

Winter  
2014

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# C.A.R.E. Newsletter

Chabot-Las Positas Community College District

Association of Retired Employees

## President's Message

This December, the CARE Board is experiencing both happiness and sadness. Happiness, because of the upcoming Holiday season and a vibrant retirees club; sadness because of the continuing illness of our much respected president, Chet Rhoan. For those of you who haven't heard, I can tell you that CARE's president has been quite ill for the last several months. He is currently in an extended care facility, and his health seems to be gradually improving. Chet's dear wife Julene, is keeping us up to date on that. In his absence, I will temporarily take over presidential duties, and hope that Chet will be back in good health by the time of our next newsletter.



We are also mourning the recent death of Dr. David Mertes, the husband of Board Trustee and one of the founders of Las Positas College, Dr. Barbara Mertes. We have all lost a very influential man.

On a happier note, we can tell you that our CARE Board members have made 2014 an exceptionally productive year. One major reason for this is the addition of several new board members, including Art Tenbrink and Dee Roshong from Las Positas College, and Tom Gerrits from the District. We are also pleased that the CARE Fund Special Grants Program is receiving applications from our colleges and the District and is offering the largest awards ever.

A greater percentage of CARE members are paying their annual dues; the History Project continues to get new entries every once in awhile. And last but certainly not least, our newsletter seems to get better with every issue. Our board members, old and new, are showing dedication and creativity, enlivening our meetings and leading CARE in some new and interesting directions. We are already looking forward to our annual luncheon in January, where we all have a chance to get together for a good meal and lively conversations with old friends, and possibly some new retirees who will want to join our dynamic organization. We hope to see all of you there.

*Helen Bridge, Acting President*

## CARE Constitution & Bylaws

CARE is a collegial organization whose primary purposes are to serve the economic and social interests of its members as provided by its Constitution and Bylaws. You will find those governing documents on the CARE web site under the "[About CARE](#)" main menu pick. The original versions were drafted by CARE's founders in 1984, as described in Art Larson's article: [The Birth of CARE](#), found on our web site in the "History Project". Each has been revised several times, but they remain true to the intent and purposes of the founders.



We encourage you to take a look at your organization's [Constitution](#) and [Bylaws](#).



# CHABOT COLLEGE NEWS

*Shanon Christiansen Reporting*

**Budget.** The year is well under way and the president has reported for the first time in a number of years that the college is in improved financial shape. The college is using carry-over money for instructional supplies prioritized by the program review committee. Also, the state has resumed allocating funds for instructional equipment and library materials.

**Facilities Update.** The college's two large projects include the new Biological Science building, a \$20 million project now in design, with completion expected by August 2015. The other is a renovation of the Library building 100, which involves a remodel of the first floor with only limited work planned for the second floor. It will include a seismic retrofit, finishes, lighting, furnishings, interior renovations for computer labs, and HVAC. As of September, 2014, Chabot College has spent or committed \$225 million, or 85% of its total Measure B budget allocation.



**Hayward Historical Society.** During the fall the Hayward Historical Society has been gathering historical photos and video memories about Chabot College. If you have photos or videos you would like to share, please contact Maria Ochoa, Chabot College Director of Development & Foundation at 510-723-7091. Photos will be scanned and returned to you.

**College Enrollments.** The college enrollments are slightly down this fall. Part of the decline seems to be due to the improving job market. According to the **President's Corner** news letter, the college is spending \$45,000 for marketing to attract new students.



**National Voter Registration Day.** On September 23, 2014, the [Law and Democracy Program at Chabot College](#) joined with the [Eden Area League of Women Voters](#) to hold a special voter registration for Chabot students. The sponsors' **Vote 60 by 50** program aims to increase the voting rate of college students to 60% by the 50th anniversary of the voting rights act of 1965 (2015). A few days prior to this event, the two sponsors held a "teach-in" about the evolution of voting rights in the United States: "From Seneca Falls to Selma".

## AB 1469 CALSTRS Funding Plan Adopted

Designed to address the system's deficit funding, the new plan took effect July 1, 2014, and it provides for a sustainable long-term future course funded through gradual increases in contributions by members, employers and the state.



Read a CALSTRS overview of AB1469 provisions: <http://www.calstrs.com/calstrs-2014-funding-plan>

**Annual Benefit Adjustment.** AB 1469 provides that the previously existing 2% Annual Benefit Adjustment will be guaranteed for members who retire after January 1, 2014. This guarantee serves as a constitutionally mandated "comparable offsetting advantage" in exchange for the increased member contributions required under the new law. For those who retired prior to January 1, 2014, no change will occur – the legislature may reduce or eliminate the annual increase in response to economic conditions. Nevertheless, no suggestions to adjust this benefit have been made, nor has this benefit been reduced or eliminated in the past.

Read Q&A by the CALSTRS Director on this issue:

<http://www.calstrs.com/ask-jack/i-retired-june-2013-does-mean-i-will-no-longer-receive-2-percent-annual-benefit-adjustment>

*Bill Threlfall, Editor*



# LAS POSITAS COLLEGE NEWS

Sophie Rheinheimer Reporting

Another school year started with Convocation at LPC. All District employees gathered in the Physical Education Complex, and the first agenda item was the dedication of the **Tony Costello Court**. This tribute was to honor beloved basketball coach Tony Costello, who passed away one year ago after a year-long battle with pancreatic cancer. Members of the extended Costello Family unveiled the court-printed name.



The second exciting LPC news at Convocation was the announcement that retired Sociology instructor, Judy Porta, and husband Fred, donated \$500,000 to the Child Development Center. The new **2GEN Fund** provides for childcare scholarships to children of fulltime LPC students. This is such an appropriate name as "2 generations" will be helped and supported by the Portas' gift. Thanks for your generous donation, Judy and Fred! Fred and Judy and potential scholarship recipients are shown at right.



The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge has been drenching the country, and LPC was not to be left out. Former LPC Vice-President of Student Services, Pam Luster, (now President of Mesa College) issued a challenge to the LPC administrative team. All the Vice-Presidents and Deans, along with several athletic coaches, were joined by Chancellor Jackson. It was great fun to see them get soaked!

See for yourself! The [YouTube video](http://youtu.be/8_iKb5rmUjk) can be found at [http://youtu.be/8\\_iKb5rmUjk](http://youtu.be/8_iKb5rmUjk)

**NEWS FLASH!!!! "4 Decades of Scholarship"!** The College is planning a 40th Anniversary celebration! Believe it or not, it was 40 years ago (when we were all just kids) that Las Positas College, aka Chabot College-Valley Campus, first opened its doors in March 1975. Everyone is invited back for a special day of reunions, memories, tours, and surprises! Be on the lookout for further announcements. If you want to be involved, you can email me at [srheinheimer@laspositascollege.edu](mailto:srheinheimer@laspositascollege.edu).

## Easy Access to Newsletter Web Links

Several of our articles include links to web sites, such as the link to the YouTube video shown in green in the article above or the CalSTRS links shown on page 2. Unfortunately, these links are a real challenge to type into your browser, inviting mistakes. So how might readers gain easy access to these web sites?

Just visit [care-news.org](http://care-news.org), where the latest newsletter is online. Open the online newsletter and simply click any



link shown in green. You'll get immediate access to its target.

No typing!

## New Retirees

Deborah Buti, Chabot College, December 2014  
 Indrani Chaudhuri, Chabot College, December 2014  
 Thomas Clark, Chabot College, January 2015  
 Kathy Kelley, Chabot College, December 2014  
 Marietta Laurella, District Services, December 2013  
 Tim Nelson, District Services, December 2014  
 Irene Plunkett, Chabot College, December 2014  
 Jeanne Virgilio, Las Positas College, January 2015

## Deceased

Arlene Adamson, Chabot College, October 2014  
 Reed Buffington, Chabot College, June 2014  
 Lillian Gardiner, Chabot College, August 2014  
 Allan Reiff, Chabot College, June 2014  
 Margaret (Peggy) Riley, Las Positas College, August 2014  
 Glenys Wilson, Chabot College, June 2014

## Remembering Reed Buffington,

*From the Editor: Reed Buffington, Superintendent-President of our college district from 1961-1981, passed away in June of this year. I invited CARE Board members to contribute brief anecdotes that illustrate the character of this leader, who played such a seminal role for our colleges. Following are revealing selections ranging through humorous, moving, and respectful.*

Bill Threlfall

Every president that followed Reed found the same original note from him in the president's desk drawer. It said, "Rent, don't buy." And as it turned out, that was good advice. Most of the presidents who followed him had a tenure of five years or less.

Helen Bridge

Once while I was speaking with a Dean about how important he must feel carrying around a pocket full of keys to gain access into most buildings on campus, my conversation was overheard by Reed who reached into his pocket and pulled out a single key and replied "the really important people only need one key, it opens all doors".

Bob Wiseman

When I was running the Performing Arts Center, Reed attended all of the performances. He bought all of his tickets, never asked for freebies. That is character.

Clyde Allen

I had the opportunity to be an administrator for 13 of the years Reed was Superintendent-President. Our administrative meeting agendas were made up from the members of the group submitting items they wanted to discuss. I recall he would always listen to what you and others had to say when trying to resolve a issues or problem at the college. I do not recall a single arbitrary decision that was made in all those years.

Shanon Christiansen

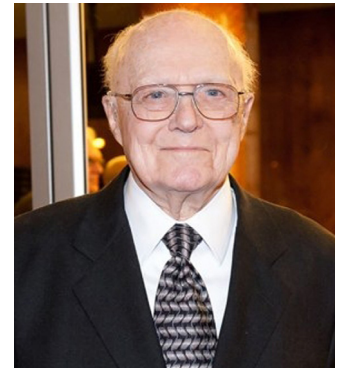
After a long two-hour orientation in the LRC, Dr. Buffington came in and reintroduced himself to the thirteen newbie instructors. He select me and three others to join him in his new brown Chevy sedan. It was the scariest ride I have had since I rode the Santa Cruz roller coaster. During the flight over the Dublin Grade Dr. Buffington kept reiterating that the three of us were fortunate to be joining the faculty of the "Harvard of the West". When we arrived at the Pleasanton Golf and Country Club Dr. Buffington leaped out of the car all the while opining that this was the fastest he had ever made it.

Chet Rhoan

My first introduction to Dr. Reed Buffington was on the occasion of my final interview for selection as a counselor/ instructor at Chabot College. I was immediately impressed with his stately presence - looking every bit the personification of a college president. I knew that I had much to learn from this man and I so wanted him to be impressed with my knowledge and experience in my beloved profession. One question he asked me was why I wanted to live in Hayward. Since that was my first day in Hayward, I did not have a lofty answer for that question, but I assumed from the question that faculty were expected to live in the town where they worked, as in the mid-west, rather than live in Berkeley or San Francisco, as I would have chosen. So, after I was hired, I moved to Hayward and later discovered that he and I were among the few who actually lived in Hayward! Nevertheless, I enjoyed a 38 year employment with Chabot and Las Positas Colleges and was always proud of my affiliation with the district Reed fathered.

Dee Roshong

*continued on page 5*



Continued from page 4

*A successful employment interview with Reed:*

Reed: "I see you've been a military man."

Dick: "Yes sir!"

Reed: "I guess that means you know how to take orders as well as give them."

Dick: "Yes sir!"

*Crossing the campus a year later, Reed encounters Dick, who turned out to differ from Reed's expectations:*

Reed: "Well, Dick, you fooled me."

Dick: "Yes sir!"

Dick Albert

Attendees at meetings in Reed's office soon learned that its furniture complement included a few "special" chairs which everyone sought to avoid. At Reed's direction, Maintenance and Operations staff had cut a couple of inches off the legs of these chairs, resulting in a notably inferior seating position. When meetings required use of all furniture, the last participants to arrive could only find a seat on one of the "special" chairs - an effective non-verbal method to encourage prompt arrival for the meeting!

Bill Threlfall

In 1980, after a five year "residency" as a part-time Counselor/Instructor, I applied for a similar full-time position that finally opened at Chabot's then Valley Campus. To prepare for my final interview with College President, Reed Buffington, Valley colleagues coached me "Art, recount your full range of experience on both campuses." They cautioned me as well to stay sharp. "Dr. Buffington is a stickler for detail." I felt I'd aced the interview when Reed held out to me what I thought was my contract. I reached for my lucky gold Cross pen to sign as Reed handed me back my application instead.

"Mr. Tenbrink, you know from your work at Valley Campus, I expect everyone to be top-notch. I've heard of self-promotion, but you put on your application that you served as Associate Dean on some evenings when the administrators were called to meetings off campus. I have to tell you that I have appointed no Associate Deans at that campus; as of yet, there are only Assistant Deans."

Cross pen in hand, I first crossed out "Associate" and inserted "Assistant" Dean, then under Reeds watchful eye, I carefully signed my contract.

Art Tenbrink

Everyone knows that Reed Buffington had an uncanny ability to know what was going on in every phase of the campus – a trait that I encountered in conjunction with the planning of the Auto facility at LPC. Because I had protested the original design of that facility, it was rejected, and I was asked by Reed to provide input for a redesign. I recall surprising Reed later during the final phase of the building. He did not know that one of my students (a manager at Grand Auto Stores) arranged for their architect to come to my house and work out the best usage of the square footage allowed, and this input became a key part of the new plan I then submitted to the LPC Architect. When I showed Reed the original plan that the Architect had developed, he was speechless and seemed to be especially pleased by the redesign.

Don Nilson

Visit the [History Project](#) on the CARE web site to learn more about the role and legacy of Reed Buffington., which are highlighted in Chapters 1 & 2 of Ted Staniford's book: [Chabot College: The First Twenty Years](#) and in the video: [An Interview with Reed Buffington, First President of Chabot College](#).



## 2015 CARE Reunion

Please join your colleagues at our upcoming reunion and annual meeting!

We will enjoy a wonderful opportunity to socialize with friends and co-workers, a delicious buffet lunch, new historic and current campus photos produced by Don Nilson, and a fun prize drawing,

When: Saturday, January 24, 2015      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 24, 2015, 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	=	_____
2015 Dues (If not already paid)			\$10	=	_____
Total Amount Enclosed				=	_____

**Reservation Deadline:  
 January 9, 2015**

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

**CARE BOARD**

**Chet Rhoan**  
President

**Linda Barde-Zimmerling**  
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**Helen Bridge**  
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**Art Larson**  
Director Emeritus

**Don Nilson**  
CARE Photographer

Contact the board:  
[www.care-news.org/contacts](http://www.care-news.org/contacts)

**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](#).

**District Retirement Benefits Contacts**

Deborah Dobbins 925-485-5505 [ddobbins@clpccd.org](mailto:ddobbins@clpccd.org)  
Rosalyn Tucker 925-485-5504 [rtucker@clpccd.org](mailto:rtucker@clpccd.org)

Detach and return

**C.A.R.E. Dues 2015**

(\$10.00 per year or \$100 Lifetime Membership)

Support from CARE members is key to our success.

Thank you for your support if you have already paid your 2015 dues!

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

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**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

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(E-mail address required)

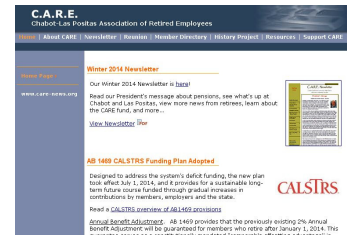
**AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Thank you!)

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:**

- [Tribute to Reed Buffington](#), a new History Project piece by Art Larson.
- [AB 1469 CALSTRS Funding Plan Adopted](#), our page 2 story with links to STRS you can click for more information.



**Featured on the CARE web site:**

The [About CARE Page](#). Here members will find information about our organization and its governance, including:

- Constitution
- Bylaws
- CARE Directors' duties and contact details
- CARE board meeting dates, locations, and minutes

To visit the About Care page, just select **About CARE** from the top main menu at [www.care-news.org](http://www.care-news.org).

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