

DVC Retirees Association Newsletter Sp 2023

Description

[Get your own DVC Retirees Association Newsletter sp 2023](#)

default watermark

[or read it here](#)

DVC Retirees Association Newsletter Spring 2023



COME TO DVCRA's 2023 SPRING LUNCHEON! Please join us to connect with friends and former colleagues over a hot buffet lunch in DVC's Diablo Room.

DATE	April 21, 2023
TIME:	11:30am-2pm
LOCATION	Diablo Room, HSF Building, 3 rd floor (There is an elevator)
LUNCHEON COST:	\$15 per person (guests welcome!)
FOOD:	Hot buffet: regular (r); gluten-free (gf); vegetarian (v) option
PARKING:	Lots 7 and 8, with a free permit (details below)
PROGRAM:	DVCRA Scholarship Recipients Renita Mack, Benefits Analyst, CCCC Tour of new facilities (at 2pm)
RESERVE:	Send check made out to DVC Retirees Association Specify number of attendees and menu option (r, gf, v) for each. Send to DVC Retirees Association 321 Golf Club Rd Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 Must arrive by Wednesday, April 12, 2023
QUESTIONS:	Contact Karen Castle at castle.kg@gmail.com

We will mingle and munch once again in a comfortable, well-ventilated space. Our meal will be provided through a collaboration between DVC's Culinary and Food Services Departments. For more details, read on.

[DVC Retirees Association Newsletter sp 2023](#)

default watermark

SCHOLARSHIPS UPDATE: We will be joined by several previous scholarship awardees who will share what receiving a DVCRA Scholarship has meant for them. You may **make a scholarship donation** by adding any amount to the cost of the luncheon OR by including a check made out to the DVC Foundation, with DVCRA Scholarship Fund written in the memo line. ¶

¶
HEALTH BENEFITS INFORMATION: Longtime district employee Renita Mack, who is now our Benefits Analyst, will give a brief presentation about retiree health reimbursement. ¶

¶
TOUR OF NEW FACILITIES: Kris Koblik, Art Department Chair, and Christine Worsley, Dean/Athletic Director overseeing Kinesiology, have graciously arranged for us to tour the new Art and Kinesiology facilities starting at 2pm. Student ambassadors will help us find the best path to get there, and Lawrence Orme from DSS has generously agreed to provide transportation for those with mobility challenges. ¶

¶
PARKING: As in the fall, 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. **A (free) parking permit is required.** If you have a permanent DVC parking pass/sticker with no expiration date on your vehicle, you are good to go. If not, **you can obtain a (free) daily permit** by going to [MyCampusPermit.com](https://mycampuspermit.com) at any time **prior to** the event. Click on Daily Permits, choose, Diablo Valley College, and enter the requested information. You **must** provide 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. ¶

¶
As always, Lawrence Orme from DSS will 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 April 21, 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 uncomfortable about attending, please notify Karen, and let her know if you would like a refund, or if you prefer to apply your payment towards the scholarship fund. ¶

¶
We are looking forward to seeing you on April 21! ¶

¶

Health Insurance Benefits News for Retireesby Karen Castle ¶

¶ There are some new and positive developments for us. All good news. ¶

¶ We have been missing Reed Rawlinson since he retired. But the good news is that Renita Mack has succeeded him (mack@4cd.edu, 925-229-6855). She is our contact for Health Benefits and Reimbursements. Renita is very knowledgeable about what we get and how to get it. Renita will be coming to our Spring Luncheon April 21 so that we can get to know her better. ¶

¶ Our healthcare reimbursement benefits haven't changed, but we have a new contractor taking care of the paperwork. These reimbursements differ from those for active employees. ¶

¶ These reimbursement benefits are the same for all retirees who are enrolled in district-supported health plans. ¶

¶ **Copays**—We have the choice of Kaiser or Anthem Blue Cross as our district-supported health insurance plans. The copays for primary care physician visits are \$5 at Kaiser and \$15 at Anthem Blue Cross. To make these plans equal cost, Anthem Blue Cross members can be repaid the \$10 difference for each visit if they apply. ¶

¶ **Medicare Part B** — If we have Medicare Part B and are also enrolled in a Medicare-coordinated district-supported health insurance plan, the district will pay us back the entire Medicare Part B premium. This can be requested and paid either quarterly or annually. If you pay IRMAA (Medicare Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount) for your Part B, it will be paid as well. (Part D will not be paid.) ¶

¶ As of July 2022, the contractor handling these payments is **Navia**. ¶

¶ Forms to request payments can be found on the district website. Look under Human Resources and then under **Navia**. There are lots of forms, but the relevant ones are ¶

¶ [Anthem Medicare Copay Reimbursement Request Form](#) ¶

¶ [Medicare Part B Reimbursement Request Form](#) ¶

¶ These are the direct links as of early March 2023. If you have difficulty, the links can be found on <https://www.4cd.edu/hr/benefits/index.html>. ¶

¶ Click on **Navia** and look for the titles. If you have questions or cannot use the web, call **Navia Benefit Solutions** 866-897-1996. ¶

¶
¶

Save the Date—June 4, 2023 Celebrate Bernice Dandridge

A memorial for Bernice Dandridge, DVC Business Professor, will be held **Sunday, June 4, 2023, 11-4 pm, at the Pacheco Community Center, 5800 Pacheco Blvd, Pacheco, CA, 94553, phone (925) 676-8877.**

Please RSVP to Irene Menegas, at imenegas@comcast.com or (925) 946-0420 if you plan to attend

Among the many contributions Bernice made to the College, her colleagues, and students, she focused time and significant energy to get students scholarships. While on the DVC Retirees Association Board, she headed the Scholarship Committee, continuing her work to ensure students have an opportunity to secure the dollars they needed to achieve their educational goals.

Diablo Valley College Retirees Association Financial Report For the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 By Chris Leivas

The primary purpose for the DVCRA's fund raising is to award scholarships to DVC students. The association has awarded scholarships for many years. From 2008 through 2021, we awarded 146 scholarships. We award and fund the scholarships in the spring and our major fundraising efforts occur during the summer. Consequently, the funds raised in 2022 will be used to fund the scholarships in 2023.

The following DVCRA financial information is for the period January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022:

- → We have \$37,861 in cash held in our bank accounts with Travis Credit Union and the DVC Foundation.
- → These monies will be used to fund the 20 scholarships approved by the DVCRA Board for 2023. Additionally, we have 4 scholarships in 2022 that were awarded but not claimed as of December 31, 2022. If these two scholarships are not claimed by June 30, 2023 the funds will revert back to the DVCRA.
- → Our fundraising activities (including donations, memberships and auctions) generated \$18,094 available for scholarships.
- → We had \$18,125 in expenditures. Included in this total were: \$16,000 in scholarships, \$1,494 for luncheon expenses, \$131 for office expenses and \$500 to support the DVC Food Pantry.

The DVCRA Board has approved 20 scholarships for \$1,000 for 2022. This will bring our total to \$166,000 scholarships awarded since 2008.

We want to thank our membership for their continuing generosity to the students of DVC

Legislative News by Deborah Silvey

In January 2023, Senator Lena Gonzalez re-introduced the California Fossil Fuel Divestment Act (SB 252). The measure requires the California State Teachers' Retirement System and the California Public Employees' Retirement System to divest from fossil fuel companies by 2030. SB 252 will prevent the retirement savings of the state's teachers, firefighters and other public employees from being used to invest in climate-damaging fossil fuels.

If you're interested in learning more about the bill, you can go to the [Fossil Free California website](#), or you can contact me (deborah@fossilfreeca.org). I'll be at the DVCRA luncheon on April 21st and would be happy to tell you more about ways to get involved.



LISTEN AND CELEBRATE...
ADAM BESSIE,
FACULTY LECTURER!

Adam's lecture, *Going Remote: A Graphic Journey to the Cloud... and Back?*, explores the personal and professional legacy of the pandemic.

LECTURE DETAILS

APRIL 26TH | APRIL 27TH
6-8 PM | 12:30-2:30 PM

In person in the CCC
Or on Zoom.

RECEPTION

JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION
THURSDAY, APRIL 27th, 3:30 p.m.
THE YARD HOUSE
2005 Diamond Blvd, Concord



Winter 2023 Zoom Social – Feb 10, 2023 by Karen Castle

A self-selected group met for a very pleasant time at the DVCRA Winter 23 Zoom Social. Laury Fischer, Linda Robbins, Nancy Zink, Tina Levy and Mary Ulrich had agreed to provide some structure to our discussions. Because the group was small, we indulged in the different discussions as one group rather than splitting into separate chat rooms.

We were lucky to see Monroe Pastermack, Susan Goldstein, Deborah Silvey, Jan Quick, Sue Shattuck, Karen Long, and Ginny Horner as well as the folks listed below. It was a very congenial group.

Laury demonstrated **ChatGPT**, the AI-based chatbot. Laury asked the group to suggest writing topics, composition lengths and organizational types. ChatGPT wrote paragraphs (yes more than one) to the specifications. The text was generated almost faster than I could read what was being typed. It was very impressive.

Laury is starting to incorporate the use of ChatGPT in his classes. It can be a generator of an outline for a writing assignment. Laury's son uses it professionally for generating first drafts. See how fast this program composes text by trying it yourself. It can be found at <https://chat-gpt.org/>.



Laury Fischer



Mary's iPad (2)

Mary Ulrich and Karen Long guided a discussion of places to visit. Mary and Carolyn Seefer both visited Antarctica and shared their photos. They both saw glaciers and various species of penguins.

Good Reads and Good Movies

Under Linda Robbins' and

Nancy Zink's leadership, we shared folks' recommendations. We heard about the following:

The Dreamt Land: Chasing Water and Dust Across California by Mark Arax

The Day That the World Came to Town by Jim DeFede

Inciting Joy: Essays by Ross Gay



Linda Robbins

All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake by Tiya Miles



The Mitford Affair, Her Hidden Genius and other books in this series by Marie Benedict writing under the pen name Heather Benedict Terrell

Some of the participants recommended good places to eat. One was for the restaurant mersea on Treasure Island.

We discussed movies that we have seen and enjoyed.

Tina volunteered a [list of documentaries](https://uf4cdretired.org/?page_id=2120). The list can be found at https://uf4cdretired.org/?page_id=2120

Things to Do Around Here

Tina reviewed some of the activities available in the area. She shared her list of excursions and it can be viewed at [Excursions](https://uf4cdretired.org/?page_id=2129) on the DVCRA website https://uf4cdretired.org/?page_id=2129.

Carolyn Seefer shared that San Francisco City Guides offers free walking tours every day of the week all over San Francisco. Tours are free, but be sure to donate at the end to this wonderful nonprofit organization! <https://sfcityguides.org/>



One of the great attractions to visit is Filbert Steps in SF

Happenings in the East Bay Parks can be found at ebparks.org/things-to-do and in a weekly column about goings on for the East Bay Times written by Ned MacKay

Thank you everyone, and especially the chat leaders, for contributing to a very enjoyable afternoon.

Page Break



default watermark

Stan Chin, hired in 1972, transferred to Los Medanos College when it opened in 1974. There he taught chemistry, then became Dean, and finally became President of the College before he died.

Another recent chemistry retiree is Josephine (Jo) Wall (retired 1996) who joined the department full time in 1990 after 5 years of part time teaching.



Wendell Taylor 1998

What are the retirees doing now? Well, some of them (Doug Flynn, Don Brunner, and Bob Flanagan) have been teaching chemistry part time at DVC, in addition to other pursuits. Doug and Don are getting to spend more time on their ranches. Bob just returned from an extensive trip to Europe and is becoming an expert on his grandsons' computer games. Mike Pizanis lived in Greece for some time. Wendell Taylor is still tracking the stock market as well as trying to keep up with his 5 grandchildren, travelling, backpacking, and skiing.

Paul Yeager 1968



Paul Yeager has been travelling worldwide and leading numerous backpacking and cross-country skiing trips.

It's a big change from the way Paul looked 30 years ago.

Paul Yeager 1998



Jo Wall has spent time travelling (China and Latin America), improving her



Spanish, practicing Tai Chi, volunteering in inner-city programs, and doting on her granddaughter.

Ken Howard has, unfortunately, passed away.

So, what are we going to do without these folks?

We'll carry on (we sure will!)

New fulltime Chemistry faculty hired at DVC in the last 4 years: Wayne Larson, Denisha Dawson, Laura Burns, Leon Borowski (horizontal). Tish Young (not shown) was hired in Spring 1999.

Update, March 2023 -- Where are they now?

With the recent passing of Doug Flynn, the only surviving long-term full-time Chemistry faculty member from the first 20 years of the Department is now Wendell Taylor.

Of the 20 hired since then, seven have retired as of March 2023: Josephine Wall, Cheryl Dembe, Karen Long, Mary Ulrich, Leon Borowski, Michael Connor (who started in Chemistry and moved to Physics), and Ron Rusay. One (Denisha Dawson) left DVC for Merced College. One (Tish Young) went into administration at CCC for a time then returned.

Halloween 2016, left to right:
Laura Burns,
Cory Antonakos,
Ron Rusay,
Claudia Hein,
Wayne Larson,
Craig Gerken,
Joe Hickey,
Ellen Beaulieu,
Jean Ruehl,
Crina Orac-Sayre.





My Volunteer Home By Lisa Orta

In advance of my retirement date, I knew I needed to find a volunteer position in my community. My faith obligates me to engage in social action ([tikkun olam](#)). What might that look like beyond DVC? Volunteering at my city's library was off the table - I wanted a break from the familiar. Author readings and book festivals appealed to my motive of expanding my world and making new friends, so I began by investigating two highly regarded local literary organizations whose events I attended in the past. Following links on their websites, I reached out to offer my time and attention. Best-laid plans, right? ¶



I was invited to attend a volunteer orientation for one that hosts an annual weekend-long book and authors' event. Eager and excited, I showed up feeling curious and a bit shy to find a surprisingly competitive and posturing crowd. The experienced volunteers were intent on claiming prime authors and publishers for their hosting duties. Pitching a book idea or securing a writing mentor was not on my agenda. I retreated to the background and edged out of the room at the break. ¶

My emails to the other group were tossed into the abyss - I never heard back. I don't think a retired English professor was the demographic they were looking for to coordinate late night readings in clubs and bars. ¶

Back to the drawing board. One institution I visit often is the Oakland Museum of California - they curate thoughtful and relevant themed exhibits and do a great job educating the public about California history. I didn't want to be a docent because that would still be too closely related to teaching - remember, I wanted to get out of my head, do good, and meet new people. An avid thrifter, I also love shopping at their annual [White Elephant Sale](#) held in a giant warehouse in the Oakland Jingletown neighborhood. From the website I learned that the sale, currently staffed by over 1000 volunteers, started 60 years ago. Run by the Women's Board, it is the largest fundraiser for the museum, raising millions (millions!) of dollars each year. ¶

The day I went to the volunteer orientation, I knew I had found my volunteer home. I stand side-by-side two days a week with retired nurses and teachers and entrepreneurs and artists, joke around with our truck driver, tease the elderly security vests, and have a regular coffee order at the truck. It's dirty and cold in the warehouse, the operation can be frustratingly inefficient, and as a sorter of donations I am often appalled at what the general public thinks is reusable and sellable. ¶

In the lunchroom we trade referrals to house painters and car mechanics, but mostly we talk books and movies and politics and grandchildren. I have learned so much about jewelry and rugs and lace and the locus of generosity and good will. ¶



¶ To balance out the grit of the warehouse and stay fresh in my field, I usher at a couple of local theaters, but it's my Elephant friends who are showing me how to live a graceful retirement. ¶

•x

¶

¶

DVCRA SCHOLARSHIPS—MAKING A DIFFERENCE ¶ **by Mary Ulrich** x

Thanks to the consistent, thoughtful contributions of our membership, the DVC Retirees Association has been awarding scholarships to DVC students since 2008. This organization has embraced supporting students through scholarships, helping DVC students strengthen their ability to pay for their education. Since the DVC Retirees Association began awarding scholarships, we have funded 166 scholarships totaling \$166,400. x

This year, 2023, the DVCRA will be awarding 20 scholarships of \$1000 in each of the following categories: ¶

¶

10 scholarships for students continuing at DVC. ¶

10 scholarships for students transferring from DVC ¶

¶

Of these 10 for transferring students, one is reserved for a Puente student, and one is for an Umoja student. ¶

x

In the past, the late Bernice Dandridge led a group of retirees in evaluating/reading scholarship applications and selecting the recipients. The selection process is now handled through the DVC Foundation; a list of last year's recipients is on the DVC Foundation's website. ¶

•x

→ What became apparent to those of us reading these applications was the ongoing, increasing need for support for DVC students. Their stories of financial hardship were a constant, compelling need. Each year, the DVCRA worked to increase the number of scholarships so that the organization might help more students. Students applying for the scholarships may be recent high school graduates or returning students, students who reflect the diversity of the Bay Area and represent the educational values of California's Community College system. ¶

x

Students who receive these scholarship awards frequently send us thank you letters, providing us with some insights into the impact these dollars have had for them. I am including a few comments from some of those "Thank You" letters:

"I'm an Allied Health major and am pursuing a career as a registered nurse. DVC has helped me ... to branch out and explore new opportunities, like joining the speech and debate team."

"Thank you so much for your generosity in providing this scholarship. I decided to continue my studies at DVC because of the staff, the professors, and the great resources like tutoring.... This scholarship will support my academic goals as it will pay for my textbooks next semester."

"DVC has been a blessing to me. I have had wonderful professors and tons of resources when I have needed extra help. Receiving this money makes me excited to continue my educational journey without the heavy burden of finances...."

"After leaving my first University, I found myself lost and depressed.... I began to research what community colleges could help me get back on track.... My research eventually led me to apply to Diablo Valley College and every single day, I am eternally grateful for making that decision. At Diablo Valley College, ... I have created lifelong connections and bonds with my professors. ... With the help of my Umoja Mentor and Umoja Professors, I have been strategically selecting classes to help finish off my GE requirements and elective requirements for my degree."

To reach the 20 scholarships, the 2023 funding has come from \$18,000 raised by the DVC Retirees Association in 2022 plus \$2000 in unclaimed scholarships from 2021 (likely a result of COVID).

The Diablo Valley College Retirees Association would like to solidify the funding for the scholarships, reinforcing the commitment to support DVC students. As you renew your membership for next year, please consider adding or increasing your donation so that the DVCRA can fund a full complement of scholarships.

Have Time on Your Hands and Seeking to Support DVCRA?

Care to spend time with DVCRA colleagues twice a year? By Irene Menegas

If you answered "You betcha!" to either of the questions above, then consider joining the DVCRA Board for a two-year stint, beginning immediately.

We're very sorry to be saying good-bye to our dear friend and colleague, Linda Robbins, who has served on the Board for longer than anyone else currently serving. Her most recent and long-standing contribution was as New Member Recruiter. In that capacity, Linda checked the monthly CCCC Board Agenda to see who's retiring. She invited all upcoming retirees to join DVCRA.

We're very fortunate that Ann Langelier-Patton, recent retiree, has stepped up to take over Linda's responsibilities. Ann will take over as Acting New Member Recruiter. As required in our by-laws, if anyone else is interested in this position, please contact Karen Castle, DVCRA Coordinator, at castle.kg@gmail.com by **Monday, April 10.**

In the event that more than one person is interested in the position, current paid members will receive a ballot to vote for the office by email for those who have them and US mail for those who do not have an email address. If such an election is necessary, the **deadline for us to receive ballots will be Tuesday, Apr. 18.** Results of the election will be announced at our Apr. 21, 2023 luncheon. As stated in the bylaws, "any uncontested positions will be filled by acclamation" at our last Association meeting of the year which, in this case, will be Apr 21 since the DVCRA year ends June 30.

If you just want to help out without committing to serving on the Board, there's plenty to do. There are articles to be written for the newsletter, activities to plan, scholarship donations to be solicited, or something else you'd like to do that we haven't considered.

Just send an email or contact anyone on the Board to sign up. We look forward to hearing from you and welcome your participation

Like to Write? Interested in Helping Out with DVCRA? By Nancy Zink

Looking for an opportunity to be more involved in the Diablo Valley College Retirees Association? The organization is looking for one or two people who are interested in producing the Newsletter. One person can gather the material for the Newsletter, and another can create the layout for that material; or one person can do both.

The DVCRA publishes the Newsletter twice each year, once before the spring luncheon and once before the fall luncheon. The job of the editor is to solicit and edit submissions, some from Board members needing to share information about the organization as well as identify opportunities for membership interaction, others from the community to address issues of interest.

If you are interested in being the editor but not in doing the layouts, then another individual can do the layout for the Newsletter. The two can work together to create a final product that can be sent to the membership through email and mailed to those members without an email address.

Since the Newsletter represents the DVCRA, the draft version may be sent to other members of the Board for input and/or feedback. That input/feedback is offered as support to the editor(s).

The editor/editors will need to consult "with the Board or its designee regarding controversial submissions," (DVCRA By-laws) and should consult with long time members of the Board on identifying and/or including materials that might be marginally relevant to the membership.

If you are interested in hearing more about this opportunity to be an integral part of the DVC Retirees Association, you can contact Nancy Zink at ndzink@jps.net.

Jim Blair, DVC Director of College Advancement, is building a new DVC Alumni Association.

Are you in touch with any of your former students? If so, please share this link with them and encourage them to join:

<https://www.dvc-foundation.com/about-4>

DVC Retirees Association Welcomes New Members but Sees Drop in Overall Membership

By Sue Shattuck

DVCRA would like to welcome our newest members to our organization. We're so glad to have you join us!

Even with our new members, the DVC Retirees Association has seen a significant decrease in our membership this last year. In 2021-2022, we had 148 paid members while in 2022-2023, we had only 122 members. That number is down from a high in 2015-2016 of 173 paid members. While we had been experiencing slight decreases over the past several years, this latest drop is the most we've seen in one year.

The DVCRA Board has been exploring ways to strengthen our membership; so, last year, we set aside some funds to help with outreach. This year, we have decided to use some of those funds to support extending an invitation to all current DVC employees, who are planning to retire within 1-5 years, to be our guests at our Spring Luncheon on April 21st. An email message announcing the invitation will go out to all DVC employees in early April.

If you know anyone who fits into that category (planning to retire within 1-5 years), please tell them about this invitation and suggest that they contact Karen Castle at castle.kg@gmail.com for more information. As we know, personal contact is probably the most effective way to encourage friends and colleagues to join us, so if you're aware of any colleagues who may be getting ready to retire or any members who may have forgotten to pay their dues last year, contact them to encourage their coming to the luncheon. Also, please remind current members to renew their memberships this year.

We will begin collecting payment to renew our memberships in early June for fiscal year 2023-2024, and the deadline for payment is July 1, 2023. Watch for an email message around the beginning of June for information about renewing and for the membership form. Please contact Sue Shattuck at sshattuck@earthlink.net or 925-855-5534 with any questions.

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 the DVCRA website:

<http://uf4cdretired.org>

or click on the name to go to their In Memoriam
page on the DVCRA website.

[Carolyn Kelleway Hiland](#)

[Alice F. Grottole](#)

[Douglas Flynn](#)



DVCRA webpage | [uf4cdretired.org]
Association Coordinator - Karen Castle
Immediate Past Association Coordinators - Judy Walters and Diane Scott-Summers
Treasurer - Chris Leivas
Secretary - Irene Menegas
Membership Meeting/Luncheon Coordinator - Rachel Westlake
Scholarship Coordinator - Mary Ulrich
Newsletter Editor - Nancy Zink, Acting
Newsletter layout- Karen Castle, Acting
Member Directory Maintainer - Nancy Zink
Membership Coordinator - Sue Shattuck
New Member Recruiter - Ann Langelier-Patton, Acting
Unions, District, Benefits Liaison - Nancy Zink

Date Created

March 21, 2023

Author

uf4retired

default watermark