

AFTER-WORDS

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RETIREES OF THE
FOOTHILL-DE ANZA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

VOLUME XXXIX, ISSUE 3

WWW.DEANZA.EDU/FODARA

JANUARY 2018

DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY



It was fun to see retirees and hear about their recent activities. Seeing so many smiling faces and people giving hugs made the event even more special, and it was a pleasure to have Judy Miner, Foothill-De Anza Chancellor, join us for the Holiday Luncheon.

To add to the festiveness, tables were decked out in red or green, and a beautiful poinsettia served as centerpiece. Sixty-five retirees (fifty-four last year) attended the luncheon

and all had a great time visiting. Many people stayed until the tables were cleared (more pictures on p.7 and at www.deanza.edu/fodara/pictures.html).

We enjoyed a meal of prime rib, baked salmon, or vegetarian entrée. The dessert was delicious apple pie and coffee. I doubt anyone left feeling hungry after this meal. John Struve, of De Anza College Food Services, and his staff did a good job at our party, with excellent service by the student employees and a tasty and hearty holiday meal. Giving away the door prizes was fun, especially for the winners of bottles of wine and poinsettias. Our 2017 luncheon was a great time of socializing and renewing friendships. If people ask you about the party, tell them what they missed and encourage them to attend next year!

Mike Paccioretti

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: NEW SPRING EVENT

The new spring social will be... a wine tasting at a venue in the Saratoga area! The proposed schedule for this event is the week of April 23 if a date, costs, and other details can be worked out. Look for more information and a reservation form in the March issue of *After-Words*.



FODARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-18

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Newsletter Editor	Linda Lane		lanelinda@fhda.edu

FODARA CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018

Mar 06	Tues	Board Meeting	10:30 am	FH Toyon Room (Rm 2020)	Open to all
Apr TBA	TBA	Wine Tasting Social	TBA	TBA	
May 01	Tues	Board Meeting	10:30 am	FH Toyon Room (Rm 2020)	Open to all
June 14	Thurs	Summer Picnic	TBA	Cuesta Park, Mt. View	
Aug TBA	TBA	Baseball Social	TBA	SJ Giants Ball Park	

FODARA COMMITTEES 2017-18

District Benefits	Tom Strand, strandtom@fhda.edu
	Faith Milonas, milonasfaith@fhda.edu
After-Words Email/Facebook	Cindy Castillo, cindycastillo@comcast.net
After-Words Paper Mailing	Janice Carr, janicecarr@pacbell.net
Scholarships	Mike Brandy, brandymike@fhda.edu
Social Events	Need two volunteers
Mailings	Maureen Gates, gates-m@sbcglobal.net



FODARA is now on Facebook LIKE us and/or FOLLOW us!

At the January 9 meeting, the Board approved the launch of a FODARA Facebook page. The purpose is to provide another way for retirees to stay in touch with FODARA and with each other. We know many of you may have retired long before Facebook even existed, but some of us “old dogs” do learn “new tricks” and have found Facebook a good way to stay in touch with friends and family.

We will post advance notifications and pictures of FODARA events. If you “like” us and/or “follow” us, you will easily see those postings on your wall. You can also post comments or questions or even pictures if you like. Other retirees who “like” or “follow” us will also see your postings. We will monitor the postings so that content is related to our organization—inappropriate material will be quickly removed.

To find the FODARA Facebook page, sign on to your own Facebook page. Use SEARCH at the top of your screen to type in “fodara foothill-deanza” and then tap our name. You should see our logo (shown below) come up with our name and the Facebook “thumbs up.” Tap that to get to our page. Then you can “like” us and “follow” us and see what we have already posted.

This is a new venture for us so we may have a few growing pains, but I know many of you use Facebook and might enjoy being our FRIENDS!

Cindy Castillo



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

This column is “on hold” until (unless) more retirees participate. If you’d like to be featured, email your responses to the following questions—subject to editing for space—along with a photo to *After-Words* editor Linda Lane (LaneLinda@fhda.edu):

- ❖ ***What was your former FHDA position(s) and why and when did you retire?***
- ❖ ***Describe your first years in retirement—“smooth sailing” or an adjustment?***
- ❖ ***How do you keep busy—interests/activities you enjoy?***
- ❖ ***Any volunteer “work” or projects to promote?***
- ❖ ***What 2-3 words best describe your life as a retiree?***
- ❖ ***Advice to those considering retirement or newly retired?***

THE HISTORY OF FODARA/AFTER-WORDS



Thanks to Lescher Dowling, a founding member of FODARA and long-time host of the Valentine's Day Luncheon, a history of FODARA and *After-Words* is preserved in the archives. What follows are excerpts from his fascinating narrative.

In 1983, when the number of FHDA retirees had grown to 185 and was increasing exponentially each year, then Chancellor Tom Fryer decided to form a liaison group between retirees and the District. Gerry Kaspar, the Director of Human Resources, would be the chair. At the first meeting in June, sixteen members convened: two from each unit (faculty, classified, management) and ten representatives from various campus departments and organizations. Over the next six months, the group discussed the purpose and possible activities of a new retiree organization.

A coffee meet-and-greet, the first social event, was convened by Casper in January 1984 at the Cupertino Senior Center. Dowling attended, curious about his fellow retirees, and ended up volunteering to be on the Retiree Steering Committee. The first meeting of that group, February 1984 at the De Anza Staff House, included nine retirees: Fran Coolidge, Bill Cutler, Glenna Dow, Lescher Dowling, Marie Faber, Harry Harvey, Alice Jarrett, Dorothy Jeschein, and Bob Olsen. They agreed the primary mission of FODARA would be to inform and communicate with District retirees and organize events for retirees to socialize. Cutler volunteered to be the first newsletter editor and Coolidge the first retiree representative on the District Benefit Committee.

For the newsletter, Cutler proposed the title "Emeritus," but, because that name reflects only faculty, "After-Workers" was voted the official name. It never caught on, so Dowling suggested "After-Words" and, as we see today, that clever title has endured the test of time. The first issue of *After-Words* announced an April coffee social, also at the De Anza Staff House, at which more activities were planned. FODARA Board meetings were set for every other month during the academic year with social events in between. Initial voluntary dues were \$5 per year (*33 years later and they are a mere \$10 per year!*).

At a June 1984 meeting, the Steering Committee met with Foothill President Tom Clements and representatives of the District Budget Committee. The outcome was all retirees would receive Gold Cards, which granted privileges such as free or reduced admission to cultural events; use of campus libraries; and free parking permits. All retirees would receive *After-Words*, whether or not they contributed dues, and the District would pay the mailing costs; a membership drive letter, paid for by FODARA, would be mailed out to members in fall.

In September 1984, Jarrett was elected the first Board President, and FODARA became the official name (though one member dissented, saying the acronym sounded too much like an old hat). Cutler presented the final draft of the constitution and by-laws, which established basic tenets of FODARA: all retirees are equal, whether they be faculty, classified, or management, and the Board would always strive to be balanced—equally represent—genders, campuses, work units. The September *After-Words* issue published a

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list of 110 charter members, and subsequent issues promoted informative presentations such as Estate Planning.

Dowling was elected the next Board President. In February 1985, the first Valentine Luncheon took place at the Blue Pheasant, Blackberry Farm. In June 1985 Faber and her husband catered the first picnic at De Anza Park in Sunnyvale. In 1987, a Student Book Fund was established at each campus then a year later it became the current Student Scholarship Fund.

In 2004, FODARA celebrated its 20 year anniversary. Today, it still provides the only link between retirees and the District, for example disseminating important health benefit updates via *After-Words*, and it is the only group scheduling social activities for retirees to enjoy and stay connected. Yet, as noted in several of last year's issues of *After-Words*, FODARA's membership and funds have been steadily decreasing and that has resulted in two long-standing social events—the Valentine Luncheon and Golf Tourney—being eliminated from the calendar.

Make it one of your **New Year's Resolutions** to become more active in this

worthwhile, important group: attend social events, contribute to the scholarship fund, submit your ideas for projects and events via email or the new Facebook page, submit your bio for the "Where Are They Now" column, and/or volunteer to be on the Board or a subcommittee—put your talents, skills, and creativity back to "work" by joining the dedicated folks at FODARA!



NEW RETIREES



From the online District Board meeting minutes, one person retired at the end of Fall Quarter 2017 (apologies if anyone was inadvertently excluded):

✚ *Laura Woodworth, Central Services*

We wish all retirees a happy and healthy post-employment life and invite everyone to join FODARA by signing up for the email listserv (send current email address to cindycastillo@comcast.net), by serving on the FODARA Board or a committee, by volunteering to help plan/set up a social event, or by simply attending one or more of the great parties scheduled throughout the year! See p. 2 for calendar and committees.

IN MEMORIAM



*Thomas Fryer
Jane Luthard
Walter Maus
Charles Odle
Robert Pifferini*

HEALTH BENEFIT UPDATES: 4 ITEMS

Below is the update from the December 7, 2017, Joint Labor Management Benefit Committee (JLMBC) meeting; the next meeting is scheduled in February.

❖ **Timeline for 2018 Meetings / History of Renewal Increases**

Lockton handed out a timeline of JLMBC meetings, noting when the Committee would be getting renewal rate numbers for Dental/Vision Plans and CalPERS Medical Plans, and subsequently reviewed FHDA's renewal rate history from 2014-2018.

❖ **Initial Migration Report**

Lockton handed out a spreadsheet showing the initial migration numbers from Open Enrollment. The Kaiser Plan had the biggest increase from 560 enrollees in 2017 to 588 in 2018. Some of the more expensive plans--Blue Shield Access + HMO, Anthem HMO Traditional and Health Net SmartCare--had a small increase in enrollees but, because they cost the District more than most of the other Plan choices, the increase to the District was worth noting. Retirees on Medicare and early retirees were *not included* in these numbers. Final migration numbers will be presented at the next JLMBC meeting in February.

❖ **Rate Stabilization Fund (RSF) Report Update**

The projected draw down on the RSF for 2018 is \$895,689.

❖ **Other Benefits: Care.com**

Lockton presented preliminary information on Care.com, a new benefit *available only to actives*. It would be a mandatory benefit if JLMBC decides to recommend participation in the program. Heavily technology based, it acts as a referral for family care solutions, such as finding child, pet, home, or senior care. The committee asked several questions Lockton was unable to answer so a representative from Care.com will be invited to a JLMBC meeting in March.

Faith Milonas, Tom Strand

FODARA Benefits Representatives

MilonasFaith@fhda.edu, StrandTom@fhda.edu

SilverSneakers Program Update: Apparently, retirees eligible for this new PERS benefit will **NOT** automatically be mailed information and an ID card. To join, you must initiate the process with the SilverSneakers program via their website (www.silversneakers.com) or by calling 888.423.4632. Either way, eligibility is verified and a 16-digit ID number, which can be used immediately at a participating gym, is assigned; within two weeks you will be mailed an official ID card. It might be possible to sign-up at a participating gym *if* the staff is willing to contact SilverSneakers on your behalf to verify your eligibility and get your ID number.

Money Matters: Retirees eligible for District health benefits might have noted the District reimbursement amount that was direct-deposited/posted December 29 (for January 2018) was slightly less than that for each month of 2017. Since there were no retiree contribution rate changes for 2018, what explains this discrepancy? According to District Benefits, though not commonly done, CalPERS can "adjust" downwards some of their monthly premiums (e.g., PERS Choice and PERS Select were both marginally lowered), so the District's reimbursement for those plans decreased by the same amount. However, at this point, it is not known if this adjustment is for January-only or the entire year. To reconcile the numbers, log-on to your myCalSTRS account and compare your December 2017 warrant with your January 2018 one: note that a CalPERS insurance premium reduction affects the CalSTRS pension amount, and, that, in turn, could affect a state tax deduction.

DECEMBER 2018 HOLIDAY PARTY PICTURES

Thanks to everyone who joined us and to Ed Burling for the great pictures! Email your photos of recent FODARA events or noteworthy news of your colleagues to Webmaster Cindy Castillo, cindycastillo@comcast.net.



FODARA

Foothill-De Anza Retirees Association

Foothill-De Anza Community College District

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