

TheQCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter Century Club

VOLUME 30, No. 3

SEPTEMBER 2021



A World Class Transportation System

“LET’S STAY IN TOUCH WITH THOSE THAT BUILT IT!”

From the Corner Pocket

Greetings from your President. Sorry for being MIA, but like many of you I simply get crazy busy; with ‘what’ is the million-dollar question.

The subject of this note is to RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS. I have chatted with one District about recruiting new members. It is not easy. But here is what has been done in District 11.

D-11 extended free membership to a current employee and their mission is to funnel all retirement announcements to D-11 QCC leadership. She does this very well.

The District QCC then holds happy hours or other events near the District Office to invite potential members and encourage them to join. The bar is hosted for 2 drinks to ‘lubricate’ those who might join. And don’t forget, all New Members get their first-year membership for **FREE**.

Granted, no one planned on a worldwide pandemic. How could anyone? But like all of you, everyone is watching and waiting for an all clear to resound so normal gatherings can continue.

Most importantly, no one wants the QCC to fade into the sunset. Remember, you, the QCC Members, and other Caltrans retirees are the people that built a world class transportation system, the envy of the world. It’s safe, reliable and it is due to the efforts of you folks reading this article. Let’s keep the tradition of acknowledging, communicating and hopefully

meeting face to face soon with all those folks on whose broad, talented shoulders we stand.

Good luck. Stay healthy and safe.

Best Wishes,
Christine Valle
QCC President



More Photos on California Wildfires (Page 6)



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Editor's Recruiting Note:

To see names of recent Retirees, please check the current news for Caltrans at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews>
Every issue has a retirement section.

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION

By Mallory Fites

California Transportation Fund (CTF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to supporting transportation professionals and their families. CTF provides scholarships for students studying transportation-related fields, memorial funds for fallen workers, financial support for workers injured on the job, as well as career development and mentorship opportunities. Most donations are tax deductible, and all donations are used to fund the programs CTF administers on behalf of the industry.

Many funds have been raised over the years to help Caltrans employees and their families during family tragedies or natural disasters.

If you would like to donate to CTF, visit www.transportationfoundation.org or send a check to: 9500 Kiefer Blvd., P.O. Box 276828, Sacramento, CA 95827-6828. For more information, please visit the CTF website or contact Interim Executive Director Marnie Primmer (marnie@the-ctf.org) or Operations Manager Mallory Fites (mallory@the-ctf.org).

The QCC Website

By Andy Machen, Web Master

Do you have a story to tell? About your world travels; hobbies; favorite places; life experiences - anything at all?

Here's how to get it posted on the Quarter Century Club website: Write your story in an email and send it to: post+speedreportsjs@coffeecup.com Your story is then transmitted to the CTQCC website where it is stored in a folder accessible only by the webmaster, who then extracts the text and pictures you sent and stores them in a private folder on the Stories page of the Caltrans District

specified by you. The webmaster then sends you an email with a link to the page containing your story, accessible only by you and the webmaster. You can then view your story on the Internet, make any changes you would like, then send them in an email to post+speedreportsjs@coffeecup.com just as you sent the original.

The webmaster then notifies you by email when the changes have been made. When you are satisfied with the web page containing your story, send an email to post+speedreportsjs@coffeecup.com authorizing the webmaster to post the story for public viewing. You can still add to or make changes to the story as described above after it is published by sending an email to post+speedreportsjs@coffeecup.com. Let us hear from you!

Editor's Recruiting Note:

To see names of recent Retirees, please check the current news for Caltrans at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews> Every issue has a retirement section.

In Memoriam

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

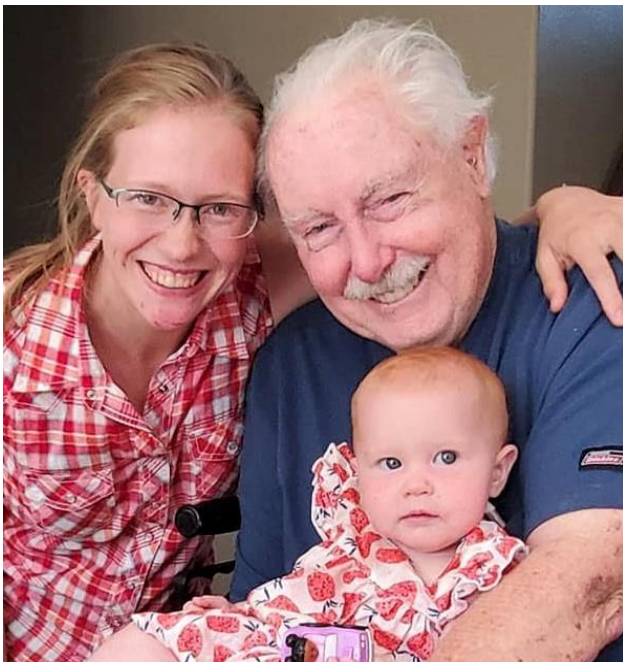
Name	District	Date
Jackson (Jack) R Elkins	03	Jul 2021
Norman Baker	03	2021
Larry Walker	04	2016
Harriet Abraham	04	Apr 29, 2021
Joan Murdock	07	Jun 15, 2021
Bob Schross	08	2021
George Boon	08	Aug 18, 2021
Harry Umemoto	08	Jul 28, 2021
Bob Pote	08	Aug 20, 2021
Harry Ralston	11	Nov 23, 2020
Dick Pryor	C	Feb 12, 2020
John Reeves	C	May 26, 2021
Marilyn Lambeth	C	Jun 29, 2021
Chuck Pivetti	C	Aug 3, 2021
Roy Imbsen	C	Jul 13, 2021

The Haps in District 1

The District 1 retiree/QCC group had a wonderful breakfast at the Pantry on July 15, our first since the pandemic started. We hope to get together again in October. There were 17 in attendance and we were really catching up on our visiting.

The Fortuna car show was back in July. **Len and Julie Blomquist** made the local *Times-Standard* with a great photo of their 1960 Corvette that was in the show. Len, one of our retired engineers, was by the driver's door and Julie in the passenger seat. I attended the Blue Lake car show and was able to see that beautiful car there. Fellow retiree **Mike Eagan** also had his great vehicle there as well.

A nice report came in from **George Otterbeck** recently. He had a great visit with several of his family and sent in this photo (below) of him with his granddaughter, Kathlyn and great-granddaughter, Belle. What a wonderful and continuing to grow family.



One of our retired Maintenance Supervisors, **Nolan Fritz**, celebrated his 100th birthday on August 27. He is of Hoopa and Karuk (Tribe) descent. He and his wife, Marion Harrison, married in 1952 and had 4 children. She died in January 2018. During WWII, he served as a technical sergeant flying more than 34 months and on 50 missions over Europe as a B-17 top turret engineer gunner in the 15th Army Air Corps. In 1964, he started at Caltrans in Maintenance as a laborer. **Nolan** retired in 1985 as a Maintenance Supervisor. He and his family enjoy many outdoor activities in Humboldt County. Happy Birthday! **Nolan**.

I am looking forward to hearing from anyone with stories to share and am hoping to see this pandemic come to an end. Please be careful out there.

- Arlene Hartin

Make sure you try out this website for travel speed, accidents, and other road information. This covers the entire state and even other states and Mexico. It includes local roads also. After you get to the website, select **options**, then click on **road conditions**, and then click on what you want and scroll to the map.

<http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/>

The Haps in District 2

Jim Ceragioli tells us: "My wife and I took a trip to Bellingham WA. in mid-August to celebrate my sister and brother-in-law's 50-year anniversary. Trip and weather were fine, but the traffic was the pits in Portland, Tacoma, and Seattle. Lots and lots of trucks and, in Oregon and Washington, they don't travel at 55mph. Also, Oregon has the triple trailers as well as the 22 and greater wheel rigs. Very scary at times.

Dennis (Deni) Pollock tells us “Nothing exciting, still alive!!” I imagine many of us can relate to that sentiment!

Charlie Moss sends us sad news. He says, “with the deepest of regrets my loving father passed on August 11 of this year.”

Bill Belcher reports that his oldest son had a tough time with the CoVid19 virus. He spent over 2 weeks in the hospital, some of it in the ICU, but is now home and recovering. The attending doctor used a newer technique called high flow nasal oxygen therapy. You can research it online. That, combined with medications, kept him off a ventilator. Additionally, first research results place the survival rate from this therapy significantly higher than for those placed on ventilators.

- **Bill Belcher**

Check out the QCC website here:

<http://www.caltransquartercenturyclub.net>

The Haps in District 3

Hello from District 3: Here in District 3, District 2 and District 10, we have horrible fires. The Dixie fire has burned in Butte, Plumas, Lassen & Tehama counties. And The Caldor fire that has affected the communities along Highway 50, Highway 88 & 89.

As of last night (August 30, 2021) South Lake Tahoe has been evacuated. Caltrans maintenance crews, CHP and many others are working right along-side the firefighters within the area. The pictures are unreal.

The photo (upper right, next column) from Channel 10 News, was taken at South Lake Tahoe Maintenance Station Hwy 89 & Hwy 50.



The rest of these photos were taken randomly on Hwy 50 and in the South Lake Tahoe Region.



Along SR-50 Near So. Lake Tahoe (above)

At Ski Ranch (below)



A note from **Dorothy Leeper**: “In the March QCCer, I saw that District 4 was bragging about woman in Maintenance and thought maybe District 3 had some bragging rights too!”

“I went into Maintenance (field work) in 1973, I think I was the first permanent full-time female

in the state. I remember my first paycheck where it read “Maintenance Man”.”

The following are some notes from Dorothy’s life in District 3, as recorded in the *District 3 Update 3, Issue 214*, dated January 15, 1996:

Dorothy Leeper: January 19 (1996) is the last day for Materials & Stores Specialist Dorothy Leeper. **Dorothy** started as an Intermediate Clerk in Accounting. In 1971 she went to the Woodland Maintenance Office. The lure of the great outdoors and, of course, more money, led Dorothy to become a Maintenance “Man” at the Dunnigan Rest Area in 1973.

She later returned to the office in the Permits trailer in 1974 for about a year, returning to the field as a Landscape Maintenance Worker at Roseville Landscape in 1975. Back again to the office in 1979 for a six-month stint in the mailroom. Dorothy left state service for a year to go to Oregon but returned in 1981 to Roseville Landscape. From there she went to the temporary spray crew in 1982 and then to the stencil crew for a traveling job until 1989.

It was then **Dorothy** decided it was time for a 40-hour week and came into Procurement as a Materials and Stores Specialist. This job fit the bill for Dorothy because she is not “stuck behind a desk all day.” Dorothy said she enjoyed her career, returning to Maintenance three times. One half of her 28+ year career, with the state has been in Maintenance. Thank you, **Dorothy** for your story with District 3.

Road last travelled:

Jackson Ronald Elkins:

Jackson (Jack) Elkins of Oregon, passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 89 in July 2021.

He and his immediate family recently moved to Oregon to be closer to family. **Jack** is survived

by his wife Judy Griffin, children, Dori Mecartea, Andrea Der Manouel, Marina Brady and son John Elkins.

From **Jan Johnson:** “I met **Jack** in 1984 when I first went to work for Caltrans District 3, Special Crews. He was the Leadworker for Marysville Maintenance. Nice easy going and friendly. I’m including a photo of Jack’s truck that was parked at Marysville Maintenance Yard when the levee broke behind Shop 3 and the maintenance yard in February 1986. Jack was working up on Hwy 80 during a snowstorm. Needless to say, his truck and several others were covered with water, mud and a dead duck or two. Jack took the truck home

Jack’s Truck in 1986



(somehow), rebuilt, and cleaned it up. I saw his truck recently this year and commented to a friend that I knew a man by the name of **Jack** who owned a truck just like that. My friend laughed and said Jack lives there. Small world.”

Norman Baker:

The QCC was informed earlier this year of the passing of **Norm Baker**. Unfortunately, no further information is available at this time.

Any other stories out there from District 3 QCC’ers? I would be more than happy to include your story in the next QCC newsletter.

That’s it for now. Get ready for Fall.

- Jan Johnson

The Haps in District 4

Good news from District 4 is that two luncheon groups are back in operation. The Caltrans Lunch Bunch meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30am, and the Birthday Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month, also at 11:30am, at Guadalajara, 1001 Fruitvale Ave, Oakland.

Contact **Ed Coble** for the Lunch Bunch, edcoble49@astound.net (925) 465-4219, and **Anita Appiano**, anita.appiano68@gmail.com (510) 813-3667, for the Birthday Group.

Unfortunately, the meetings of both of these groups fell after the deadline for the QCCer, so I cannot report back from the attendees. Next time.

Chris Thomas sent me a note saying that the daughter of **Larry Walker** had written saying that he had passed away in 2016. Larry was a District 4 **QCC member** for 26 years. Chris also passed on the information that **Harriet Abraham** passed away on April 29, 2021.

On a personal note, **Lisa** and I travelled to the East Coast in August to take our children and grandchildren on a US History tour. For our children this was a repeat of a similar trip that we took them on in 1998, when they were about the age of our grandchildren. We started in Virginia with visits to Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown, and then moved north via Mount Vernon to Washington, DC, and finished in Philadelphia. This trip had originally been planned for the summer of 2020 but had to be postponed due to the pandemic. I was impressed throughout the trip at the precautions being taken with masks being worn in all buildings and social distancing wherever possible.

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

I Wish I Could Go Back in Time

By Gordon Analla

The exact date I don't remember. The year, approximate Spring of 2002. This was after my career seeing multiple fatalities which saw Caltrans employees and those working off their debt to society killed out on the state's right of way. It was a free seminar, touching on new techniques of safety and equipment. The location was in a motel, with a ball room setting, in Hayward. There must have been over 200 people in attendance. Amazing what a free seminar and lunch can do to draw people.

I checked in and received my name tag. I sat on the side of the room, about a third of the way back. The instructor started the seminar. Approximately an hour or so into it, he made a comment about Caltrans workers being lazy. He received a pretty good chuckle from those in attendance. I didn't laugh. It was not a funny subject. I knew better. A short time later, there was a brief intermission. This was my chance to set this guy straight. I went up to him at the break as I did so breathing steady in and out on my way to his podium. I had to tell myself that I was a representative of the agency and I had to conduct myself with a degree of professionalism (unlike him). I stated my case that I would hope he would refrain from poking fun at Caltrans workers, especially those out in the field. As many had given their lives in the line of duty. And that working out on the highways and bridges was very dangerous work. He seemed surprised by my forthright attitude. And I was led to believe he would honor my request. I was satisfied. I was wrong.

I went back to my table and talked with a woman seated there who understood where I was coming from. She was a nice lady. Soon after the seminar continued. We were maybe into it about ten minutes after the break and then the unbelievable happened. This pretentious -----, went right back at making fun of Caltrans

workers. I could feel my blood pressure rise. I looked at the lady that I had spoken with, nodded at her, and then rose to leave. I walked out the side door and that was it. Looking back, I shouldn't have just left. Oh no. Damn the torpedoes as it were. I should have stood up and raised the issue with the instructor. I should have told him in front of all, that he was wrong to make fun of Caltrans workers. I should have told him in front of all, of the lives that were lost, and the one's that I was involved with. I should have told him how very dangerous it is to work out on the highways and bridges, tunnels and tubes, and roads where high-speed travel prevails. Where inattention is all too frequent. I should have told him of all the times Caltrans workers answer the call, day or night, good weather or bad, holidays, and weekends to make the roadways safer for the motoring public to travel. I should have told him how impactful the loss of a loved one is when one is committed to this task. I should have told him, that the workers risk their lives each day. I should have told him and all those in attendance all that and more. But I didn't.

If God would ever grant me the wish to do so, I would go back in a minute and do all the above. I only hope someday that I can. Until then . . . I am sorry for all of you dedicated highway workers that I didn't speak up and out for you that day. It is something I always will regret until I can make it right.---

Thank you, **Gordon!**

- Nigel Blampied

The Haps in District 5

Happy Fall, Y'All! It's just after Labor Day, and we're still enjoying summer on the Central Coast: A mix of heat and fog, and very dry. We definitely need the rain.

We are approaching the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Hard to believe it's been that long since we watched the tragic events that changed so many lives.

Caltrans District 5 has several projects in the works. An unusual one is a mitigation project off the highway in Paso Robles. The work includes restoration of four acres around Centennial Creek, to improve hydrology and function of the creek. The project will offset the impact to wetlands caused by the widening of Hwy 46 East. The next phase around the Cholame Y will begin in Fall 2022.

A roundabout will be constructed near Hollister at the Hwy 25/156 intersection, to improve safety and reduce the number of accidents on the 156 truck corridor. Construction is scheduled to start around January.

A current project began August 23 on Hwy 1 near Limekiln State Park, involving replacement of a large culvert. There will be one-way traffic control with delays of 10-15 minutes. Completion is expected at the end of November.

Sorry to say, I don't have a lot of news this time. I did attend a retirement get-together for **Steve Cadenasso**, who retired from Traffic. Several D-5 employees and retirees met on a sunny afternoon at a brew pub which opened near the District Office on Higuera St. You may remember the building as a motorcycle shop, antique store, or a wholesale food distributor. It's now a large restaurant/bar with outdoor patio, perfect for visiting with a cold brew. It was nice to see old friends and co-workers.

My big adventure this summer was driving across the USA with my daughter-in-law and her dog. She relocated from the Pacific Northwest to South Carolina, and we took a week to make the trip. Saw a lot of different geography, a lot of traffic on the interstates, and Starbucks everywhere.

Please give me a call or send an email if you have news you would like to share. Thanks!

- Kathleen Copeland

The Haps in District 6

District 6 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in District 7

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

The Haps in District 8

Well, the summer is winding down and we have at least two more strains of Covid 19 and we are dealing with masks or no masks here in CA based on many issues from city to state to federal. When will it end?

District 8 went ahead with a summer luncheon on Saturday, July 10, 2021, at Hannah's Restaurant in San Bernardino. The entrees were a Chef Salad with soup or Chicken Supreme with rice and all the trimmings. Twenty-four members and guests had a very nice time visiting and catching up since the pandemic began in March, 2020, and also enjoyed the delicious lunch.

Those in attendance were **LaVerne Archie**, one of our newest members, **Michael & Paula Beauchamp**, **Gerald & Judie Brown**, **Donna Rodriguez**, a guest who joined QCC that day, **Wanda Gernux**, **Bill Feenstra**, **Janice**

Feenstra, Judi Hudgens, also a new member, **Stan & Ina Lisiewicz**, **Marsha Lotze**, **Andy Machen**, **Jim & Linda Miller**, **Mark & Laurie Pertile**, **Sybille Phillips**, and her guests **Fred & Beverly Rios**, who joined QCC that day also, (Fred is from our Maintenance Branch), **Tom Powell**, **Linda Supernaw** and **Priscilla Williams**. Our retired State Director, **Butch Biendara** sent us a Division of Highways watch for a door prize and **Laurie Pertile** was the lucky winner. Congratulations to **Laurie** and all our members that were able and attended the Luncheon.

Our District Director, **Mike Beauchamp**, spoke to the group on the happenings in District 8 and also on statewide issues. Our President, **Sybille Phillips**, wrote up the notes as follows:

Re Diversity Day and Employee Appreciation Day, he expects a statewide decision in August whether to hold in-person events. If yes, District 8 Quarter Century Club may be featured on the kiosk in the lobby and on the District 8 website!

At the start of the pandemic, 700 District 8 workers were approved for telework, and statewide 12,000. Critical employees in Construction, Maintenance Center (TMC) etc. could not telework. Now that there is a reopening, most employees have three choices:

1. Full Telework – includes 1 day in the office
2. Non-Teleworker – but includes 1 day out of the office
3. Hybrid – but includes 2 days out of the office

12,000 laptops were purchased, and meetings conducted using the Webex platform. One day **Mike** had 12 Webex meetings – very exhausting!

Caltrans is hiring and has 130 Civil Engineers on rotation! Our Maintenance crews were working every day during the pandemic.

Unfortunately, District 8 lost **Bob Schross**, Maintenance, to Covid. He was in his early 60's and did not believe in Covid. His wife placed a vivid memorial on U-Tube, urging everyone to get vaccinated. A 50-year old in Construction died of Covid leaving behind two young children. . .

Current projects in Construction - \$1.3 billion and a \$200 million Design build on Interstate 10, plus a \$130 billion project going to bid in August north of Cajon.

Next year Interstate 10 will see a “White Topping” project from Indio to Blythe, “White Topping” is 1/10 skin of asphalt concrete (AC), a thin leveling course, and 12-13” of Portland Cement Concrete (PCC). 50% of the traffic is trucks!

The District also developed a 10-year Asset Management Plan which the District Director has to sign. It includes \$430 million in projects/year.

One of the values of the new D8 Strategic Plan is “Pride”. **Jim Rogers**, Maintenance Superintendent, stated “Why would we not let everyone know that we take pride in our work”?

Our Caltrans Director, “**Toks**” **Omishakin**, strives for Excellence and told **Mike** “D8 is great”!

The “Clean California” program which includes litter removal and beautification, is \$1 billion/year. 1/3 goes to the locals, 2/3 to the State.

Homelessness is a BIG issue.

Caltrans in multimodal – pedestrians, rail, bikes, and buses. The focus is shifting from moving vehicles to moving people.

A privately funded company, Brightline West (formerly known as XpressWest), is working on a high speed rail line from Apple Valley to Las Vegas and Apple Valley to Rancho Cucamonga.

Mike then answered many questions. **LaVerne Archie** asked about the homeless. Mike explained that CT lost the inmate services due to the pandemic, homeless camps include hazardous waste – needles, drugs, etc., requiring HAZMAT services, and Caltrans must work with the locals so the homeless do not move right back. Funding is a big issue. Veterans can be helped the fastest because there are many wrap around services for them.

Mike worked on a 4-month assignment in District 7 where Los Angeles passed a \$1 billion bond to lease Caltrans land for bridge housing for the homeless.

If homeless camps are a safety issue – e.g. causing fires, etc., then CHP or Sheriff's can remove them immediately.

LaVerne, 909-936-9940 (texts ok), volunteered to be the contact if members want to meet for an informal lunch every 2 months or so. Let her know! Thank you LaVerne!

Here's some good news to report about our member **Linda Wilford** from her and **Diana Barich**...She had a partial nephrectomy of her left kidney in July. Her surgeon was extremely happy with her progress and numbers. Her numbers have returned to where they were pre-surgery and in a couple of cases have even improved over where they were...great news! Although the mass which was removed from her left kidney was found to be cancerous, the surgeon is confident that they were able to get all of it because the edges were “clear”...more good news. So no chemo or radiation. Since she had no external staples or stitches (they used glue and internal stitches), she doesn't need any further follow-up until early next year. She was

reminded that healing will take time. She is on restricted “light duty” for the next 5-7 weeks and she was advised that her energy level will probably take another 6 months.

Linda can now do light duty activities and has begun walking with her group again. It’s only two miles and it takes her twice as long as it used to but she can do it. She is looking forward to seeing everyone at our holiday luncheon. Thank you to all who kept **Carol** company, via the telephone while she waited nervously at the hospital, to those who sent cards, plants, flowers, balloons, gifts, text, emails and prayers. Linda is sure they have helped make her recovery happen faster, and thanks to our neighbors T&T for having their 4th of July BBQ with Carol while she kept me fed with jello and soup broth. She feels so blessed to be surrounded by such wonderful friends and family. Thanks Again, **Linda**.

Sybille is trying to develop a flyer to recruit more new members – but is distracted by family developments. Please send her suggestions and/or drafts! District 8’s, **Jean Advincula**, Mike’s Administrative Assistant, is offering to help publicize it! Caltrans District and **Andy Machen**, QCC’s Statewide Webmaster, are also interested in historical artifacts from Caltrans and the Division of Highways! Please share that information with friends and family.

Thank you, Mike, for sharing this information with our members attending the luncheon. Yours truly hopes that we’ll be able to have our Christmas Luncheon the second Saturday in December. Flyers will, hopefully, go out around Thanksgiving.

Note from **Tamie McGowen** on Clean CA Day of Action! She is thrilled to share the first of two videos highlighting our statewide Clean CA Day of Action that took place in June. Thanks goes to the tireless work and steadfast dedication exhibited by our Maintenance crews and others who were able to show the public the positive

impact Clean California will have on local communities.

As you’ll see in the video, our statewide Day of Action helped remove nearly 7,000 garbage bags full of trash from state roadways in just one day. So far, we have also made conditional job offers to more than 350 people through the Clean CA hiring events. The video will be posted on Headquarters’ Twitter and Facebook. We’d like to ask if you share the video from these accounts, to please also include the hashtag #Clean CA so we can continue our branding efforts on social media.

Promotions, Retirements, and Passings:

From **Linda Supernaw**; another good guy is retiring. . . **Mark Pertile**’s retirement celebration was held on a Webex online connection on June 30, 2021. I didn’t get any particulars, but Mark was a long time Caltrans employee and started as a Transportation Engineer (Civil) and retired as a Supervising Transportation Engineer. Congratulations, Mike! Enjoy your retirement!

I also received information from **Linda Supernaw** that **Leonard Estrella** – Maintenance Manager, retired. **Ruben Campos**, sent a note thanking Leonard for all of his hard work and dedication. You certainly will be missed. During the thirty-two and a half years that you have worked for the Department of Transportation, we have often taken for granted your support in providing for our Maintenance and Stormwater needs. In retrospect, you have made our work easier because you anticipated these needs in a proactive and knowledgeable manner. Congratulations on a job well done and a retirement well deserved!

From **Jean Advincula**, on behalf of the Deputy District Director, Construction via **Linda Supernaw** comes the notice on the promotion of **Rosa Morales** to a Staff Services Manager I, in the Construction Division Business Services effective August 2, 2021. This unit is responsible

for all non-project-funded procurement payments and budgetary tasks, including general facility management for the Division.

Rosa began her career in Construction as an Office Technician in the District 8 Facility Office 14 years ago, promoted to a Staff Services Analyst, then promoted to an Associate Governmental Analyst in Budgets. Over the course of her career, Rosa has become a Subject Matter Expert on the procurement process and has trained District 8 employees on a variety of procurement methods.

In her free time, Rosa enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren.

On a sadder note, I received information from **Linda Supernaw** that **George Boon** passed away August 18, 2021. He had stage 4 lymphoma and pneumonia. Linda was notified by his partner, Barbara Martin, that they will have a Celebration of Life on September 25th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Don and Brenda Boon's house at 34785 Elmwood Lane in Yucaipa. They will be providing food and drink. George had been a Quarter Century Club member many years ago. All of our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

I received a note from **Linda Supernaw** via **Jean Advincula** on the passing of **Harry Umemoto**, a beloved Caltrans family member. Harry passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 28th, 2021.

Harry worked as an Electrical Transportation Engineer in District 8 and retired from Caltrans in 2018 after 16 years of service. Harry was very well liked and respected by everyone who knew him.

Please keep **Harry** and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

I also received the notice on **Bob Pote's** passing from **Linda Supernaw** on August 20, 2021. He

was the loving husband of Jean Irene Pote, who passed away April 3, 2011.

Bob graduated from Eureka High School in 1945. He attended Humboldt State College and then Oregon State College, receiving a B.S.C.E. in 1954. He served in the United States Army Air Corps and the US Air Force. He participated in the Berlin Airlift and the Korean War.

He started with the Division of Highways in 1954 as a Highway Engineering Associate. In 1958 **Bob** worked in Construction, Advance Planning and Drainage. When the Division of Highways became Caltrans he went on to Engineering Design and helped design a lot of freeways and off ramps. He had an exceptional work ethic and was very proud of his many engineering projects.

Bob had a large family and was a member of Pathway Church in Redlands. Services are pending.

All our thoughts and prayers are with **Bob's** family and friends.

- Marsha Lotze

The Haps in District 9

Barbara and I have survived the smoke in the Owens Valley from the devastating wild fires this summer and we count our blessings. **Jim** and **Margaret Kemp** have been spending the summer in Michigan and have nothing to report. **Ken** and **Donna Rischer** were going to Montana for the upland bird season on September 1. **John** and **Mary Ritter** reported that nothing new here and we seem to be healthy.

There are many trees down on our property and it is so dry here that we have a truck packed for a quick get-away in case of fire. Hope to be able to visit Bishop again sometime without fear of contacting Covid along the way. I saw **Loyd** and

Babes Hopper while shopping at the end of August in Bishop, they were looking well and energetic. Loyd was having problems with his tomato garden, so we discussed possible causes.

Chuck Gillem called the first part of September and we had a long conversation. He had surgery on his face/neck and was recovering OK. There is a group that he has coffee with on a weekly basis.

We see **Bud Moody** occasionally. He saves his newspaper about farming and ranching for us, these newspapers have articles about issues that are not covered in the major news.

There is no information about **Robert Watkins, Doug Boyd, Ralph Cones, Dick Clark, Sam King, Don Kitchens, Marv Nelligan, Heigo Orav, Katy Walton, Jay Smart, Gene Snyder, Link Stanley, Von Tatum, Mike Weier, Jim Passie, John Beischel, or Craig Holste.** As the saying goes, no news is good news.

- Lance Hinek

The Haps in District 10

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

The Haps in District 11

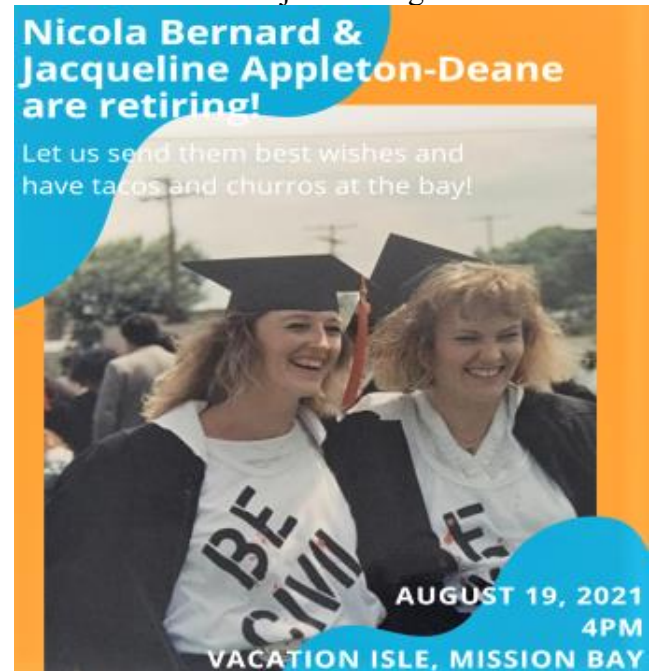
Fall is on the horizon and I for one will be glad for some cooler weather! Just after our June Newsletter went out to all our QCC Members, the virus reared its ugly head again and we were forced to push back on the planning of future events! Hopefully all (or most) of you are vaccinated now and are still somewhat protected against the Delta Variant.

Vaccination enables us to move about a little more freely and get together with other vaccinated friends and family. We are still hoping to plan some QCC events this year but will wait to see what the future holds for us here in San Diego. I'd still like to get some feedback on what you'd like to see happen this fall or winter if possible. Keep checking our District 11 QCC Facebook page for updates and other items of interest. QCC members can also be found there. Remember to send in your dues so you can continue to be members in good standing!

The **ROMEO** (Retired Old Men Eating Out) breakfast at the Denny's in Fletcher Hills has just been held for the first time during the pandemic; Denny's is now allowing group indoor dining, so plan for the 3rd Wednesday of every month to come out and join the gathering. This month it will be on September 15, if you're comfortable dining indoors.

Recent Retirements

Nicola Bernard & Jacqueline Appleton-Deane retired at the end of August from the South County and Trade Corridors (SC&TC) Division as the Division's Project Managers.



Rose Primacio celebrated her retirement on August 11th and retired from the Maintenance Division.

June 30 was **Bruce April's** last day as the Division Chief of the Environmental office. He worked for Caltrans for 33 years. Bruce started



as a maintenance worker, went to school and then became a student assistant before completing his studies and becoming a full-time employee for the department.

Leon Edmonds also retired the same day after over 40 years of service with Caltrans. Leon was the renowned Senior in Office Engineering. [Editor's note: The actual years of service is likely over 50 years, but **Leon** is not talking.]

Ross Cather retired on June 30, 2021 as the Division Chief of Design after over 34 years at Caltrans.

Ron Caraet also retired on June 30 as the Division Chief of Engineering Services.

In other news that members might find interesting, there have been multiple changes in District 11 management over the last few months

including retirements and promotions. **Mehi Nabizadeh** recently accepted an acting assignment as the Construction Engineer for the Sweetwater Field Office. Both the Construction and Maintenance Division Chief (formerly Deputy District Director) positions are vacant, the interviews for Construction have already taken place and the application process is closed for the Maintenance position. **Nikki Tiongco** and **Margarita (Maggie) Nuñez-Rojo** will be joining the South County and Trade Corridors (SC&TC) Division as the Division's Project Managers. **Denella Blount** was promoted to the Division Chief of Administration replacing **Lorna Rice** who retired. **Diane Vermeulen** recently was promoted to Senior Transportation Engineer in Environmental. The Division of Land Surveys announced the promotion of **Scott Edkins** to Senior Transportation Surveyor. The promotion of **Travis Valles** as the new Maintenance Manager II for the West Region in District 11 was announced effective July 1, 2021. Congratulations to all of you!!

Sad news from **John Grisafi**; Received word from Diana Ralston (daughter) that **Harry Ralston**, a long-time D-11 Caltrans employee passed away on November 23, 2020. Harry was 92 years old and maintained his sense of humor and his kindness and love to everyone. He retired in 1991 and spent most of his career in Design and R/W Engineering. He and his wife Phyllis attended many QCC events, and he was a faithful **Honorary QCC Member** for many years.

John Grisafi recounts that **Harry** was a Right of Way Engineer who made many of us smile with his amusing and whimsical stories which he was eager to share with us. He was a good man to have known and worked with and will be missed by us all.

- Kelly Manring

The Haps in District 12

Filipino-Mexican-Native American Actor **Frank Paras Jr.** received a Certificate of Congressional Recognition. The Certificate was presented by 39th District Congresswoman **Young Kim**. The Certificate was presented to **Frank** in recognition of his service in the United States Marine Corps and United States Air Force Reserve. Thank you for your countless contributions to the great nation!

39th District Congresswoman **Young Kim** and **Frank Paras Jr.** (below)



Hollywood producer, director, and actor **James E. Olmos** (left) and **Frank Paras Jr.** (below)



Frank has also acted in a sexual harassment training video for Caltrans and a movie (Flight to Fury 2). He has been inducted into the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame 2020 Grandslam Black Belt of the year. Frank is the QCC 2nd Vice President and the QCC District 12 District Director.

If you have articles or stories of interest for D-12, please send them to me for inclusion in the next QCC edition.

- **Frank Paras Jr.**

The Haps in Central

Central District QCC had a successful luncheon on August 18. Thanks, **Dave Saxby** and **Pat Laumer**. See Dave's photos on next page.

Elections were held for officers. **Jan Winbigler** is the new Secretary. Thank you Jan for your interest. Thank you **Pat Laumer** for your service and assistance these past few years. **Dave Saxby** and **Wes Lum** will continue as Treasurer and Central District Director, respectively.

Friends and colleagues who have passed:

Dick Pryor, an Honorary **QCC member**, passed when Covid first began. His wife, Jackie, arranged a service on September 18, 2021, at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Carmichael. She said Dick had requested people wear "bright" clothes -- NOT Black. See the following for his obituary:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sacbee/name/richard-pryor-obituary?pid=200098443>

John Reeves passed away in May. He was an Honorary **QCC Member**. His memorial will be on September 18th at St. Martin's Episcopal church in Davis. John's career, mostly in District

7 then HQ, contributed to the Southern California freeway system. He was proud of his accomplishments and was always a gentleman. See the following for his obituary: [John Edward Reeves - Davis Enterprise](#)

Marilyn Lambeth, passed in June. She was an Executive Secretary and took care of staff like no other. Marilyn’s interest in people extended to their families. Her memory of names was exceptional, including after retirement. Her smile and conversation were always appreciated at QCC gatherings. See the following for her obituary: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sacbee/name/marilyn-lambeth-obituary?n=marilyn-lambeth&pid=199296863>

Chuck Pivetti, an Honorary QCC Member, passed this August. He was known for his stories on many topics. He commuted to Caltrans HQ by bicycle every day, rain or shine. **Chuck** and Jane hosted Christmas parties where guests could eat, drink, and visit with colleagues and bicycling friends. The highlight was viewing his photography, especially in his office where a slide projector was continuously showing their recent travel adventures. See the following for his obituary: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sacbee/name/charles-pivetti-obituary?n=charles-pivetti&pid=199697457&fhid=8307>

Roy Imbsen passed from a stroke this July. He was remembered with a fitting tribute in a recent AASHTO Bridge Committee meeting by the FHWA Chief Bridge Engineer. Many feel privileged to have known Roy. He exemplified what it means to be a professional engineer. See the following for his obituary: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sacbee/name/roy-imbsen-obituary?n=roy-imbsen&pid=199495639&fhid=2540>

Some photos taken at the Central District’s August 18, 2021 Luncheon are shown in the next column.



- Wes Lum

Events

Because of Covid, all these Events may be cancelled. Please verify that the group is meeting prior to attending.

District 1 -

Caltrans retirees and QCC members meet on the 3rd Thursday of the months of January, April, July, and October at 9:30 am at the Pantry on Broadway in Eureka. Contact **Arlene Hartin** at ahartin@suddenlink.net or call (707) 443-8841 for details.

District 2 -

Retired Caltrans Ladies Lunch Bunch meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:30 AM, location varies.
Contact **Retha Rubiec** at goldmine@c-zone.net.

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

District 3 -

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

Contact: **Doug Becker** 530-622-1665,
doug.becker@att.net

District 4 -

The Caltrans Lunch Bunch meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30am at various locations on the Peninsula.

Contact: **Ed Coble** 925-465-4219,
edcoble49@astound.net

The Birthday Group (primarily retired Admin staff but all welcome) meets on the third Wednesday each month at 11:30am at Guadalajara Restaurant, 1001 Fruitvale Ave, Oakland. Contact **Anita Appiano** 510-813-3667
anita.appiano68@gmail.com

The North Bay Retirees Lunch Group meets on the second Tuesday each month at 11:30am at various locations in the Santa Rosa area. Contact: **Jerry Griffith**,
tallones2@hotmail.com, (707) 494-2084

The NP Lunch Group meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 11:30am at Chevy's in Emeryville in odd months and Original Joe's Westlake in Daly City in even months. Contact: **Bill Uesugi**, patbillu@comcast.net,
(650) 355-1410

The SF Lunch Group meets on the second Thursday each month at 11:30am in the Dragon River Restaurant, 5045 Geary Blvd (between 14th & 15th Ave).
Contact: **Ron Lee**, retronl@aol.com

District 5 -

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

District 6 -

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

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

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

District 7 -Ventura Monthly Meeting

Caltrans retiree luncheon is held the third Monday of each month at 11:30 AM, in Oxnard at BJ's Restaurant & Brewery

San Gabriel Monthly Meeting

Caltrans retiree meets on the Third Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM, in San Gabriel at the **Golden Soup**, 1039 E. Valley Blvd., San Gabriel.

District 8 -

No regular events are planned.

District 9 -

Contact: **Lance Hinek**, 760-873-3885

District 10 -

Details on events contact **Brian Young**
209-329-3445 cell or blyoung365@gmail.com

Lenny's Huddle meets at 8:00 am on the last Tuesday of the month. Location has changed.

Contact: **Stan Randolph**, 209-957-1278,
stanran3672@aol.com

District 11 -

D-11 Retirees meet 3rd Wednesday at 8am every month at Denny's at Fletcher Parkway and Navajo Road.

Informal Luncheon meets at Soup Plantation in Kearny Mesa. For more information, contact **Ava Sarkisian**.

Central District -

All QCC Luncheon events are held at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 1625 Watt Ave, Sacramento, CA 95864. Contact **Dave Saxby** for details and ordering your meal. Phone or email Dave at 916-497-2978 or dpbear74@gmail.com.
Summer Lunch, Thursday, August 19, 2021

Editor's Recruiting Note:

To see names of recent Retirees, please check the current news for Caltrans at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews>
Every issue has a retirement section.

QCC Membership Renewal Form, effective 1/1/2014

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

Name _____ District _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip code _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-Mail address _____@_____

Date of Retirement _____ Years of Service _____

Dues amounts:

check one

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

*- this option is for hardship situations where the Honorary member does not have email and cannot afford the normal dues amount. Your QCC District Director's written approval must be enclosed with this renewal form.

Make any checks payable to the Quarter Century Club

Mail to:

QCC

PO BOX 421292

SAN DIEGO, CA 92142-1292