

DVC Retirees Association Newsletter Fall 2025

COME TO DVCRA'S 2025 FALL LUNCHEON! Please join us to connect with friends and former colleagues over a hot buffet lunch in DVC's Diablo Room.

DATE: Friday, October 24, 2025

TIME: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

LOCATION: Diablo Room, HSF Building, 3rd floor (there is an elevator)

COST: \$22 per person (guests welcome!)

FOOD: Hot Buffet – We will have chicken (c), fish (f), and vegetarian(v) meals, either regular (r) or gluten-free (gf).

PARKING: Lots 7 and 8, with a free permit (details below) or a permanent permit

PROGRAM: **Renita Mack, CCCCD Benefits Analyst**, will update us on and answer questions about retiree health benefits.

DVCRA Scholarship Recipients, will join us to tell us about the impact of their DVCRA Scholarship on their educational journeys.

RESERVE: At the time of payment, please specify the name of each attendee, which meal each wants (chicken, fish, or vegetarian), and whether each person prefers regular (r) or gluten-free (gf), as well as the number of parking permits needed.

Reservations and payments must be received by Wednesday, October 15.

For more details about logistics, read on.

PAYMENT: Either by
Check made out to DVC Retirees Association and mailed to:
DVC Retirees Association
321 Golf Club Road
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

OR Electronic payment with credit card by going to **DVCRA.org** and clicking on the link for the Fall Luncheon.

QUESTIONS: For questions about the luncheon, contact
Irene Menegas, imenegas@comcast.net or 925-946-0420.
For questions about electronic payment,
contact Karen Castle, castle.kg@gmail.com or 925-209-6317

DIRECTORY: If you attend the luncheon, you will receive a hard copy of the DVCRA Directory with members' contact information. If you are unable to attend the luncheon, the directory will be mailed to you.

PARKING: As always, Parking Lots 7 and 8 have the most convenient access for the event. Student Ambassadors will be on site to help you find your way to the Diablo Room. If you have a permanent DVC parking pass/sticker with no expiration date, you are good to go. If not, you can obtain a (free) daily permit by going to MyCampusPermit.com at any time prior to the event. Click on Daily Permits, choose Diablo Valley College, and enter the requested information, including a special code which we will provide upon request. You must also enter the license plate number of the vehicle you will bring to campus. There will be people available in Lots 7 and 8 to assist you if you do not complete the process in advance.

GETTING TO THE DIABLO ROOM: Lawrence Orme from DSS has again graciously agreed to be available to provide transportation from Parking Lot 7 by the BFL Community Conference Center, for those who would like assistance.

IMPORTANT: Much as we would miss your presence, if you are feeling unwell, experiencing any COVID symptoms, or have tested positive for the virus in the week before October 24, please help us to keep everyone safe by not attending. If at some time after you have paid, but before the event, the continuously shifting COVID situation leaves you no longer comfortable about attending, please notify Irene or Karen, and let them know if you would like a refund, or if you prefer to apply your payment toward the scholarship fund.

We are looking forward to seeing you on October 24!

Alere 2 Is Coming

The DVC Hospitality Department has begun planning for Alere2 for the Spring 2026 semester. Alere is a food and wine symposium featuring work and lectures from faculty and students and showcasing foods from the Bay Area's top restaurants and winery favorites from Napa and Sonoma. Stay tuned to for the date and time and come learn about food and culture the DVC way.

**Diablo Valley College Retirees Association
Financial Report
For the Period January 1, 2025 to July 31, 2025
By Tim Murphy, DVCRA Treasurer**

The following DVCRA financial information is for the period January 1, 2025 to July 31, 2025:

- ✓ \$22,018 in total assets as of July 31, 2025 of which \$11,435 is available for future operations and scholarships.
- ✓ Fundraising activities, year to date, to DVCRA and the Foundation for 2025, have generated \$10,680 (vs. \$8,447 for the same period in 2024).

A primary goal of DVCRA is to fundraise for awarding scholarships to DVC students. The Association has awarded scholarships for many years. Since 2008, we have awarded 186 scholarships (\$188,400) through year ending 6/30/2025. We award scholarships in the Spring of each year and fund them in the following school year. The funds raised in calendar year 2025 will be used to fund the scholarships awarded in Spring 2026.

The DVCRA Board at its Fall meeting has tentatively approved fourteen scholarships of \$1,000 each for 2026-2027. Six scholarships will go to continuing DVC students and four scholarships will go to DVC transferring students. Two additional scholarships will go to DVC Umoja students and two additional scholarships will go to DVC Puente students. We hope to add scholarships for career education certificate students in future years.

Scholarship donations (not tax-deductible) can be made by credit card at the new DVCRA web and payment site, DVCRA.org. The DVCRA payment site will also take credit card payments for luncheons and membership dues. Alternatively, checks payable to DVCRA or the DVC Foundation (for tax deductible donation) can be mailed to DVCRA, 321 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Your Board wants to thank our membership for their continuing generosity to the students of DVC and hopes to see you at our next luncheon event on October 24, 2025.

**Don't Miss Your Medicare Part B Reimbursement
By Nancy Zink**

If you have a Medicare coordinated health plan through CCCD, the district will reimburse you for Medicare Part B premiums, either quarterly or annually. The application form, can be found on

<https://www.4cd.edu/hr/benefits/index.html>

under Navia and then under Medicare Part B Reimbursement Form.

DVC College President Investiture - Dr. Monica Chahal
Oct 9, 4-6 PM Bistro

RSVP: <https://DVCinvestiture9.eventbrite.com>



On Thursday, October 9, we'll formally welcome Dr. Monica Chahal as DVC's 9th college president and you are invited to be part of it!

This time-honored academic tradition symbolizes the beginning of a new chapter for our college - one filled with hope, vision, and a renewed commitment to student success and community impact.

The ceremony will include remarks from district, college, and community leaders, and the president's investiture address. It's an opportunity to reflect on where we've been, celebrate where we are, and look forward to where we're going, *together*.

We welcome faculty, staff, students, alumni, partners, and community members to attend and take part in this important milestone.

Don't Miss Out See <https://tickets.dvc.edu/event>



Check out the MANY events and reserve.

Celebrate with DVC Drama!

This season features 4 plays, 2 Dinner Events

Buy your Tickets at the

DVC Box Office 925 969 2358

Tickets <http://dvcdrama.net/>



320 GOLF CLUB RD. PLEASANT HILL, CA 94521
PERFORMANCES: FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS AT 7:30PM, SUNDAYS AT 2:00PM
BOX OFFICE: 925-969-2358
DVCARTSTICKETS@DVC.EDU



You are here: [Home](#) / [Current Season](#)

CURRENT SEASON



THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL OCT 24 - NOV 9, 2025

When the citizens of Bikini Bottom discover that a volcano will soon erupt and destroy their humble home, SpongeBob and his friends must come together to save the fate of their undersea world. With lives hanging in the balance and all hope lost, a most unexpected hero rises up. The power of optimism really can...

[Read More & Buy Tickets»](#)



ALL IN THE TIMING NOV 21-DEC 7, 2025

Winner of the John Gassner Playwriting Award, this critically acclaimed, award-winning evening of comedies combines wit, intellect, satire and just plain fun. Featuring six diverse but equally hysterical one-act comedies, David Ives' ALL IN THE TIMING is romantic, absurd, and existentially minded evening of theatre.

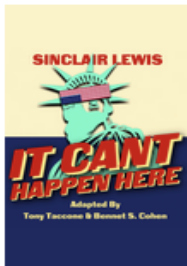
[Read More & Buy Tickets»](#)



THE COMEDY OF HAMLET! (A PREQUEL) MAR 20-APR 12, 2026

Nothing is rotten in the state of Denmark as young Hamlet leaps into action to save the nunnery with Ophelia and Yorick the Jester! What could possibly go wrong? This hysterical prequel answers all the important questions: Why can't Ophelia take swim lessons? Where the hell is Mrs. Polonius? And why does Hamlet's mother spend...

[Read More & Buy Tickets»](#)



IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE MAY 1-17, 2026

A cautionary dark satire about the fragility of democracy and how fascism can take hold even in the land of liberty. IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE follows the ascent of a demagogue who becomes president of the United States by promising to return the country to greatness. Witnessing the new president's tyranny from the sidelines is...

[Read More & Buy Tickets»](#)

Dinner Theater Events (Everyone welcome)

Oct 24, 2025
The SpongeBob Musical

Mar 20, 2026
**The Comedy of Hamlet
(A Prequel)**

DVC DINNER THEATER EVENT

SUPPORT THE DRAMA AND CULINARY STUDENTS!

MAKE RESERVATIONS TODAY!

**Dinner and theater tickets can be purchased by calling the DVC Cashier's Office
925-969-2358**

THE DVC DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA PRESENTS

**the
SPONGEBOB
musical**

Dinner Theater!

For all DVC Employees & Guests!

Friday, October 24, 2025

Enjoy dinner prepared and served by DVC's Culinary Arts Program in the Norseman, then stroll over to the DVC Performing Arts Center for an evening of entertainment by the DVC Drama Department.

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW

Contact the DVC Cashier's Office to make your reservations TODAY 925-969-2358

Reservations must be made by October 11, 2024

This event is Sponsored by the
DVC Academic Senate

5:30 PM DINNER TICKETS: \$40/person (plus tax)
(includes wine & gratuity) Please indicate choice of entrée
when purchasing tickets: beef, chicken, fish, or vegetarian

7:30 PM THEATER TICKET: \$20/person
(Dinner and Theater tickets must be purchased separately).

**Reservations must be
made by Oct 17**

This is an Academic Senate sponsored event and is open to all DVC employees, retirees, and their guests.

When the citizens of Bikini Bottom discover that a volcano will soon erupt and destroy their humble home, SpongeBob and his friends must come together to save the fate of their undersea world. With lives hanging in the balance and all hope lost, a most unexpected hero rises up. The power of optimism really can save the world! Based on the animated series THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL is a stunning all-singing, all-dancing, dynamic stage show!

Remember to buy tickets for both the dinner and the play.

Renew! Renew!
Your DVCRA Membership Makes a Difference
By Milagros Ojermark

You can still renew your membership! You are not too late!!

Your membership renewal and scholarship contribution are crucial to the DVC Retirees Association. Being a member directly supports DVC students because we use your membership renewal and scholarship donations to fund the DVCRA Scholarship program.

When you renew, you gain access to all the benefits of membership which enable you to keep in contact and socialize with colleagues and friends as well as keep up with the DVC community. We offer members the opportunity to join in twice yearly luncheons and participate in a number of zoom gatherings, receive a hard copy of the DVCRA Directory of Members, receive twice yearly Newsletters and get notifications about events and items of interest to you, our membership.

All of these activities support our membership. But our membership also supports students. Renewals and scholarship donations help our DVC students, providing them with the kind of help they need to help them reach academic goals. Through our members' contributions, we have provided more than \$180,000 in scholarships. In May 2025, we awarded 10. For May 2026, we would like to offer 14. Scholarships are \$1000 each so we need to have \$14,000; we can do this. If we can raise more money, we can offer more scholarships.

Please, renew your membership.

We encourage you to come and bring a guest to our Members' Fall Lunch. Maybe your friend (or friends) will join our DVCRA! Our fall luncheon is on October 24th at DVC's Diablo Room. Hope to see you there.

****Ready to renew?**** Please contact Milagro Ojermark,
mojojermark@hotmail.com, for your renewal form or look on dvcra.org.

Scholarship Coordinator-Announcement of Election
By Karen Castle

Mary Ulrich, our long time Scholarship Coordinator, is ready for a change of scenery. Patrick Leong has graciously been filling in. But we need to have an election.

If you would like to be considered to be Scholarship Coordinator, please let Karen Castle know by Oct 9. If there is more than one candidate, we will send out ballots by mail and email. You can return your ballot by email or mail or vote in person at the luncheon. If there are no other nominees, we will hold the election at the October 2025 Luncheon.

Scholarship Update By Patrick Leong

There's plenty of exciting news for the 2026-2027 scholarship season. To begin, the Board approved offering fourteen opportunities for \$1,000 apiece for transfer and continuing students earmarking two continuing students coming from the Puente Project and Umoja learning communities (new). They will be distributed as such:

- 6 continuing student scholarships (prior year: 5);
- 4 transfer student scholarships (prior year: 3);
- 1 transfer & 1 continuing student scholarship for Puente Project students (prior year 1);
- 1 transfer & 1 continuing student scholarship for Umoja students (prior year 1).

Moreover, we will be looking to form a subcommittee to investigate the revision of the scholarship criteria to potentially include selections from the college's 6 interest areas for designated awards including participants in our vocational education and certificate programs.



Our year's work will be completed by looking to propose reviving the selection of recipients by the association rather than by the DVC Scholarship Work Group. Of course, this cannot happen without volunteers to serve on the subgroup, so if you are interested in doing so please contact me or any board member.

Most importantly, we cannot provide financial assistance to our students without the generosity of your donations, so please think of a tax-deductible donation to our Scholarship Fund. Soon we will be hearing from some of our recipients from last year at our scheduled Fall and Spring luncheons.



However, the Board strongly encourages its members to meet and interact with the 2026-27 DVCRA Scholarship recipients at the College's Annual Recognition Ceremony. For this academic year, it is scheduled for Friday, May 8, 2026, from 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM, in the Performing Arts Center, with a reception immediately following at the Main Street Bistro. Witness firsthand the profound impact your contributions have on our students' lives and meet those whose futures your generous donations help to shape. Save the date.

The DVC Puente Project seeks mentors for its third component of the program to assist and guide students toward transferring to a 4-year university and earning a bachelor's degree. Meet this year's cohort at the upcoming Mentor Mixer in November and experience one of most rewarding aspects of charting the future of a student's life.

SAVE THE DATE!

DVC PUENTE MENTOR MIXER

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025
6:00-8:00PM**

**(NEW MENTORS PLEASE ARRIVE AT 5:30
FOR A BRIEF ORIENTATION)**

**IN THE DIABLO ROOM AT DVC'S PLEASANT
HILL CAMPUS**

RSVP YOUR ATTENDANCE:
puenteproject@dvc.edu

DVC
DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE



Mentor With PUENTE

DVC PUENTE mentors support the **PUENTE** counselor and English instructor by motivating **PUENTE** students to build the social and cultural capital they will need for their future success as college students and career professionals.

All **PUENTE** Mentors are trained to follow mentoring guidelines and serve as successful career role models to their student mentees.

Our experience shows that mentoring is inspiring to **BOTH mentors and their Puente student mentee.**

Mentors must have a Bachelor's degree (minimum) and devote 18 hours to mentoring over the course of an academic year.

Thom Martin of the DVC Foundation Contributed the Following

Your Legacy in Action: Scholarships That Are Changing Lives

A message of thanks from the DVC Foundation to the members of the Diablo Valley College Retirees Association

Over the past decades, the Diablo Valley College Retirees Association has quietly and consistently made a powerful impact on the lives of our students. Through your dedication and generosity, the DVCRA has awarded more scholarships—year after year—than any other individual, endowment, or organization connected to DVC.

In 2025, your commitment once again came to life in the form of 10 scholarships awarded to students who represent the strength, resilience, and promise of our community. These awards didn't just ease financial burdens. They affirmed identities, rekindled motivation, and opened doors that once seemed out of reach.

Here is just a glimpse of the gratitude and determination your support has made possible:

“This scholarship feels like a breakthrough. It’s not just a financial boost, but a powerful reminder that persistence pays off and that someone out there believes in me and my potential.”— Edward, Puente Program student

*“As a future school counselor and a member of Umoja and the Black Student Union, I’ve found purpose through education. This scholarship eases the stress of transferring to UCLA and reminds me that I am seen and supported.”
--Julien, African American Studies major*

“I battled addiction for many years, and it shaped my decision to become a social worker. Your support makes it possible for me to pursue that path and help others through their own struggles.”— Justin, Sociology major

“As the first in my family to attend college, this scholarship came at a time when I was working two jobs to stay in school. Now, I can focus on my dream of becoming a nurse practitioner.”— Monique, Nursing student

*“When I questioned whether I could afford to transfer, your support lifted that burden and renewed my hope. I plan to study behavioral economics at UCLA or UC Berkeley.”
— Aoi, President of the Japanese Association at DVC*

*“This support has allowed me to stay focused in my computer science courses—and has shown me how powerful kindness and belief in others can be.”
— Zhakfer, Computer Science student*

These quotes, taken from student thank-you letters, reflect a deeper truth: you are making a real, measurable difference. Each scholarship you fund becomes a bridge—to a degree, to a career, to a life of contribution.

Many of the students who received your support are parents, first-generation college students, or young adults overcoming difficult circumstances. For them, your generosity isn't just a donation—it's a turning point.

As one student wrote:

“Your contribution not only supports my education—it builds a future where I can make a lasting impact in the lives of others.”

From the entire DVC Foundation and the students you support: thank you. Your enduring legacy continues to transform lives, one scholarship at a time.

With deep appreciation,
Thom Martin
Development Director
DVC Foundation

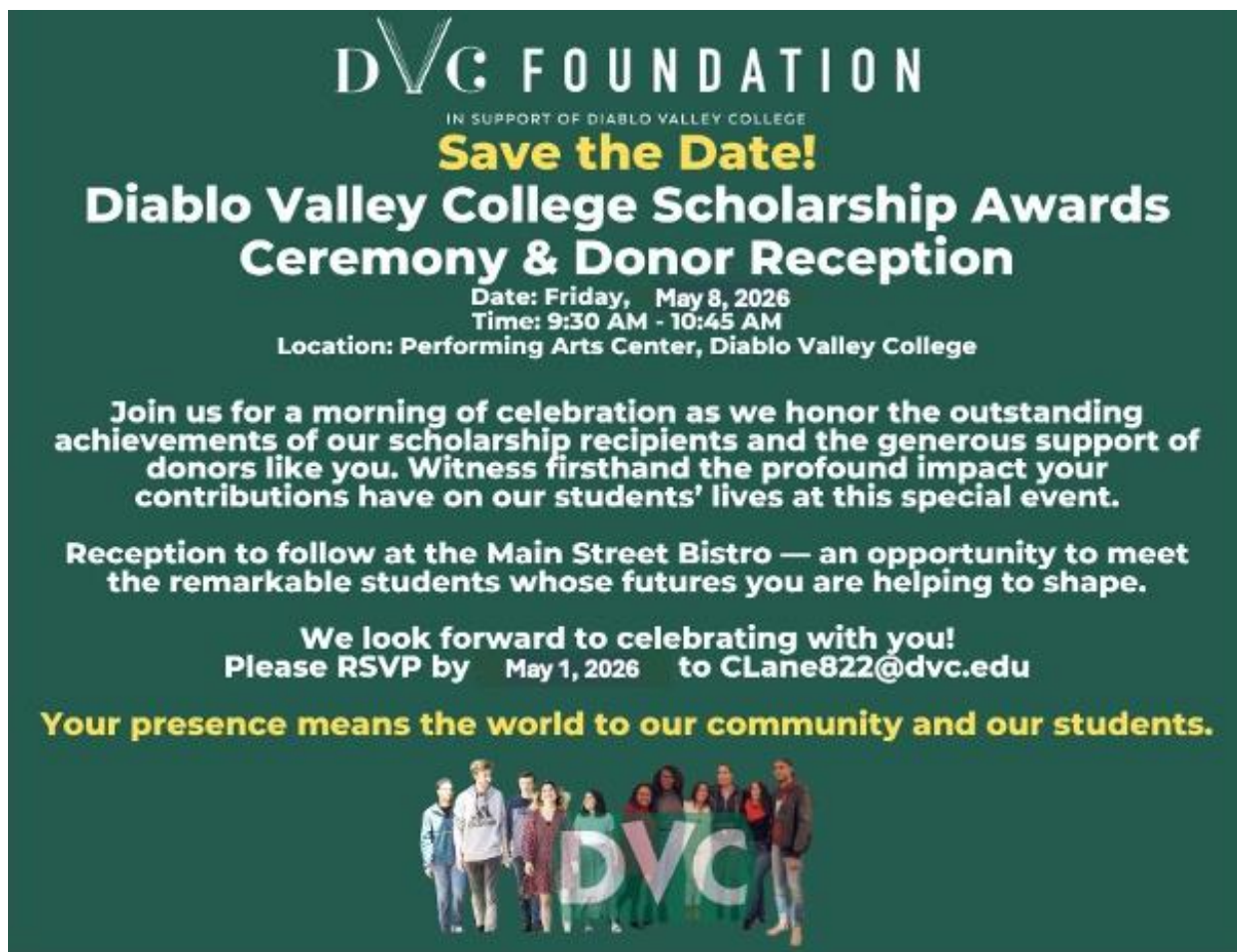
Mark Your Calendar, Meet The 2026 Scholarship Recipients!

Spring 2026 Scholarship Awards Celebration

Performing Arts Center 9:30-10:45AM

with reception to follow at the Main Street Bistro

Hospitality Studies and Food Court, HSF

A green poster for the DVC Foundation Scholarship Awards Celebration. At the top, it says "DVC FOUNDATION" in white, with "IN SUPPORT OF DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE" in smaller white text below it. Below that, "Save the Date!" is written in yellow. The main title "Diablo Valley College Scholarship Awards Ceremony & Donor Reception" is in white. The date and time are listed as "Date: Friday, May 8, 2026" and "Time: 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM". The location is "Location: Performing Arts Center, Diablo Valley College". A paragraph of text invites donors to join for a morning of celebration. Another paragraph mentions the reception at the Main Street Bistro. It then says "We look forward to celebrating with you!" and "Please RSVP by May 1, 2026 to CLane822@dvc.edu". At the bottom, it says "Your presence means the world to our community and our students." and features a photo of a group of students standing in front of a large "DVC" logo.

DVC FOUNDATION
IN SUPPORT OF DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE
Save the Date!
**Diablo Valley College Scholarship Awards
Ceremony & Donor Reception**
Date: Friday, May 8, 2026
Time: 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
Location: Performing Arts Center, Diablo Valley College

Join us for a morning of celebration as we honor the outstanding achievements of our scholarship recipients and the generous support of donors like you. Witness firsthand the profound impact your contributions have on our students' lives at this special event.

Reception to follow at the Main Street Bistro — an opportunity to meet the remarkable students whose futures you are helping to shape.

We look forward to celebrating with you!
Please RSVP by May 1, 2026 to CLane822@dvc.edu

Your presence means the world to our community and our students.

**Our New Online Home for the DVCRA, [DVCRA.ORG](https://dvcra.org)
By Mario "El Profe" Tejada**

At the Diablo Valley College Retirees Association (DVCRA), staying connected with one another and with the College has always been at the heart of what we do. As part of that mission, we are excited to share the launch of our new website: dvcra.org.

This new site gives us an online home that is clearer, easier to navigate, and better aligned with who we are today. Members will now have simple, direct access to everything from event information and luncheon reservations to scholarship contributions, membership renewals, and our In Memoriam section, which honors and remembers members who have passed away. The site is also designed to be mobile-friendly, allowing you to view it easily on any device, whether a phone, tablet, or computer.

We are grateful to the United Faculty for generously hosting our previous website for many years, helping us stay connected as an organization. Our new website now allows us to expand further, offering more features that showcase the wonderful stories, photos, and activities that keep our retiree community vibrant and engaged.

Looking ahead, the site creates new opportunities for us to grow. We can add features like online forms, photo galleries, and archived newsletters, making it easier for all members to participate and stay informed. The flexibility of this platform also ensures that as our association evolves, our website can evolve with us.

We are having a soft launch of the new website, so here is the link - dvcra.org - and we invite you to explore the site. See how it brings together the best of our past and our future—an online space built for our community, by our community.

Our old website, uf4cdretired.org, will be fully functional until Oct 25, 2025. [DVCRA.ORG](https://dvcra.org) will be fully functional starting now! On Oct 26, the old site will go dark and dvcra.org will be the place to go.

Kaiser Over-the-Counter (OTC) Benefits Are Here

On July 1, 2025, Kaiser Senior Advantage Members with the 4CD plan became eligible for \$70 each quarter in over-the-counter health and wellness items. The items must be chosen from the catalog provided at <https://athome.medline.com/kpnca/>. New quarters start January, April, July, and October. Unused benefits will be lost.

To use your benefit, go to <https://athome.medline.com/kpnca/>. You need to set up an account using your Kaiser number. After that you can see the available items and order directly from this website or from 833-569-2360. There are some useful items offered, so don't miss out.

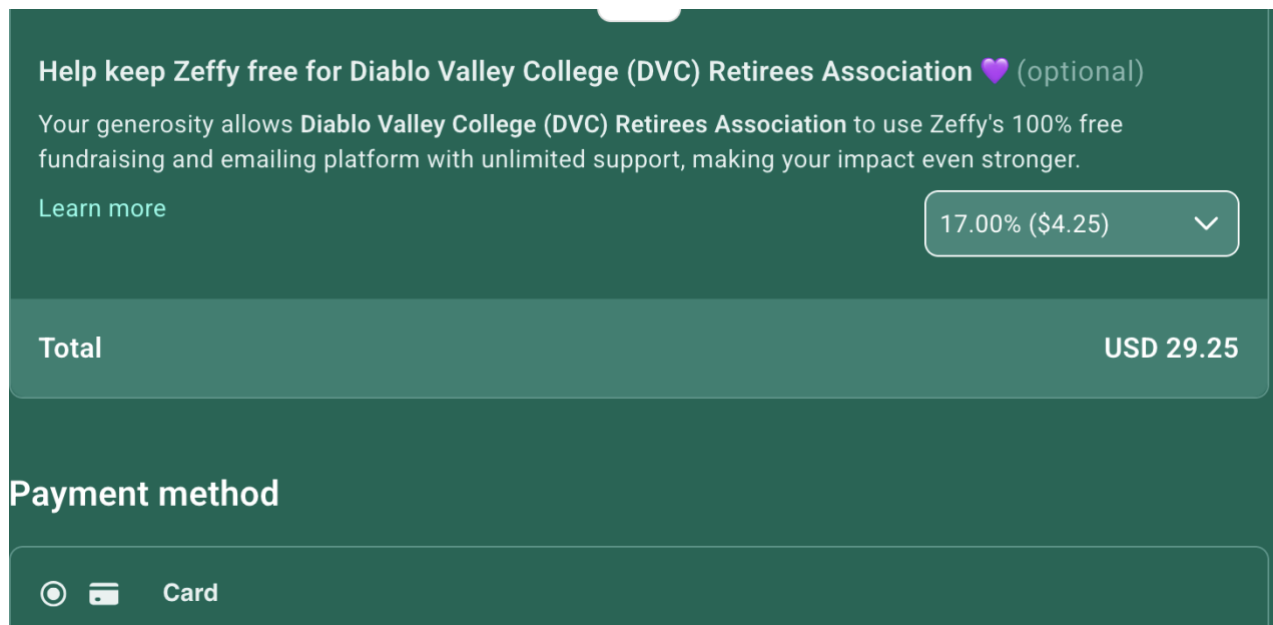
Anthem members go to www.anthem.com to access your over-the-counter benefit.

Improved Electronic Processing – No Required Fees! By Karen Castle

We have changed the company that processes credit card payments. We can now accept Apple Pay, Google Pay and ACH (direct payment from a bank account).

Our new payment processor, Zeffy, does not charge DVCRA to process these payments. So we won't ask you for more money when you want to use a credit card. And you can be certain that DVCRA gets your information in time for the Luncheon reservation.

How does Zeffy stay in business? It asks you for tips that go to Zeffy. It even inserts the tip as an item on your bill. But you don't have to tip them. When you choose to pay electronically, you will see a screen that looks like a charge slip from any purchase. Like this



The screenshot shows a payment interface with a dark green background. At the top, it says "Help keep Zeffy free for Diablo Valley College (DVC) Retirees Association" with a purple heart icon and "(optional)". Below this, it explains that generosity allows the association to use Zeffy's 100% free fundraising and emailing platform. There is a "Learn more" link. A tip selection dropdown shows "17.00% (\$4.25)" with a downward arrow. Below this, a "Total" row shows "USD 29.25". The "Payment method" section shows a radio button selected for "Card" with a credit card icon.

Notice the 17% (\$4.25)? That is the tip that Zeffy is requesting. If you don't want to give them this specific amount extra, just clear the tip on your screen, then type in whatever you want to give. Zero is an acceptable value. Your credit card number will be entered below. This won't go forward until you are ready. You will receive an emailed receipt and we will know that you have paid. No need to search for a stamp.

You don't need to do anything special to get to the processor. Just follow the prompts for where to pay. There is no wrong way to go. And, of course, we still accept checks. Mail them to

DVCRA
321 Golf Club Road
Pleasant Hil, CA 94523-1529

In Memoria

The Diablo Valley College Retirees Association wishes to recognize those members of our community who have passed since our last published Newsletter.

For tributes and more complete obituaries, please go to our website: DVCRA.org and select by name

Joseph Adler
Charles (Chuck) Clare
Charles(Chuck) Cottril
Doug Dildine
Paul Phalen
Jack Flanagan
Lee Rode
Barbara Sawyer
Wendell Taylor
James P Walker



[DVCRA webpage](http://DVCRA.org) | [DVCRA.org]

Association Coordinator - Karen Castle

Treasurer -Tim Murphy

Secretary - Irene Menegas

Membership Meeting/Luncheon Coordinator - Rachel Westlake

Scholarship Coordinator – Patrick Leong, Acting

Newsletter Editor – Nancy Zink, Acting

Newsletter Layout Editor- Karen Castle, Acting

Member Directory Maintainer - Nancy Zink

Membership Coordinator – Milagros Ojermark

New Member Recruiter - Ann Langelier-Patton

Unions, District, Benefits Liaison - Nancy Zink