls for annual elections for State QCC Officers, but in my (too long) term of President, there has never been any need for elections as when we did have vacancies, we only had a single candidate to fill the spot by acclimation.

For recruiting new members we have been compiling a statewide list of email addresses for 25-year employees still at work, (... ..@dot.ca.gov), and sending out an occasional invitation to them to join the QCC. Your District Officers may wish to get a copy of those from your District and invite them to your local District QCC events.

**Reminder:** Please send DUES (checks), membership applications and honorary member status information for year 2016 to Statewide QCC Secretary/Treasurer **Mike Ogilvie**. See Page 19 for the Membership Renewal Form.

Well, it is that time of year when we reflect back on the last year and what things are truly important. Be especially thankful this season for your family, your faith, and your country. And last but not least, this note sends my very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Butch Biendara, QCC President**

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**Rather read the QCCer on-line?**  
Go to  
<http://ctqcc.150m.com/qccnewsletter.html>  
Check the current haps at Caltrans at  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews>

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION  
FOUNDATION**  
By Kathy Freeman

The California Transportation Foundation held its annual **Transportation Education Symposium** in October at the UCLA Lake Arrowhead Conference Center. The symposium is a one-of-a-kind gathering of top California university undergraduate students and carefully chosen high level transportation executives for two days of mentoring and role playing. Many attendees say it is their favorite transportation event of the year. It is an opportunity for these executives to share what they have learned about

succeeding with the next generation of transportation leaders, and have a great time doing it! Our thanks go to **John Vassiliades** (District 7), **Ryan Chamberlain** (District 12), **Cory Bins** (District 11), and **Du Lu** (District 8) who were the Caltrans participants serving as mentors during this event.

The **SoCal Charity Golf Tournament** was held in August at the Dove Canyon Golf Club and had over 100 golfers, 31 sponsors and raised almost \$34,000 to help support CTF's scholarships Fallen and Injured Workers programs. Check out the Foundation's website to see the photos taken during this event and those from the NorCal Tournament held in July.

Over that past few months the Foundation has established several Workers Memorial and Workers Assistance accounts for Caltrans' partners in the private sector, some of whom you may know. **Workers Memorial accounts** were established for: **Adan Lara**, County of Ventura Public Works Agency, was struck and killed by an errant motorist while flagging. **Leonardo Sandoval Pena**, Pacific Restoration Group, a contractor working for District 11, was struck and killed by a vehicle while working on a sprinkler repair on Route 15 at Center City Parkway. **Miguel Rodriguez Delacruz**, O.C.Jones & Sons, Inc., was hit by a drunk driver while doing construction work in a lane closure on I-580. **Tucker Taylor**, Teichert foreman, was killed in a work-related traffic accident.

A **Workers Assistance account** has also been established for the workers that were injured in October during a bridge lowering operation in Riverside on State Route 91: **Michael Richey**, **Troy Shope James Chaffee**, **Dion Barerra**, **Alex Paez**, **Gilberto Ortiz** and **Eric Rodarte**.

If you wish to make a donation to any of the Workers Assistance or Memorial accounts above, your check should be made out to CTF with the name of the person you are donating to

in the memo line. Your check should be sent to the California Transportation Foundation at 581 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento Ca 95862. For more information or if you wish to donate online, please see our website. ([www.transportationfoundation.org](http://www.transportationfoundation.org)).

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the Foundation and its programs. All of us here at CTF wish you a very safe and happy holiday season.

## *In Memoriam*

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

Name	District	Date
Bruce Hannel	01	Sep 11, 2015
Sally Christy	01	2015
Ernest (Ernie) Crall	03	Sep 12, 2015
Robert M. Manji	03	Dec 31, 2014
Elmo Meister	03	May 7, 2015
Evelyn Catherine Phillips	03	Oct 21, 2015
Eugene Henderson	05	Sep 19, 2015
Kenneth (Kenny) Walsh	06	Aug 8, 2015
Seilchi Odo	07	Aug 26, 2015
George Ornay	07	Sep 25, 2015
David (Dave) H Roper	07	Sep 25, 2015
Opal Estes	07	2015
Arnold Mahelona	07	2015
Bob Redden	08	Oct 30, 2015
Richard Sandoval	08	Nov 2015
Angel Stabolito	08	Oct 8, 2015
Andy Ramirez	08	Oct 2015
Philip Hanna	08	2015
Jack Lewis Florence	10	Oct 13, 2015
George Wade Crowley	10	Nov 4, 2015
Jesus Garcia	11	Oct 19, 2015

## **World Heritage Status for "El Camino Real de las Californias"**

By George E. Gray

There is a bi-national effort underway to have the Spanish-established "El Camino Real de las Californias" recognized by the United Nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a World Heritage site.

Several U.S. and Mexico organizations dedicated to historic preservation are leading this effort and I anticipate that the State of California will soon endorse the project. Such recognition would have the El Camino Real join Yosemite and the California Redwoods as UNESCO National Heritage sites.

Since over the years, the Division of Highways and subsequently Caltrans have been involved in the establishment and maintenance of the El Camino Real bells, I am sure there will be an interest in that program as the recognition effort progresses. To prepare for this eventuality, I would like assistance from fellow QCC members.

What I have in mind to support this program is a small status study to determine the location of El Camino Real bells (if any) at the 21 missions, four presidios, and three cities (pueblos) founded in Nueva (Alta) California by Spain. Since I am no longer a long-distance driver, I would appreciate help in this endeavor. My count of possible locations by District is:

District 4 - four missions (Solano, San Rafael, San Francisco, Santa Clara), one presidio (San Francisco), and one city (San Jose).

District 5 - eleven missions (Santa Cruz, San Jose, San Juan Bautista, San Carlos de Monterey, Soledad, San Antonio, San Miguel, San Luis Obispo, La Purisima, Santa Ynez, Santa Barbara), two presidios (Monterey, Santa Barbara), and one city (Branciforte).

District 7 - three missions (San Buenaventura, San Fernando Rey, San Gabriel) and one city (Los Angeles).

District 12 - one mission (San Juan Capistrano).

District 11 - two missions (San Luis Rey, San Diego) and one presidio (San Diego).

I realize there are lots of existing bells along the El Camino Real de las Californias, including one at

the border with Mexico; but this modest effort cannot undertake the work to locate all of them.

Anyone interested in helping me? If so, please contact me at 858-538-3027 or [gray850b@aol.com](mailto:gray850b@aol.com)

## *The Haps in District 1*

On September 19, I made it to **Bob Myer's** birthday party. It was a beautiful, sunny day and we were able to sit out on the patio enjoying a great visit. He turned a young 99 and we are looking forward to his 100th. Since his work career at Caltrans went from 1936 to 1976, next year he will be retired as long as he worked.

We had our quarterly breakfast at the Pantry on October 14 with 34 in attendance. We had a great visit. **George Otterbeck** made it over from Redding for this one. That is not as easy now with Hwy. 299 over Buckhorn Mt. being in the midst of construction. The construction will greatly improve the trip when finished.

**Ray and Donna Truttman** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 13. They are both lifetime residents of Humboldt County. Ray retired from Caltrans, District 1 after 30 years working as an Equipment Operator in Eureka. Donna retired from Pacific Bell in Eureka after 28 years. They are both enjoying retirement and we enjoy seeing them at different meetings, including Calif. State Retirees.

We were sorry to learn that **Georgia Hannel's** husband, **Bruce**, passed away on Sept. 11 at age 94. He served in WWII and Korea. He worked for the Sacramento Office of Criminal Identification and Information, then transferred to Dept. of Motor Vehicles. He retired in 1988 from the Eureka office, came back, then retired again in 1994 at age 73. He and Georgia were

married 46 years. She retired from Caltrans, District 1 and they have two sons.

We reported last quarter that **Harold Christy** had passed away. We recently learned that his wife, **Sally**, had also passed away shortly after he did.

Merry Christmas to all...

- **Arlene Hartin**

## *The Haps in District 2*

**R**etha and **Nick Rubiec** went on a trip to Alaska to celebrate their 40th anniversary and Nick's 70th birthday in August. It was a beautiful Princess cruise and land trip. An added bonus was to visit long-time friends in Washington and family near Portland. Thanks and congratulations to **Retha** and **Nick** on those milestones!

With that said, all that is left is to wish all of you and yours a most joyous Christmas and a wonderfully Happy New Year.

- **Bill Belcher**

## *The Haps in District 3*

**T**he annual District 3 Quarter Century Party, which was held at the Peach Tree Golf and Country Club on November 15, 2015, was a big success with all participants catching up on all the vacation news and other topics as well. The mystery guest winner was **Ed Betschart** who was one of fifteen who guessed the late **Gil Mulcahy**. Gil was the Deputy District Director of the Right of Way Department. The names of the people who guessed right were placed in a box and one name was drawn. Ed gets a free meal at the next QCC Party he attends. Congrats, Ed!

We request all to mark your calendars for our next party which will be held in April 2016.

We are saddened to report the passing of:

**Ernest (Ernie) Crall** passed away on November 25, 2015 at Yuba City. Ernie was born on September 12, 1929. He graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering and went to work at Marysville with the Division of Highways (now Caltrans) where he retired after 33 years. Ernie was a **QCC Honorary Member**. He was very active with the Blood Source Program and during his life donated over 20 gallons of blood.

**Robert M. Manji** passed away suddenly on December 31, 2014. Robert worked for Caltrans from 1968 to 1996 and after his retirement continued working as a consultant.

**Elmo Meister**, a **QCC Honorary Member**, passed away on May 7, 2015. Elmo's daughter, Cam Wolff reported that the family moved to Santa Rosa after her Dad's retirement and all finally ended up living in Portland Oregon. Elmo is also survived by his son, Ray, three grandsons, three great grandsons and one great granddaughter.

**Evelyn Catherine Phillips** passed away on October 21, 2015 at Rideout Hospital. Evelyn was born on July 26, 1922 in Los Angeles and was an integral part of the District 3 Right of Way Department before retiring in 1975.

Please invite your friends and associates, who are Caltrans employees and have 25 years of service, to join the Quarter Century Club. Applications are available from Membership Chairperson **Carleen Hagen**. She can be reached via email at [hcdhagen@aol.com](mailto:hcdhagen@aol.com) or by phone at (530) 674-9026.

We are looking for old photos of Caltrans employees, retired or still working, for our twice a year mystery guest contest. Please send your

photograph to **Dan Johnson, Sr.**, 901 Dennis Way, Yuba City, Calif. 95991. Your photo will be returned.

If you have a story, vacation trip to share, or wish to report about an illness or passing of a member; please send it to Dan, Sr. at the above address or email it to [boots3@syix.com](mailto:boots3@syix.com) so it can be included in the next issue of the QCCer.

- **Dan Johnson Sr.**

### *The Haps in District 4*

**D**istrict 4 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

### *The Haps in District 5*

**B**est wishes for a Happy New Year! Hope you enjoyed the holidays with family and friends.

We are happy to have more seasonal weather with a nip in the morning air. Now, if we could just get some more rain and greener hills...

The December 5 edition of our local paper *The Tribune* contained an interesting article by David Middlecamp and photos of an arch timber bridge on SR-1 at Dolan Creek, Monterey County in the 1930's. It was quite a feat to build this structure 150 feet above the ravine. The timber bridge was replaced with concrete in 1962, and some of the wood used to build a home in Big Sur.

The Caltrans Holiday BBQ was held on December 9, too late for this edition. I'll hope to have news about it next time.

A pleasant surprise was e-mail from **Robert Scalise**. **Bob** and **Carol** are now living in Texas

on her daughter's ranch. Bob says he keeps active doing odd jobs around the place like setting fences, plowing fields, setting deer blinds and staying out of trouble. Thanks for renewing your membership, Bob.

We enjoyed celebrating Thanksgiving with **Faith & Bill Fieldhouse** and family. They are looking forward to visiting New Zealand in a few months.

**Bill Cotnam** is travelling again and celebrated his birthday in Thailand. WOW!

We enjoyed a delicious pre-Christmas lunch with other retirees at our local country club. It was nice to see **Giff & Shirley Bland, RJ & Linda Brown, Dyer Campbell, Herb & Diane Filippini, Charlie Hench, Pete Hom, Delores Jorge, Jack & Ellen Neal, Betty Nicholson, Jean & Gary Schultz, and Dick & Sandy Elliott** and their grandson Jeremy.

We are sorry to report the passing of **Eugene Henderson** on September 19. Gene was born in Missouri, graduated from high school in Illinois and drafted into the Army. While stationed at Camp San Luis Obispo, he met the love of his life, **Shirley Lou Johnson**. Gene worked as a surveyor for Caltrans for nearly 40 years. He is survived by his wife Shirley, their five children, and many grand and great-grandchildren.

If you have any news you'd like to share, please drop me a note or e-mail. Thanks!

- **Kathleen Copeland**

### *The Haps in District 6*

**D**istrict 6 has two groups that meet more often than the semi-annual Caltrans Retiree Breakfast (March and September). 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.

Another informal group meets for coffee at 8 am on Thursdays at Country Waffles at the NW corner of Herndon and Cedar. Please attend and send me updates on folks so I can include in the next QCCer.



**Kenneth Walsh** passed away in Fresno, CA on August 8, 2015. He was born in Wildwood, NJ on October 15, 1924, to Violet and August Walsh, a pitcher for the Philadelphia Phillies at the time. He married the love of his life,

**Eleanor Lynne**, on June 21, 1945. They recently celebrated their 70 year wedding anniversary. Ken was brilliant, honest and had a competitive spirit, yet humble at the same time. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He served in the United States Army as a Sergeant during World War II. He graduated with an Associate's Degree from Fresno State College in 1947. He loved sailing and was a founding member of the Lake Millerton Sailing Association (L.M.S.A.) which is currently known as the Fresno Yacht Club (FYC). Ken was voted in as their Commodore for one year, which entitled him to a free lifetime membership with the club. Ken and his wife were successful competitors and won numerous trophies throughout their sailing career. Ken also crewed on a sailboat at the prestigious annual Huntington Lake Regatta in 1964, in which they won first place. He also crewed on Ocean Yacht races that departed from Newport Beach, CA, and ending in Ensenada, Mexico. A civil engineer by trade, he worked for the State of California Department of Transportation in the Traffic Division for 38 years, and retired at the age of 63. After retiring, he would still be called upon as an expert witness to testify in court on the state's behalf on liability injury

cases. During retirement, he also enjoyed a good game of tennis with his pals from the Fresno Roeding Park Tennis Club. He was still competitive, winning at doubles and singles matches on the court until the age of 85. Other hobbies and achievements in his life include membership in the Toastmasters of Fresno, a licensed amateur Hamm radio operator and a brother in the Las Palmas-Ponderosa Masonic Lodge No. 366 for 53 years, achieving a degree of Master Mason. Ken is survived by Eleanor, his wife of 70 years; daughter, Kimberly Williams and her husband Robert; granddaughters, Amanda Smith, and Amber Messer Smith and her husband Nick; great-granddaughter, Eleanor Lynne "Ellie" Messer Smith; and his sister, Jerry Lee Emerzian, and her extended family. Kenny will be dearly missed but forever in our thoughts and in our hearts.

From **Bob Dubel**: Kenny was well known at Caltrans. I cannot remember the projects that he worked on. He was always friendly and helped everyone around him. It seems to me that he worked on a lot of special projects in the traffic dept.

From **Terry Littleton**:

I saw **Lee Halderman** at our Retired Ski Patrol Party a couple of months ago and he is doing really well. He and Joyce have moved to a smaller place.

If any of you reading this have some news, please call me with your stories. I've gotten really busy since taking custody of a three year old grandson. This is much harder than it was raising my five kids. Maybe age has something to do with it. Call me at 559-974-3885 or e-mail me at [terrylittleton@comcast.net](mailto:terrylittleton@comcast.net)

- **Terry Littleton**



## *The Haps in District 7*

**D**istrict 7 Members enjoyed a delightful luncheon at **Taix**, the famous French Restaurant and LA landmark, this past Saturday December 5.

Attendees included: **Hiro Aragaki, Tom and Linda Almany, Alex and Fran Blanco, Jim Bowles, Walt Bowman, Fred and Gloria Cubillas, Mack Hunter** and guest **Rosalba Sanchez, Carol and Dick Huntwork, Mary and Dahlia Jaramillo, Mark Johnson, Stan and Ina Lisiewicz, Marie Martin and Bob Walters, Henrietta Moreno, Dale Neumen, Doug Richter, Bob Sassaman, Carol Schumaker, Dick Smith, Kirsten and Stewart Stahl, Ken Steele, Bill Sturgis, Gus and son Vince Sulitis, and Milly and Bill Yamada.**

The meal included salad, sliced tender pot roast and fingerling potatoes, or chicken marsala and rice, green bean and carrot medley, and a slice of sweet potato pie for dessert. The centerpiece consisted of a colorful wreath of holiday ornaments, leaves, a large bow, and a poinsettia bloom.

**Tom** asked **Kirsten** to give a District update, and with the help of the other three active employees, listed the District and Deputy Directors, including **Carrie Bowen, Shirley Choat, Duncan McIntosh, Blanca Rodriguez, Gary Slater, Ron Kozinski, Jerrel Kam, Mark Archuletta, Debbie Wong, Ali Zaghafi, Robert So, and Andy Nuremburg.** The District is actively preparing for an expected El Nino rainy season, with a recent emergency preparedness drill for the Arkstorm (read more at [www.arkstorm.com](http://www.arkstorm.com)). **Kirsten** mentioned the on-going effort to estimate staffing resources for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year, which lists 448 projects, and brokering work to District 4 following the wrap-up of the Bay Bridge and other toll bridge work.

**Tom** lead the group in the game of “Majority Rules”, with such questions as: “What was Frank Sinatra’s most well-known song?”, “What is the most beloved U.S. holiday?”, “What are the most popular television programs?”, “Who present has the most years of State Service?”, “How many people present have been married more than 50 years?” If you said, “My Way”, “Christmas”, “CSI”, and “three”, you were among the majority opinion. Some questions, i.e. “Who present has the most years of State Service?” had no majority agreement. The winning table had the satisfaction of their command of popular opinion.

**Tom** and **Linda** will be travelling to Hawaii, where their son **Glenn**, a world renowned marine biologist will be honored posthumously at an International Conference on Marine Biology. A scholarship was endowed in **Glenn’s** name at James Cook University, where he taught in Australia.

**Ken Steele** shared his new e-mail address is [Steelink@iCloud.com](mailto:Steelink@iCloud.com). **Helene** is recovering nicely from her heart surgery. **Gus Sulitis** shared that **Judy** is well, although slowly regaining her mobility after her heart surgery a few years ago. **Henrietta** sat with **Jim Bowles**, who both started in District 7 while teenagers, and after 20 years, **Jim** spent the next 22 years of his career in District 9. **Rosalba** submitted for membership to join the QCC, and **Dahlia** requested an application.

Thank you to **Carol Huntwork** and **Tom Almany** who coordinated the reservations, and made the event possible. FOR NEXT YEAR – keep the FIRST SATURDAY, December 3, 2016 open, so we can celebrate another year together!

### Tom Fera Monthly Group

**Tom Gildersleeve** has sent the list of 2016 dates, for the **Tom Fera** Lunch Group for the second Wednesday of each month, except

December. The 2016 dates and addresses follow below.

**RESTAURANTS AND PROPOSED LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2016**

[Second Wednesday of every month except December]

January 13, 2016 - Joselito's West  
 February 10, 2016 - Steer N' Ale  
 March 8, 2016 - China Olive  
 April 13, 2016 - Joselito's West  
 May 11, 2016 - Steer N' Ale  
 June 8, 2016 - China Olive  
 July 13, 2016 - Joselito's West  
 August 10, 2016 - Steer N' Ale  
 September 14, 2016 - China Olive  
 October 12, 2016 - Joselito's West  
 November 9, 2016 - Steer N' Ale  
 December 3, 2016 - QCC luncheon at Taix

**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](mailto:chuckoconnell@prodigy.net), or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or [tgilders@pacbell.net](mailto:tgilders@pacbell.net).

Ventura Monthly Meeting

Another Caltrans retiree luncheon, is held the third Monday of each month at 11:30 AM, in Oxnard, at:

**BJ's Restaurant & Brewery,** 461 Esplanade Drive, Oxnard, CA.

For more information, e-mail **Dick Stewart** at [dick@jps.net](mailto:dick@jps.net).

San Gabriel Monthly Meeting

A third Caltrans retiree luncheon meets on the Third Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM, in San Gabriel at:

The **Golden Soup**, 1039 E. Valley Blvd., San Gabriel, CA, between San Gabriel Blvd. and Walnut Grove Ave.

**Steve Leung** encourages anyone who's interested, retired or not. For more information, e-mail **Steve Leung** <[skingleung@yahoo.com](mailto:skingleung@yahoo.com)>

Tom's Trains

**Tom Gildersleeve** wrote, "I have one item on my railroad photography. **Trains Magazine** is celebrating 75 years of publication on their web site, and one of the photos they are using was taken by me. In fact, I consider it probably my single greatest achievement in photography. It was of the Freedom Train, taken on December 22, 1975, utilizing about 1500 feet of wire and a half dozen flash guns to get the right effect. One of the magazine editors described the shot as "quite deservedly one of the most well-known railroad photos of all time," so obviously they like it a lot too. The web site if you want to see it is: <http://trn.trains.com/bonus/TL1970#three>. If you click on the image it comes up a bit larger.

Beware the new Reed & DeMaio Initiatives!

**Dick Stewart** shared a recent letter from the RPEA President, **George Linn**, who warns, "Please don't sign any initiative that has [former San Jose Mayor, **Chuck Reed**, and former San Diego councilmember, **Carl DeMaio**] names attached to it!"

"We have seen several efforts by former San Jose Mayor, **Chuck Reed**, and former San Diego councilmember, **Carl DeMaio**, to make scapegoats out of public employees and blame our retirements for being the cause of any and all economic problems in California. [The] RPEA has been in the forefront of undermining their efforts to pass an initiative that would cripple

retirement benefits—an initiative that has at times included decimating the retirement benefits of those who have already retired. Yes, a second bite at the apple for those who don't believe that the contract made with retired employees is sacrosanct. **Reed** and **DeMaio** are extremists who have taken advantage of people's fears and employed the ugliest kind of fear-mongering. They have not been successful because public employees have refused to allow them to advance punitive ideas at the expense of employees who have done their jobs well and are entitled to security in their retirement years."

"[While] **Reed** and **DeMaio** withdrew an initiative that was deservedly excoriated by policymakers and failed to get the support of either major party... they have come back with a re-drafted initiative that they intend to put on the ballot. Our legislative advocate, **Aaron Read**... surmised that it cut from the same cloth as those that preceded it. Specifically, for all new hires after January 2019, it caps the amount of money an employer can pay for retirement – miscellaneous employees are capped at 11% and public safety at 13%. Really? The authors knew from the get-go what **Aaron** spotted immediately, which is that such a drastic reduction will close existing plans, and the costs will skyrocket. The course for RPEA is obvious. We will continue to oppose Mr. **Reed** and Mr. **DeMaio** and the attacks they continue to make against honest Californians." We hope you will too!

#### Halloween Surprise – Trick or Treat?

**Marie Martin** writes, "**Bob [Walters]** and I got back from a whirlwind round trip to CA over the weekend and collapsed into bed early (9:30pm). [We were] dead asleep about an hour later, but vaguely conscious of horrendous noisy windstorm outside, [when] suddenly the bedroom lit up with a blinding greeny-yellow light accompanied by Frankenstein's Laboratory sound effects... Bzzzt! Bzzzzzzzzzt!! UmmmUmmmmUmmm... Bzzzt! Without my

glasses I could see unfamiliar glowing objects in the room, and I shot out of bed as both dogs did likewise. [It] turned out to be a transformer on the next block shorted out. Bob slept through the whole thing. [Our] neighbor was in her shower and said she got a big shock as her lights flickered."

"Happy Halloween a few days early?"

#### Contacts and Recent Sightings

**Marie Martin** and **Robert Walters** at a banquet on October 24, 2015, at the Reef Restaurant in Long Beach, CA. "It is my experience that "Theme" restaurants often rest on their laurels, and don't make the effort to provide good service or food preparation. The filet was raw inside, you had to go to the foyer to schlep your own tea and coffee, and there were no accommodations made for food allergies! The next time we meet for dinner will be at Christmas, which will be self-catered, no doubt be lovingly prepared, and served with panache!" remarks food critic **Kirsten Stahl**.

**Doug Failing**, former District 7 Director, and his wife **Yei-Shin**, at a joint celebration for soon to be retired **Bill Shen**, **Paul Hsu**, and **Michelle Quan**, on November 9, 2015, featuring Chinese Style Banquet, in Room 01.037.

**Oscar Janeway**, at Lascari's Restaurant in Whittier, November 20, 2015.

#### Moving on...

**Emmanuel "Chuma" Obiora**, Associate Transportation Planner, writes, "Greetings to all: It has been a pleasure working for Caltrans for the past 32 years. I have enjoyed working with many of you... My last official day is December 30, 2015, but I am taking vacation starting today. I had a great experience working here in the Divisions of Accounting as a Senior Accounting Officer Supervisor and finally the Division of Planning as an Associate Transportation Planner. Thank you for the great

memories. Please keep me in prayers as I travel out of the country to kick off my new adventure.”

**Melanie Bradford** writes on behalf of the Division of Planning, “We congratulate Miss **Ozell Wilson**, Associate Transportation Planner in the TSI/Systems Planning Branch. **Ozell** has served the State of California for 31 years. Please join us at her celebration Wednesday December 9, 2015 at 12:30p.m. in Room 1.037 (1st floor conference room)”

**Paul Balasbas** announces, “A retirement BBQ will be held for Structural Steel Painter Supervisor, **Bill Hansel**, on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 133 N. Seaside, San Pedro, 90731; after 34 Years of Fun and Games, **Bill** is calling it quits!”

**Melanie Bradford** writes on behalf of the Division of Planning, “We congratulate Mr. **David Sosa**, Office Chief of Regional Planning for 39 years of dedicated State Service. Please join us in our celebration on Wednesday December 16, 2015 at 10:00a.m. in Room 1.040A.”

#### The Road Last Traveled

**Marie Smiley** reported on the passing of **Seilchi Odo**, a Caltrans retiree from La Palma, CA, who was born in Waimea, Kauai, in 1931, and passed away on August 26, 2015. His services were held Saturday, September 12, 2015 at Orange County Christian Church.

Retiree **Larry Ornay**, wrote, “My dad, **George Ornay**, passed away on September 25, 2015 at 99 years old. He worked for the Dept. of Transportation (Maintenance Branch) for about 27 years and retired on December 1, 1976. He is survived by two son's (**Ronald and Larry**), four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. If you need any other information, you can contact me at 678-202-4753.” George was an **Honorary QCC Member**.

It came as a shock to all of us. The vibrant and energetic **David H. Roper**, passed into the next life, September 25, 2015. **Dave**, a long-time resident of Santa Monica, passed away at his home with his family. **Dave** was a graduate of the University of Arizona (B.S. in Civil Engineering, 1951) and the University of Southern California (M.S. in Civil Engineering, 1960). His career with the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) in Los Angeles spanned 40 years, “as an internationally recognized authority in the field of operation of metropolitan freeway networks and traffic management, and the highly successful plan to manage traffic during the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Dave was an **Honorary QCC Member**. After retirement from CalTrans, he continued as a consultant on traffic operations and management both domestically and overseas. He was the recipient of a variety of awards and commendations in recognition of his contributions and achievements.”

**Dave's** family knew him as “a loving husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather and friend to many. The love of his life was his wife, **Margret**, [to whom he was] married for over 64 years. **David** and **Margret** loved travelling, and travelled extensively to all parts of the world. He is survived by his wife **Margret**, his sons **Steven** and **Mark**, his daughters-in-law **Carol** and **Debbie**, and his grandsons **Craig**, **Daniel** and **Brian**.”

“In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica, 1008 11th Street, Santa Monica, California 90403.” (Excerpts were published in the *Los Angeles Times* from Sept. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015.)

**Christina Ruano**, wrote, “**Opal Estes**, a long time Caltrans employee, who retired a few years ago has passed away. Her memorial service was held November 14 at the Los Angeles International Christian Center, 5853 Laurel

Canyon Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91607. **David Jones**, of Valencia writes, "I worked with **Opal** for many years she spread joy to all who knew her in Caltrans. She would visit our Yards in Newhall, Valencia and San Fernando in the North Region to see all of her friends in Road Maintenance. **Opal** was a Team Member and will be Greatly Missed by all who knew her in Caltrans, May God Bless"

**Edna Trujillo** writes, "We are sad to announce the passing of our retired former colleague **Arnold Mahelona**. **Arnold** worked for Caltrans for over 30 years and he was beloved by many who knew and worked with him. Services were held December 8, 2015 at the LDS Church, 1975 Chestnut Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008."

**Be like Tom, Dick, Milly, Marie M. and Marie S.!**

Support your local post office and send a card or letter. An e-mail would do too! 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](mailto:kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov).

**Tom Almany** reminds you that the District 7 QCC Director and Treasurer are available, and you can reach him 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...

**WAKE UP!**

Share your thoughts, concerns, blessings, dreams, and poems. Many thanks to those who forwarded information and who was not otherwise mentioned above.

- **Kirsten Stahl**

## *The Haps in District 8*

The District 8 Christmas Luncheon was held at Hannah's Restaurant in San Bernardino on December 12, 2015 at 12:00. Likely this will be our last time there as Hannah's anticipates closing this summer. That means we'll need to find another restaurant/facility for our twice yearly luncheons. If anyone has any ideas for a facility that will accommodate 50-70 people please let **Wes Grimes** or **Marsha Lotze** know. Your assistance is appreciated.

News from the December luncheon will be in the next issue of the QCCer.

Heard about town: **Marsha Lotze** had one cataract removed and is scheduled for the second procedure in January. . . **Taylor Smith** recovered nicely from hernia surgery and is busy caring for **Katie** who is confined to home. Katie has been hospitalized, sent to rehab, and finely is home. She has hospice care as well as caretaker help several times weekly, and Taylor provides daily care . . . **Gil** and **Jeanette Daab** took their Austin Healy to the annual Healy meet/show at La Quinta even though Gil recently fell and strained his back . . . **Tom** and **Bonnie Powell** bought a new Toyota . . . bumped into the **Frank Bocanegras** at the supermarket and all is well with them . . . **Les Franz** took a cruise to Cabo San Lucas with his granddaughter, Ashley Franz . . . **Gerald** and **Judie Brown** took a quick motor home trip to Oklahoma, leaving the motor home at a hospital there for family use. Their granddaughter and her husband's newborn son is expected to be hospitalized for approximately two months for surgery . . . Gerald and Judie will also set up a petting zoo for abused women and children as part of a major event to bring Christmas cheer to them . . . **Gerald** and **Judie** do this annually missing our QCC luncheon . . . **Wes** and **Linda Grimes** took a trip to New York,

visiting the Mark Twain home as well as other attractions along the eastern seaboard, before spending a week on Maple Island in the St. Lawrence River with Linda's high school chum. . . the Coco's Wednesday Coffee group broke up about 11:00 a.m., just before the San Bernardino shootings a couple of blocks away . . . **Richard Longstreet** was sporting a large bandage on his nose following surgery for a melanoma and it was successfully removed. The bandage should be gone by our luncheon . . . **Morgan Choate** recently underwent a similar surgery on his arm . . . Several others that worked in the field for years are having similar problems . . . **Mary Bermudez** recently assisted at the annual Rancho Cucamonga Heritage Days marking the founding of the community.

Joke of the Day: I missed going to the gym today. That makes 5 years in a row!!

Yours truly had a call from **Bill Feenstra**. He'd been visiting his daughter in Oregon and called **Bill Edmonds** in Corvallis, OR. He met Bill for breakfast and golf. He indicated that Bill is doing well, has a few medical problems, but overall is in good health.

TAYLOR'S TALL TALES AND TRUE!  
**Taylor Smith** recently recounted his 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of induction into the U.W. Army in World War II. He was working at Douglas Aircraft in Long Beach, making jigs for airplanes at the start of the war. Douglas tried to get him a deferment, but was not successful and Taylor knew he would be drafted in Long Beach.

He hopped on his trusty motorcycle and hot footed it to his home town in Iowa, then called the Long Beach Draft Board and got permission to enlist in Iowa. He joined the Army, met an Army train in the middle of the night, and got dropped off in Texas with a group at a hotel, 2 beds to a room and 4 men in a room. Then he was bussed to a base, riding in the luggage trailer as there were too many men for the bus! After

training he was stationed in Texas where they successfully defended Texas from invasion during World War III.

**Majid Afanan**, Construction Branch Chief for Barstow and Needles sent a nice memo regarding his retirement on October 30, 2015, citing good experiences but leaving due to health reasons. Majid noted "working with my team has made it very difficult for me to make this decision. However after careful consideration, I found it necessary for my health and my family to retire.

"For the past 7 ½ years in this position I have enjoyed leading a very dedicated and cohesive team that successfully delivered numerous projects in the High Desert area on time, within budget, and no claims. The hard work they have done and are still doing is exceptional.

"Also I would like to give my special gratitude to my structure counterpart, Bridge Engineer, Mr. **Monty Navarro** and his team for all the support they contributed to effectively completing our projects.

Goodbye to all of you and hope to see each other in the future."

Sadly, we must report on the passing of several Caltrans folk:

**Bob Redden**, former Deputy District Director, passed away the evening of 10-30-2015. He was 92 years old and an **Honorary QCC Member**. A memorial service is planned at the Arrowhead Country Club, with interment at Riverside National Cemetery. Bob served on a nuclear submarine before joining the Division of Highways, and was famed for his "green pen" comments on letters, reports and plans in his capacity as Programs and Budgets DDD. Just ask any Secretary that worked for Bob. I remember that green pen well!!!

**Richard Sandoval** passed away in early November. He was a Caltrans Equipment Operator II at the Dry Creek Maintenance Station for many years . . . Services were held on November 13, 2015.

**Angel Stabolito** passed away October 8, 2015. He had worked with Corona Landscape for years . . . Services were held on October 30, 2015.

**Andy Ramirez**, a Heavy Equipment Mechanic at Shop 8 also passed away in October. He had worked as a field mechanic in the High Desert before transferring to Shop 8.

**Philip Hanna** passed away recently. Philip was a dedicated Transportation Engineer in District 8 from 1992-2006. He worked tirelessly and left an enduring legacy at Caltrans. Services were held on October 10, 2015, in Martinez, CA.

We offer belated but sincere condolences to the families and friends of these retired employees, part of our larger "Caltrans Family".

**Marsha** received a note from **Rosanna Roa** letting us know her very good friend **Maurice Loge** passed away on October 21, 2015. He was 90 years old and had been retired for 29 years. What a remarkable man! I shall miss him dearly.

**Reminder:** Please send DUES (checks), membership applications and honorary member status information for year 2016 to Statewide QCC Secretary/Treasurer **Mike Ogilvie**. See Page 19 for the Membership Renewal Form.

- Marsha Lotze

*The Haps in District 9*

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

*The Haps in District 10*

**D**istrict 10 Retirees are meeting for breakfast at 7:30am on the last Tuesday of the month at U.J.'s Restaurant in the banquet room in Hammer Ranch Center on Pacific Ave Stockton. On November 24th the following gathered for breakfast: **Bob & Ardyth Biffel, Judy Burke, Gerald Burhardt, Hal Emerson, Virginia Evinger, Joy Greenlee, Hank Laucland, Bill Lamacus, Bob Hargis, Dick Mesa, Judy Ogata, Stan Randolph, Cliff Rice, John & Peggy Sinclair, Tom Wright, & Brian Young.**

The Ghosts of Christmas Past Annual Reunion was held on December 10, 2015 at Club Pheasant Restaurant in West Sacramento. Attendees were **George & Sherry Avery, Nancy Benjamin, Gordon & Dodie Betencourt, Bob & Ardyth Biffel, Doug & Janette Boyd, Jerry Burkhardt, Judith Burke, John & Kevin Canfield, Craig Copelan, Jack Cropper, Bob Geiss, Joy Greenlee, Bob & Lynne Hargis, Merle Larrabee, Henry & Patty Lauchland, Jack Lobenberg, Dick & Florene Mesa, Dave Nelson, Judy Ogata, Stan Randolph, Bill & Darlene Selling, Jerry Severson, Eddy Skrzypczak, Bernie Whitcomb, Doug & Judith Worley, and Brian Young.**

From **Chris Wendland** – Fun time with my family in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Family member owns a villa right on the beach, weather was the best ever and swimming in ocean was like a relaxing bubble bath!! Wonderful seafood and of course tropical drink delights. I was soooo very spoiled, did not want to come home. Spectacular views and amazing sunsets, wonderful nightly entertainment right on the beach. I am returning next year for sure!!

Road Last Traveled  
**Jack Lewis Florence**, 79, from Rancho Murieta,

CA, died on Tuesday, October 13, 2015. He and his precious wife, **GwynElla**, had been married for 62 years.

**George Wade Crowley**, born October 6, 1939, passed away at his home on November 4, 2015 at the age of 76. In 1961, he was employed by the Division of Highways (Caltrans), where he worked for 40 years, retiring in 2001. He continued working as a consultant for ten more years. On March 3, 1962, George married the love of his life, Carole Pratt. They shared 53 wonderful years together.

- **Brian Young**

## *The Haps in District 11*

**D**istrict 11 had our Annual BBQ Picnic on Saturday, October 10, 2015 at Sweetwater Summit County Park in Sunnyside. From all reports, everyone had a great time.

Please mark your calendars for our Annual Banquet on January 21, 2016 at 11:30am at the Barra Barra Saloon in Old Town. You should have already received an invitation in the mail. If you didn't, please contact **Leslie Franklin** at 619-466-1897 or email [lgprincess69@yahoo.com](mailto:lgprincess69@yahoo.com).

**Butch** reports: I got a call from **Dean's** niece saying that **Dean Burns** should not have visitors. She suggested that you send a card to his home address, she can pick it up and get it to him. His address is 7908 - 50 Rancho Fanita Drive, Santee, CA 92071-3423.

### Road Last Traveled

I am sad to report that former Caltrans District 11 Director **Jesus Garcia** passed away October 19, 2015 at the age of 87. Jesus served as the District Director for Caltrans District 11 from September 1988 to October 1993. During that time he

directed 1,400 employees and administered an annual transportation budget of more than \$400 million. He previously served as District 5 Director from 1980-1986.



**Jesus** led by example and dedicated himself as an effective department liaison with government agencies and the public while working on sensitive and complex transportation issues.

Contributions during his tenure in District 11 included addressing freeway fatalities at the border and in Camp Pendleton as a result of migrant crossings, as well as the opening of the original reversible Interstate 15 Express Lanes and portions of State Route 78, SR-52 and SR-54. In addition, Jesus was an **Honorary QCC Member**.

The Garcia Conference Room located at the Caltrans District 11 Office Complex in Old Town San Diego is named in his honor.

- **Leslie Franklin**

## *The Haps in Central*

**H**appy Holidays to all from the Central District. (HQs). On December 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Dante Club in Sacramento, we will be holding our annual Holiday Luncheon. We will have an update in the March QCCer. Our next year's luncheons at the Dante Club are April 28<sup>th</sup>, August 18<sup>th</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>. All events start at 11am. Mark your calendars.



Wow, the heat is finally gone and the leaves of fall are finally here! Great colors this year.



A report from **Allen Wrenn** tells us he has been traveling quite a bit in the past several months. When Allen sent his report he was celebrating Thanksgiving in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. He was there as part of a three-week tour to Vietnam, Cambodia and Hong Kong with his brother-in-law. When he sent his report they had visited Hanoi, had been to Siem Reap where they visited Angkor Wat and other temples, and had been on a riverboat on the Mekong River for several days.

After leaving Phnom Penh they were heading back to Vietnam where their tour will include going to Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City). Travel earlier this year saw Allen in Scotland for three weeks in August. While there he attended the Edinburgh Royal Military Tattoo as well as several performances of the Edinburgh Music Festival. The rest of his time in Scotland was in The Highlands and on the Isle of Skye.

In July, **Allen** made a driving trip to Cody, Wyoming for a family reunion. Traveling to and from Cody he visited several National Parks and Monuments. Other domestic travel took Allen to Hawaii for a week in October. He is looking forward to returning home in time to enjoy the camaraderie of other QCC members at the Central District luncheon on December 9.

We are proud to announce our Honorary Members for this year:

**James B. Borden**, 38 years of service  
**Richard H. Pryor**, 34 years of service  
**William A. Hoversten**, 37 years of service  
**Glen Rosander**, 28 years of service  
**Sakaye Takahayashi**, 35 years of service  
 Congratulations to all!

We look forward to 2016 with lots more rain and get-togethers with friends and family. And of course, some great El Dorado County wine tasting!

- 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 9:30 am at the Pantry on Broadway in Eureka.

Contact **John Sherman** at  
[jsherman1@Humboldt1.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 -

Weekly Tuesday Coffee/Breakfast at 8:30 am at the "Green House" in the Raley's Shopping Center in Placerville.

Contact: **Doug Becker** 530-622-1665,  
[doug.becker@att.net](mailto:doug.becker@att.net)

### 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)

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](mailto:aappiano@pacbell.net)) or **Kathy Freeman** ([kathy.freeman1@att.net](mailto:kathy.freeman1@att.net)).

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

### District 5 -

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

**District 6 -**


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

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

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

**District 7 -**


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The Tom Fera Monthly Luncheon Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month (except Dec.) in LA. See **D-7 Haps** for dates and locations.

Ventura Monthly Meeting

Caltrans retiree luncheon is held the third Monday of each month at 11:30 AM, in Oxnard, at:

**BJ's Restaurant & Brewery**, 461 Esplanade Drive, Oxnard, CA.

For more information, e-mail **Dick Stewart** at [dick@jps.net](mailto:dick@jps.net).

San Gabriel Monthly Meeting

Caltrans retiree luncheon meets on the Third Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM, in San Gabriel at: The **Golden Soup**, 1039 E. Valley Blvd., San Gabriel, CA, between San Gabriel Blvd. and Walnut Grove Ave.

**Steve Leung** encourages anyone who's interested, retired or not. For more information, e-mail **Steve Leung** <[skingleung@yahoo.com](mailto:skingleung@yahoo.com)

**District 8 -**


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

**District 9 -**


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Contact: **Lance Hinek**, 760-873-3885, [hinek@suddenlink.net](mailto:hinek@suddenlink.net)

**District 10 -**


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For details on events contact **Brian Young** 209-329-3445 cell or [blyoung365@gmail.com](mailto:blyoung365@gmail.com).

Lenny's Huddle meets at 7:30 am on the last Tuesday of the month at U.J.'s Restaurant located at Hammer Ranch Center, 7628 Pacific Ave. in Stockton. (209-957-2081).

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

**District 11 -**


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Annual QCC Banquet Luncheon  
Thursday, January 21, 2016

At the Barra Saloon in Old Town

Contact: **Leslie Franklin** 619-466-1897 or email [lgprincess69@yahoo.com](mailto:lgprincess69@yahoo.com)

**Central District -**


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Spring Luncheon at the Dante Club  
April 28, 2016

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

**To Honorary Members**

If you are at least 80 years of age, you are classified as an Honorary member of the QCC. Being an Honorary member qualifies you for a discounted rate for the printed QCCer, or the electronic version of the QCCer for free.

If paying the dues would be a hardship for you, you may be able to get your dues waived. Contact your QCC District Director and if they approve, send the request to the QCC Secretary/Treasurer. See Renewal Form on page 19.

**Reminder for All:**

Please send DUES (checks), membership applications and honorary member status information for year 2016 to Statewide QCC Secretary/Treasurer **Mike Ogilvie**. See Page 19 for the Membership Renewal Form.