



# N-MFT RETIRED

**MAY 2016**

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## Spring General Meeting

May 17 @ 11:00

Nominations, awards, buffet lunch

Guest speaker: Chris Epting on  
"Hidden Orange County"



**Brookhurst & Talbert  
Fountain Valley**



**Retired Chapter**

## The Dave Brees Award

For outstanding dedication and commitment  
to the students and teachers of  
The Newport-Mesa Unified School district

Presented by  
Newport-Mesa Federation of Teachers  
Retired Chapter

## *From My Desk*

**Richard Spehar, Chapter Chairperson**

Spring is the season of renewal. As we see this renewal, let's remember two of our members who have passed. Liz Meyer was the essence of life and a member of N-MFT and N-MFT Retired as long as we have been in existence. Everyone who knew Liz has a story to share.



We also lost Nancy Heiman who was one of the most caring and giving individuals any of us can remember. As we enjoy our spring of renewal let's remember these two wonderful and unique members. Only Nancy could have planned such a wonderful memorial at the CMCC and Liz would have approved her family's loving, touching and funny tribute. I attended both memorials and it was so good to see many of our fellow members in attendance.

Our Spring General Meeting is coming up on Tuesday, May 17 at the Claim Jumper in Fountain Valley. Our luncheons are always informative and fun, so mark your calendars and join us !

## *Dear Fellow Members*

by Bernie Neil, Membership



Most of us have reached that wonderful state called RETIREMENT. We did our jobs-- taught those thousands of kids that passed through our classrooms, advocated for them, communicated and worked with their parents, reached out to their communities—all within a system where we had to deal with the rules and regulations imposed by the federal government, state and local districts, where we had to deal with the many and varied personalities of our colleagues and administrators, where we had constantly to adapt to new programs and methods of teaching, all the while trying to preserve our own personal and family lives. Most of us were members of teachers' organizations. Today, those of you who are reading this are still members, members of NMFT-Retired. I hope that you are proud to have accomplished so much. We never will really know the full extent of

*Continued on page 9*

# *Benefits Report*

by **Dave Brees, V.C. Health and Benefits**



I have attended the last two meetings of the Joint Benefits Team where I have been working with Vicky Wyman in developing a survey of those retirees who signed the “One Time, Opt Out” form. That Opt Out form permitted them to leave District-provided health insurance plans for a trial period, without forever being barred from participating in the future. Since the Opt Out provision was the result of collective bargaining agreements, the District and the bargaining units are very interested in the results of this experiment. To my knowledge, no other school district in the State of California has ever allowed a retired school employee to return to any District-sponsored health insurance program once they have refused to continue participating. Last July, in making my proposal for an opt out provision to the school board, I pleaded for taking the “fear factor” out of the process of searching for alternate health insurance programs on the open health insurance market . If you signed the Opt Out form, the Risk Management Office will be sending you the survey by U. S. mail by the end of April. Please fill out the survey and mail it back promptly so we can measure the success of removing the “Fear Factor” in selecting your health insurance plan. I will be sharing the results of the survey in the August Newsletter that will be published prior to Open Enrollment.

Since the change from Anthem to CIGNA did not become effective until October 1, 2015, the committee has decided to wait until after the April or May experience report comes in to request a rate quote for next year. Given that experience is a major driving force in setting insurance rates, insurance underwriters tend to give more competitive bids based upon longer experience. It is simply too early to speculate on the CIGNA PPO rates for next year. SCAN Medicare Advantage HMO rates are determined by the Medicare Administrator, CMA, and usually announced in early June.

## **A Very Special Thank You**

Words just seem to be inadequate to convey my sincere appreciation to all of my friends and colleagues for the love and appreciation that were showered on me at the February General Meeting celebrating my 76th birthday.

Providing for an award for service to the teachers and students of N-MUSD in my name has to be considered as a lasting legacy of my love for, and dedication to, the teaching profession

*Thank you for giving me the flowers now.*

## *Board Watch*

### February & March 2016



JoAnn Copp

The February 9th board meeting was “Awards Night”. The Board recognized the “District Teachers of the Year”, a new “National Board-Certified Teacher”, and the “Super Star Awards” for employee excellence. Twelve of our finest were honored from all over the district and all levels of employment. It truly takes a “village to educate a child.”

**Community Input:** The CdM residents once more expressed their concerns about how the changes at CdMHS with the proposed field and stadium improvements may affect them. Again the Board reiterated that these were only “proposed” changes and nothing has been, nor will be decided without input from the affected neighborhoods.

Many of our Special-Needs Students from high school down to the elementary level are involved in programs that will get them ready for the Special Olympics.

CASHEE has gone away and now the district is going back to 2007 to find and issue diplomas to those students who met all the graduation requirements, but did not pass the test. Twelve of our district schools are being considered as “Golden Ribbon” Schools. This award replaced the “Distinguished” School program from the past. At the beginning of the February 23rd meeting Char Metoyer asked that the meeting be closed in memory of 3 teachers: Nancy Heiman, Liz Meyer and Myrna Freeman.

**Community Input:** Once again CdM residents voiced concerns over the proposed changes at CdMHS. Changes to the Adult Education program by the state will create consortiums among neighboring school districts. We will join with Huntington Beach High School District. N-MUSD’s program has dwindled down to 2 teachers and a few daytime classes. More are needed afternoon and evenings. Hopefully this new consortium will address the concerns of our residents. A number of Costa Mesa residents mentioned the need for CMHS’s fields to be improved and a larger Stadium.

The March meeting was adjourned in memory of Jim deBoom, School Board Member from 1983-1996.

**Community Input:** Once again CdM residents voiced concerns over the proposed changes to CdMHS’s fields and stadium. Although at each meeting they are reminded that this is only the beginning of a long process, and they have met with the district to share their ideas, they seem to worry that their needs may not be considered in the final design. The School Board has assured them that their input is welcomed and will be considered.

Twenty+ brave English-learner adults came to speak in opposition to closing Adult Education. This was incorrect information in that the Adult Education program will continue and expand under the new state plan. It just will not be headed by N-MUSD. It will remain at the BEST Center behind Rea Elementary. Although there was confusion and misunderstanding, these people had come to speak their concerns,



but most were not allowed to speak. Instead they were stopped and requested to go out to the lobby where representatives of the board would explain the correct information. All well and good, except they had a right to be heard. The Board has listened to the other community groups who have been misinformed or chose not to hear what the Board was saying. I felt embarrassed for the Board and sad that this group of community members were not given their 3 minutes each. It also should not have included the time required to translate what they said. It was important enough for them to leave their comfort zones to come and speak before the Board. I feel that they were not treated with the same consideration as the CdM residents who repeat the same message meeting after meeting.

The Second Interim Report was presented by Dr. Reed. His findings were that the district is solvent. It can pay all its bills and maintain the required 3% reserve. Not much has changed since the First Interim Report. Did you know that April 11-16 was National Volunteer Week?

At the second meeting in March, CdM residents again had their 3 minutes each and when the buzzer sounded, they were granted a few seconds to finish speaking. Yet when John Caldecott spoke, he was ushered from the microphone as soon as the 3 minute buzzer went off. It appears that NOT all speakers are equal when speaking to the Board. So much for transparency.

JoAnn Copp

Photo taken at the memorial  
for Liz Meyer



## **March 2016 CFT Convention - San Francisco**

### **Theme: Activate Labor for Justice**

Due to wind and rain, delayed planes, and time spent sitting in a plane on the tarmac at John Wayne Airport, I missed Friday's General Session 1 and the afternoon workshops. That evening I did attend the first meeting of the newly formed state-wide division of the CFT of Retired Members. This first meeting was well attended with representatives from 7 of our 12 chartered chapters. It was reported that many of the locals are interested in forming retired groups and there are hopes that new chapters will be joining us next year. We learned that CalSTRS has divested its coal interests. The organization hopes to limit the influence from Wall Street. We heard a report from the Public Employment Retirement Committee. A number of bills were discussed and positions considered. Then each retired chapter gave a brief summary of its activities and community involvement for this past year. All the groups have social activities, political activities, community involvement, *Continued on page 9*

# *Community Outreach*

by Bob Kelly



As the school year winds down so does our outreach program. We have had a beneficial year so far: collaborating with OC labor organizations to put on and man the largest Veterans Day celebration in Orange County; collaborating with Fairview Community Church and Share Our Selves to adopt several families at Christmas time; contributing our funds and time to support the N-M Schools Foundation's Grants to Teachers program and facilitating the Newport Balboa Rotary to add their support; and helping support the District's Special Education Prom coming in June. Our contributions to all of these worthwhile causes have added to our organization's reputation and status in the community.

I would like to take a moment to reach out to you, our members, to remember to take care of your over all heath in your retirement years. There was a recent article in Parade Magazine which was also reprinted the the latest issue of CalRTA's Contact newsletter. They mentioned the importance of good physical health with advice on taking care of our body's various parts, but the advice I found most beneficial was on the importance of keeping our minds engaged. "...be it a crossword puzzle or volunteering your time with others. Try to get really engaged in the activity, and you may be able to slow down or even halt your brain shrinkage, but a study showed that there was the possibility of having some brain growth."

I have chosen to engage my body with bicycling and walking since my heart surgery two years ago, but it has been my volunteering and avid reading which has helped to keep my mind engaged and given me a great deal of personal satisfaction knowing I am making a worthwhile contribution to the community I feel vested in. I wish you all a very engaging satisfying retirement.



George and Gina Stewart spent their 31st wedding anniversary in Maui. Sooo beautiful! We spent lots of time with Gary Montooth and Sue Crawford. We also had a nice dinner at Sally and Dave Cummin's condo in Napili, just a short walk from our place. We had gorgeous weather and lots of fun!

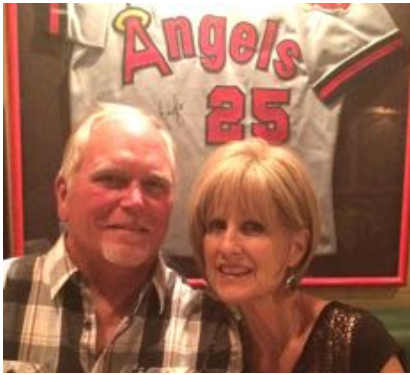


# N-MFT Retired Chapter

Honoring Dave Brees  
February 24, 2016







## Awesome Arizona by Bonnie Brigman

What an amazing trip my husband Keith and I had in March. Keith has a good college buddy in Mesa, Arizona. He had arranged for us to stay with our friends and go to three spring training games. The weather was perfect, the games were great, and the time together was wonderful.

Much earlier, as we were working out the details, I reminded Keith that I had never seen the Grand Canyon and dearly wanted to go. He agreed to the outing, yeah! Over the years I have traveled to China, Italy, Canada, Mexico, and many places in the U.S. including Alaska but the desire of my heart now was to see the Grand Canyon! And oh did I see it! We spent two days soaking in the spectacular beauty of this creation on the south rim. Someday I hope to return and see the north rim. In the meantime we took so many pictures we ran out of space on our cameras and iPad. I guess you just can't help but want one more day and many more photos of the splendor of the grandeur and this awesome creation!



SORRY. We ran out of room and had to shorten these lovely articles. Check your email for the rest!

## Where is Myanmar? by Peggy Engard



In January we took a two week tour of Myanmar with AMAWaterways, which included ten days on the Irrawaddy River. When we told people we were going to Myanmar (pronounced MEE-an-mar), very few had heard of the country or knew where it was located. Even our bank didn't know where it was when we went to put a travel alert on our credit cards. Myanmar used to be called Burma before the military regime took over. It is located in southeast Asia and is bordered by India, Bangladesh, China, Laos, and Thailand. It is about the size of Texas with a population of 56,000,000. There are 135 ethnic groups and 89% of the population are Buddhists.



### ***CFT Convention, continued from page 5***

scholarships and grants involved in CARA. Dues ranged from \$6 a year to \$100 a year. We all seemed to have interests in the same areas. We were so glad to have a group where we could come together and exchange ideas and concerns. The president of our Retired Council, John Perez, was presented the Ben Rust Award at the luncheon on Saturday. His accomplishments mirrored those of the man for whom this award is named. It is the highest honor bestowed on a member by CFT.

The four General Sessions were energetic and many resolutions befitting the convention's title were presented, discussed, debated and voted upon. I was privileged to be able to accept the award for Second Place for Best Six-or-more-Page Newsletter For Locals with fewer than 500 unit members on behalf of our N-MFT Retired Chapter and Donna Ewing, our illustrious editor and the creator of our fabulous newsletter.

Two of the speakers at one of the sessions made an impact on me with their messages and their enthusiasm. Randi Weingarten, President of AFT, spoke about the importance of having a voice in the education of our students. Tim Wise, antiracist writer and educator from Texas, spoke of the need for vocational schools and college/career readiness programs for all.

Sunday morning at the EC/TK-12 breakfast the Pride of the Union Recipients for this year were honored. The Raoul Tulhet Educate, Agitate, Organize Award was presented to N-MFT's president Kimberly Claytor. It is always exciting to be a part of the celebration for such dedicated, hardworking, loyal union members.

The workshops are always informative. I attended "Planning a Member-to-Member Outreach Drive. In a few words, personal contacts: letters, calls, visits gain the most members. At the sessions and throughout the days and evenings I had the pleasure of joining our N-MFT delegates, Jaymi Ropp, Tamara Fairbanks, Tracy Scofield and Kimberly Claytor for lively discussions and genuinely great camaraderie.



JoAnn Copp,

Delegate to the 2016 CFT Convention

### ***Membership, continued from page 2***

our influence on the lives and careers of those students who passed through our classrooms for so many years. I hope you all have had the experience of meeting former students who are happy to see you and let you know that you were a positive influence in their lives. What a great feeling that can be! You were and still are a member of a most important profession. You still are a member of a most important professional organization, one that seeks to improve the teaching profession and subsequently the society at large. Congratulations for your dedication and continued commitment.

Bernie Neil

## 2016-2017 N-MFT Retired Election Update

It's time for our Spring elections. We have four positions to fill on the Executive Board. Now is the time to get involved! Each member elected to the EB Board agrees to serve for a two-year term. We will call for nominations from the floor at our Spring General Meeting. In addition, you may nominate any member (including yourself) via U.S. mail BEFORE July 1, 2016. You will be hearing more at our Spring General Meeting at Claim Jumper!

The four offices up for election / reelection are: Chairperson,  
Vice Chair Communications,  
Vice Chair Community Outreach and Secretary

### Thank You for the Grant!

Dear N-MFT Retired,

Thank you very much for your generous grant. It is very humbling to be recognized in this manner for doing a job that changes the lives of so many children. Your generous grant will contribute even more to the lives of my students through the gift of technology. My under-privileged students rarely get the opportunity to explore with today's technology and now you have enhanced their learning experience. I thank you deeply for believing in my mission to educate a child by allowing me to bring iPads into the classroom. May your gift be returned to you ten-fold.

With gratitude, Miriam Galvez-Vivian, Rea School



## *In Memoriam*

### *Chapter Members:*

Nancy Heiman 1946 - 2016

Liz Meyer 1932 - 2016

Other N-MUSD retirees lost recently: Myrna Freeman, Karolee Hampton,  
Dick Hancock, Cliff Hooper and Roger Weiss

# Chapter Chatter

## Let's Plan a Day Trip Together

Gina visited Lyon's Air Museum in Costa Mesa, and Bowers Museum in Santa Ana. They have a great *visiting* mummy exhibit there now through the summer. It is a self guided tour. It costs \$21.00 for seniors to see the mummies. Parking is \$6.00, which is refundable with a validation from the restaurant. Tangata restaurant is on the premises and has an outdoor (covered) area that overlooks the courtyard. It is a bit gourmet for me and prices are reasonable to on the high side. The drive to get there is easy and so is the parking. Two parking lots, one as you approach from south main street and one just past the museum. Both left turns at signals. If anyone is interested in going there as a group, please let it be known and we will schedule a trip. I can book the restaurant through Open Table. We can carpool as well. Email Gina at [geobina@me.com](mailto:geobina@me.com) and I will organize a trip there.

The Lyon's Air Museum costs \$9.00 for seniors and is open 10 to 4. It is handy in Costa Mesa and easy to find and park. No food there, but free parking. There is some great memorabilia. My favorite was Hitler's Convertible Mercedes Touring Car with bullet proof windshield and glass.



## Our New Website: [nmftr.net](http://nmftr.net)

All of your Executive Board phone numbers and email addresses are listed, as well as useful web links to N-MFT, N-MUSD, CalRTA, etc. You will also find archived newsletters and membership application / renewal forms. Meeting dates and locations are posted. The website is best viewed on a computer screen.



**N-MFT RETIRED  
CHAPTER**

**[nmftr.net](http://nmftr.net)**

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Suite C-107  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626**

Phone: (714) 754-6638

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**Spring General Meeting**

**When: 11:00 05/17/16**

**Where: FV Claim Jumper  
18050 Brookhurst St.**

**\*\*Banquet Room\*\***

Delicious Buffet - \$20

Special Program

Prizes \* Fun



*Retired Chapter*

2900 Bristol St C-107

Costa Mesa, CA 92626