

Winter
2016

C.A.R.E. Newsletter

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District

Association of Retired Employees

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President's Message

First, let me begin with a welcoming invitation to the CARE Reunion scheduled for January 21, 2017. This year, our speaker will highlight one of our CARE Grant-winning projects. You'll find the details and a registration form on page 6 of this newsletter. I take heartfelt pleasure in socializing with colleagues and friends from my work life, and I genuinely hope to see you there!



I also want to emphasize the significance of CARE's advocacy. Since last March, CARE representatives have been working on your behalf, seeking revisions to the flawed Board Policy 7380 that was adopted by the District in 2015. Remarkably, this policy, which is still in effect, provides retirement benefits only for faculty; it makes no provision for classified, administrative, or other employees! I encourage you to read the section below on CARE advocacy to put these efforts into context.

Don't miss the College News on page 2 and 3 and the human interest stories on pages 4 and 5. And finally, please send your 2017 dues, which fund this newsletter, our web site, our member directory, and other operational expenses.

With fond good wishes,

Art Tenbrink, President

CARE Advocacy

Is CARE a union? It is important to emphasize that CARE is not a union and does not have standing to negotiate with the District in any matter. Nevertheless, we are your advocate.

Are retirees "represented"? Retired employees are no longer "unit members" and are not represented by the CLPCCD faculty or classified unions. Still, union contracts covering current unit members may contain provisions mandating benefits to be provided after retirement.

How does CARE engage in advocacy? First, we are vigilant observers of events that affect our members' interests, keeping an eye on actions by the CLPCCD Trustees. Second, we work diligently to protect members' interests, using information sharing and communication with institutional leaders. Third, when appropriate, we may partner with the faculty and classified unions to present a unified voice. This is the collaborative approach we have taken in the BP7380 matter described on page 2.

Join us January 21, 2017 at the annual CARE Reunion.
See reservation form on page 6.



CHABOT COLLEGE NEWS

Irene Plunkett Reporting

Chabot College continues to be a vibrant place with more going on with each passing year. What follows are just a few items of note:

Institutional Research Coordinator Dr. Carolyn Arnold notes that fall 2016 enrollments are up from fall 2015, totaling 14,221, with the expectation that the numbers will be higher once late start classes are factored in.

Want more data? The IR website at www.chabotcollege.edu/ir is a treasure trove of information.

On Friday, Nov. 4, Chabot inducted 13 former student athletes, three former coaches, and two former athletic staff members into the Chabot College Hall of Fame. In his announcement, Dean Dale Wagoner thanked and congratulated the Hall of Fame committee, and especially Dan Miller, Chabot College Head Athletic Trainer and HOF Chair, and Jenny Kubicki, Assistant Athletic Director, Assistant Swim Coach, and Hall of Fame logistics coordinator on a great event. Testimonials from the students noted the ways in which their experiences at Chabot College shaped their lives and current careers. Wagoner noted especially Adrian Ward, who spoke of how his experience at Chabot College laid the groundwork for his transfer to University of Texas, El Paso and to the NFL, and a successful career in the state of Texas where he now resides. A second honoree, Amber Marsden, spoke of how her experiences as a community college student athlete helped her to define her work ethic as a student and for her chosen career as a community college counselor.



Dan Miller, Trainer

Finally, the college received the difficult news that Chabot College Athletics has been sanctioned by the California Community College Athletic Association for violation of CCCAA Constitution and Bylaws. President Susan Sperling commented that "We take these matters very seriously. Chabot College Athletics and I are committed to ensuring that our staff is fully trained in college policies and procedures, and in the following months we will be implementing additional checks and balances to ensure that our student athlete experience at Chabot is positive and enriching."

Benefits News

Update on Board Policy 7380

Last spring, we reported that a 2015 change in CLPCCD board policy raised questions about District-paid health benefits for retirees, and we described the steps CARE has been taking to address these concerns. Key problems with the policy involve conflicts with existing collective bargaining agreements and the complete omission of coverage for retired classified, management, or confidential/supervisory employees. The concerns are detailed on page 6 of our [Spring 2016 newsletter](#).

Last March, CARE began working with District staff to address the defects in in BP7380. This work is still ongoing, despite the intentions of all involved to improve the policy. District protocol requires that board policy revisions go through a shared governance process with participation of the unions, campus groups, and leaders.

To facilitate this process, last summer CARE partnered with the Chabot-Las Positas Faculty Association and the Service Employees International Union Local 1021 to develop a [single joint recommendation for revised language for BP7380](#). This CARE/Union joint recommendation has been under review by District staff and consultants, and the parties have recently come to agreement regarding final language. In the coming months, the revised draft policy will undergo shared governance review, followed by eventual adoption by the Board of Trustees.

CARE wishes to recognize the CLPFA's collaboration and contribution of significant time and legal support to this joint effort. As the process plays out, CARE will continue to report on the progress.

LAS POSITAS COLLEGE NEWS

David Wright Reporting



CARE provides grants to educators who are making a difference in the lives of students at both Chabot and Las Positas College, and a recent highlight is a grant awarded to Dr. Jim Ott, an English teacher at LPC.

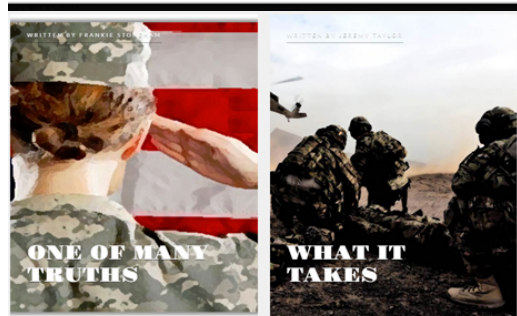
Jim began teaching at the college as an adjunct in 1997 while he was working full time as an executive in banking. In 2010, he retired after 30 years of banking, and in 2012 he was hired full time by LPC.

The grant he requested and received provided funds to create a website to publish the stories of student veterans attending Las Positas College. The funds paid for the graphic work and template.

The website came about as a result of an all-veterans English course Jim taught in which he encouraged veterans to write about their military experiences as a means of assisting in their transition from military to civilian life. The stories written in the class are published on the website, which continues to publish stories written by veterans at the college.

LPC VET STORIES

PERSONAL NARRATIVES FROM THE VETERANS AT LAS POSITAS COLLEGE



The all-veterans English course provided Jim the opportunity to conduct a qualitative study over the course of a semester with 17 veterans. Combined with a pilot study he conducted with six veterans in 2014, the study became the centerpiece of Jim's dissertation for his educational doctorate at Saint Mary's College, which he received in December 2015, and for which he received the "Outstanding Dissertation Award" from the college.

The study's findings suggest that veterans who write expressively about their experiences in a college classroom setting are likely to gain an improved sense of well-being as they transition to civilian life.

Since conducting his study, Jim reported his research to community college colleagues at the League of Innovations Conference in Chicago in March 2015. He has also given a TEDx Livermore talk on the project, which can be viewed on YouTube at <https://goo.gl/GfizfA>. This talk provides a deeper understanding of Jim's educational strategies and outcomes.

To view the website funded by the CARE grant, visit www.lpcvetstories.com.

Scholarships at LPC

In June of 2016, the Las Positas College Foundation announced receipt of a large bequest from the estate of Drs. David and Barbara Mertes. The initial gift from the estate, valued at \$450,000, will establish two scholarships to benefit students transferring to a four-year college or university to obtain an undergraduate degree.

The donation was praised by LPC Foundation Director Kenneth Cooper: "These scholarships will continue the Mertes' spirit of stewardship through the student beneficiaries who will advance their college education through this gift."

In Memoriam

We have lost these valued CARE members recently. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

Leonard Blau	Ellen McIlroy
Agnes Holbrook	Marion McSweeney
June Joyce	Norman Olson
Yvette Lehman	Chet Rhoan

CARE publishes life tributes and profiles in the History Project of its web site. Family or colleagues who wish to submit a tribute for publication may send it to the newsletter editor via [email](mailto:).

New Retirees

Cindy Black, Las Positas College, January 2017
Edna Danaher, Chabot College, November 2016
Ann Jones, Las Positas College, December 2016

Meet Your Board Members - Tom Gerrits

I retired from the District on July 1, 2004. I find it hard to believe it's already been 12 years! Obviously, time really does fly when you're having fun, and I'm finding life's a lot more fun if you don't need a job! I am so thankful that I was fortunate enough to work for an institution that has provided me with such great security in retirement, as well as healthcare, and that I didn't leave for "greener pastures" during the dot-com boom.

I'm not married, but was... I have a son, Tom, of whom I am very proud, and works for EBay, and a 14 year-old grand-daughter, and a 17 year-old step grand-daughter. Both are super-smart, wonderful, young ladies.

I was born in the Netherlands, in a house, with a midwife. My parents immigrated to the US when I was 2, and I'm a naturalized citizen. I graduated from San Lorenzo High School in 1967. I loved science and biology and thought I might want to be a biologist when I first went to Chabot in the fall. However, I didn't do well. Maybe it was that my instructor didn't like my drawings of what I saw in the microscope (which I thought were spectacular!), or that I was also side-tracked into music and really would have preferred being a rock star. Some kids are late bloomers as far as educational motivation goes. I was one of those. I flunked-out of Chabot...

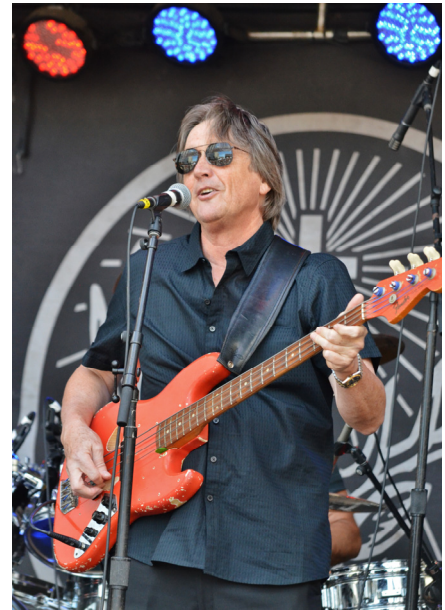
Music... I started playing classical guitar at age 12. I loved classical music and didn't care much for rock until the Beatles came along. I moved on to electric guitar, and in high-school, actually taught at Music Unlimited in San Leandro. I then switched to bass guitar, and that's all I play now. Still love classical though, and have season tickets to the San Francisco Symphony. More on music later...

Besides getting sick of working at menial jobs, I credit my renewed interest in education to the discovery of Comet Kohoutek in March 1973. I loved astronomy as well, and decided it would be cool to grind my own 8" telescope mirror and build a telescope. My girlfriend let me put a 55 gallon drum in our living room to serve as the base for the grinding tool. Then, I thought it might be good to take an astronomy class, and I petitioned for readmission to Chabot. Billy Smith taught it, I loved it, and got an "A". I then took Astronomy IA and IB (orbits, masses, etc.) from Larry Toy, got As in both, and my educational motivation had returned! Later, on Feb. 26, 1979, Billy Smith, Larry Toy and I went to Union Gap, Washington to photograph a total eclipse of the sun. There were thousands there with the same idea. But, we were of the very few, due to clouds, to actually get photographs. What a spectacular wonder of nature! I used the telescope I had made, and one of my photos was published in Sky and Telescope magazine.

I majored in business and decided to become an accountant. I took my first data processing class from Mark Wayne, and said "the heck with this accountant idea!" and switched to business data processing. I got a job as a student assistant in the computer center sorting, collating, and gang-punching IBM cards (remember those?). After a couple years, and my 2 AA degrees in Business Administration and Business Data Processing, I briefly had a job in the private sector before being hired as a programmer at Chabot. on March 1, 1978. I worked my way up through the higher levels of analyst positions until I became Asst. Manager. An accomplishment I am probably most proud of in the early years was the implementation of on-line registration. We wrote the programs which allowed us to move from using IBM punched cards, to the use of computer terminals. It was an exciting time... While working, I also went on to get my BA in Business Administration / Information Systems Management at Cal State, Hayward.

Sorry, but when I started writing this bio, I wondered how I was going to fill a page. Now, I'm trying really hard not to write a book!

Back to music... I have played bass in a band called DELTA WIRES for decades. My best friend since the age of 5 and I started the band in 1971. We had broken-up briefly about the time I went back to Chabot, but reformed in spring, 1987. It is a big, high-energy, blues band with harmonica and horns, and it has been an important part of my life all these years. We were finalists in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN, in 2008, and have played with some famous people: Van Morris



(Continued on page 5)



son, John Lee Hooker, Freddie King, The Neville Bros, Dr. John, The Doobie Brothers, Buddy Guy and Junior Wells, John Mayall, Boz Scaggs, Bad Company, The James Gang, and numerous others... We've done 6 CDs, and are writing material for our 7th. I've included a photo of the band from 1973. I figured I might as well, as I still look exactly the same! (in the middle, with glasses) www.deltawires.com

I'm proud to be on the CARE Board, and appreciate the camaraderie, and the fact that someone is looking-out for the interests of Chabot-Las Positas retirees

Editor: watch Tom and the Delta Wires at <https://goo.gl/bK28lm>

Retiree News

What Ever Happed to Jim Healey? (in his own words...)

The best thing I've done since retiring in 1997 is marrying Elaine Sonne, who had been the secretary to the Athletic Director and the Physical Education Division chairman at Chabot. Elaine and I have been on many cruises and Tauck tours in Europe and in Alaska, New England and the Caribbean. With my brother and brother-in-law, I've traveled all of Route 66 twice plus the Oregon Trail and the Great River Road from Lake Itasca to New Orleans. My daughter Erin and I have done several road trips, always including train rides, car museums and baseball games. This year we'll be doing a trip from Jacksonville to Miami Florida.

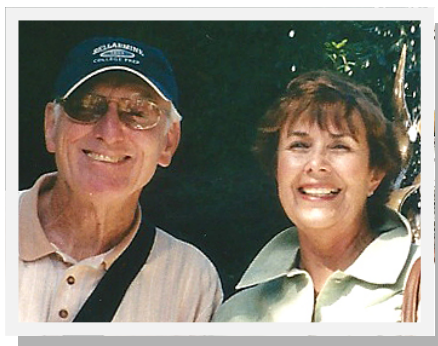
I sang and played the gut bucket in a group called "Banjos By the Bay" that featured Dick Yeo's famous rendition of "Give My Regards to Broadway". Once at a gig, an old fellow came up to me and said, "I saw you looking for a note in that rope. Keep looking, you'll find it." I never did.

I've had some poems published along with some photo essays in Reminisce and the Route 66 magazines. My two country songs, "She Promised Me" and "My Rear View Mirror Romance" got perfect scores for lyrics in a songwriting contest in 2009.

I won the Santa Cruz County B League singles dart championship in 2001. I've played Super Senior tennis for Seascap for a dozen years. Recently at a match, a lady said to me, "I was watching you play. You're really quite spry." Two weeks later a woman offered me her seat on a bus. I retired from senior slow pitch softball after 24 years. Our team won the World Series in the 75 year old division in Phoenix in 2010.

As the "Amazing Mr. Domino", I do magic shows for old folks at retirement homes where their poor eyesight gives me an advantage. A friend taught me how to make whirligigs. I've made a pelican (wings flap) a 49er quarterback (his legs run) and one where you see Buster Posey, the Giants' catcher, tag out the Dodgers' Yasiel Puig as often as sixty times a minute when the wind blows hard.

For many years, I've been delivering Meals on Wheels. My biggest compliment came when a salty old gal said this to me, "If I were fifteen years younger, you'd be living in a broken home." They say everybody collects something. I collect swizzle sticks, Laurel and Hardy figurines, Robert Paige movie posters (he was my cousin) and movie introductions. I may be the only living person who has documented 641 actors and actresses who have been officially "introduced" on screen in a movie. If you see one of these, let me know. It might be one I don't have.



End-of-Tax-Year

The 2016 tax year will be ending shortly, and CARE encourages you to take this opportunity to make a 2016 tax-deductible contribution to the CARE Fund, our charitable fund that provides an extra measure of support to the colleges. Learn more about the CARE Fund and print a donation form at care-news.org/support/.

2017 CARE Reunion

We extend a special invitation to all retirees to attend CARE's 2017 reunion and annual meeting!

The reunion will include an appetizing luncheon, raffle gifts, greetings from CARE's Board, and an opportunity to socialize with friends and co-workers. Our program will include a presentation by Dr. Jim Ott, Las Positas College faculty member who will highlight his award-winning *Veteran's Writing Project*. His work won a CARE grant and is profiled on page 3 of this newsletter.



When: Saturday, January 21, 2017 11:00 a.m. No-Host Social
Where: San Ramon Country Club 11:45 a.m. Business Meeting
Cost: \$22.00 per person 12:15 p.m. Lunch

Directions to San Ramon Country Club:

From 580 east or west go to the 680 interchange.
 Go North on 680 to ALCOSTA BLVD. (The first off-ramp).
 From the North take 680 South to San Ramon Alcosta Blvd. Off-ramp.
 Go East on Alcosta, through 3 signal lights to FIRCREST LANE, and turn left.
 You will see the golf course. Take Fircrest to the club parking lot.



Detach and return

**Reservation For
 Annual CARE Reunion and Lunch**

January 21, 2017, 11:00 a.m.
 San Ramon Country Club

Please complete this form, enclose your check payable to C.A.R.E., and mail to

Sharon Trethan, C.A.R.E. Treasurer
5122 Blackhawk Dr.
Danville, CA 94506



Name/Names _____

E-mail Address _____
 (please print clearly)

→ **Yes, please add me to the CARE Member Directory. (E-mail address required)**

Number Attending _____ x \$22 = _____
 2017 Dues (If not already paid) \$10 = _____
 Total Amount Enclosed = _____

**Reservation Deadline:
 January 6, 2017**

Reservations must be prepaid.
 There is no pay-at-the-door option.

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Change of Address

Please send your change of address to CARE Treasurer,
Sharon Trethan via [e-mail](#) or
5122 Blackhawk Drive, Danville, CA 94506.

Change of E-mail

Please send your change of e-mail address to CARE Communications Director,
Bill Threlfall via [e-mail](#)

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Deborah Dobbins 925-485-5505 ddobbins@clpccd.org
Rosalyn Tucker 925-485-5504 rtucker@clpccd.org

Detach and return

C.A.R.E. Dues 2017

Your dues are used in direct support of our newsletter and web site.
No stipends are paid to board members, who volunteer their time and service.
Thank you for your support if you have already paid your 2017 dues!

NAME _____

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CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

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(please print clearly)

→ **Yes, please add me to the CARE Member Directory.**
(E-mail address required)

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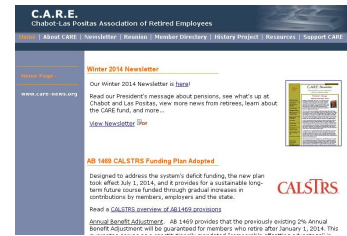
\$10 per year or \$100 lifetime membership (Thank you!)

Please cut and mail this form and your check payable to **CARE** to:

CARE c/o Sharon Trethan
5122 Blackhawk Dr.
Danville, CA 94506

New on the CARE web site:

- [Outcome reports from nine winning 2015-2016 CARE Grant projects.](#)
- [A five-year report on the CARE Grants program](#) presented the the CLPCCD Trustees on September 20, 2016.



Featured on the CARE web site:

[The History Project.](#) Have you checked out the History page? Here are a few examples of the documents and stories you'll find there:

- Dr. Ted Stanford's book, *Chabot College: The First Twenty Years*
- 38 Historical pieces contributed by CARE members
- An Interview with Dr. Reed L. Buffington, First PreColleges

To visit the History page, just select **History Project** from the top main menu at www.care-news.org.

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