



N-MFT RETIRED

FEBRUARY 2016

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Winter General Meeting
Wednesday, February 24
11:00 a.m.



Costa Mesa Country Club
1701 Golf Course Drive
map on page 5

Our New Website: nmftr.net

We now have a new website, courtesy of CFT. It isn't fancy, but it may serve as a resource for you. There are useful web links and all of your Executive Board phone numbers and email addresses are listed. You will also find archived newsletters and membership application / renewal forms. Meeting dates and locations are posted for the 2015-16 year. The website is best viewed and navigated on a computer screen, rather than on a smartphone. Give it a try. We hope you will find it useful.

From My Desk
Richard Spehar, Chapter Chairperson

With 2016 upon us and time flying by as usual, I'd like to wish all of our members and your loved ones a healthy and safe new year. It has been my privilege to serve as your Chairperson for the past several years. We are only as good as our members, and our Chapter continues to be as vibrant as ever because of all of you. I've said it many times, but you have elected the best group of dedicated professionals that I've ever worked with. Our Executive Board spends tireless hours volunteering their expertise to make our Chapter truly amazing.



We have planned some outstanding events for the new year and we will continue to keep our members updated and their voices heard.

On Wednesday, February 24, we will be having our Winter General Meeting at the Costa Mesa Country Club. This will be a very special event. Please mark your calendars and RSVP to Donna so that you may be included in this memorable moment. As you know, Dave Brees is an icon to all of us. He has represented our interests for decades, and it is time for us to give him a 'Thank You' in celebration of his birthday.

We will have the usual wonderful luncheon and party favors. Please plan to attend! The festivities begin at 11:00 A.M. so that we can fit everything in and still get you home before the traffic. We are looking forward to seeing you. In the meantime, take care and we will all continue to wait for the promised rains!!

Have you Renewed Your Membership?

\$40 (\$60 per couple) payable to: N-MFT Retired
Mail with application / renewal form to Bernie Neil
2899 Baker St. Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Insurance Update

by Dave Brees, V.C. Health and Benefits



We have concluded the first quarter of the 2015-16 school year under the CIGNA PPO contract, but at the time of this writing, no utilization reports have been shared by CIGNA. Until utilization reports have been issued, it is impossible to speculate on renewal premium rates for the next school year. The Risk Management Office has issued a report to the Benefits Committee relative to the census and migration within the various health insurance programs offered by N-MUSD. The most recent census report appears to lend credence to my concern about the role of adverse selection on the future viability of the PPO program. I witnessed the death spiral of our District self-insured health insurance program created by adverse selection. Obviously, the CIGNA PPO pool could be much larger overall, so my concerns may be unjustified. I plan to get more information on the pooling arrangement with CIGNA and share that information in a later report. I suppose that I just have to learn to accept it as just another inconvenience of being excluded from membership on the N-MUSD Benefits Committee.

Since the negotiations process for the 2016-17 school year will be underway shortly, I plan to propose that the District conduct a survey of those retirees who qualified for the One Time, Opt Out provision of the current contract in order to capture data that might be useful in providing direction to all parties concerned with retiree health insurance. I fully realize that retirees who found alternatives to District-offered health insurance have only had about four months of experience with the new plan, but I believe that we need a preliminary examination of consumer satisfaction, even at this early date rather than waiting for the results during open enrollment in August. My original proposal for the Opt Out provision that I made to the Board in July of 2015 was for a trial period of one to three years. I understand the additional load of record-keeping required of the Risk Management Office that an Opt out provision requires, but a retiree making such a life-changing decision (that could forever impact his/her future) might merit more than a one year or less trial period.

Board Watch

Meetings: 11/10/15; 12/8/15; 1/12/16

by JoAnn Copp



At the November meeting Mayor Messinger and staff (Costa Mesa) presented a check for \$20,000 to the district for arts at Estancia and Costa Mesa High Schools. The costs for the damage that occurred to three Newport-Mesa schools during the surprise rains in September will be paid for by the contractor.

The board saw a conceptual drawing of CdM's library renovations which will create spaces for the students geared to 21st Century learning. \$400,000 has been donated by the CdM Library Foundation toward this project. 50 Nearpod licenses have been purchased for Newport Elementary to facilitate one-on-one technology using Kromebooks. These licenses will allow users to create lesson plans across the district.

Sunshine Club

Some of our members may need a ride, assistance with personal matters, or just company. Are you someone who could use the help or companionship, or are you a person who would love to help fill that need? Please let me know. JoAnn

The December meeting is the annual organizational meeting.

President: Dana Black Vice President: Karen Yelsey Clerk: Vicky Snell

Plus a long list of committees and the members that serve on them. Annual Financial Reports as of June 30th, reported by the auditors, showed the district in a sound fiscal situation. The safety of our students is the district's highest priority. Due to the recent shootings in San Bernardino, all schools are being checked for safety needs, procedures, safety plans and response plans. "If you see something, SAY something."

Community Input:

Concerns that Estancia fields are in need of repairs were voiced. CdM residents asked for responsible growth when it comes to the proposed field improvements and consideration as to how these changes could affect the neighborhoods around CdMHS. Traffic, parking and noise adversely affect the neighborhoods around the high school now, and the community wishes to be informed and included in decisions that could affect those neighborhoods.

January Meeting The new principal at Newport Heights was introduced to the board. Numerous student-athletes and a distinguished employee were honored.

Community Input: The Costa Mesa High School Sports Facility design with bathrooms, snack bar, lights, seats and new fields was discussed. Many concerned community members spoke about the new facility and many concerns were voiced. See page 8

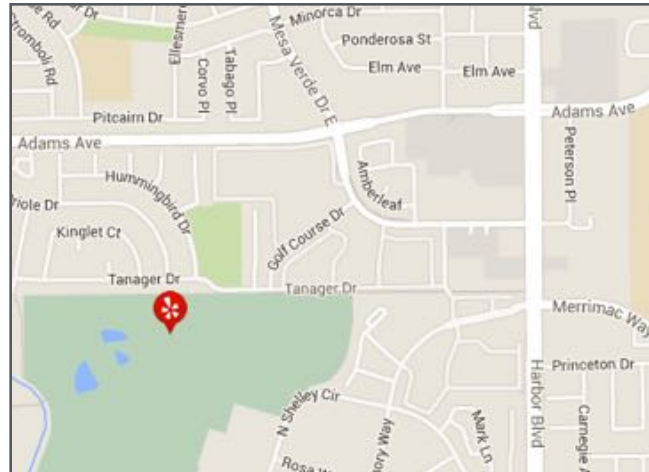
N-MFT Retired Chapter

February 24

Carpooling is suggested

Sign in at 10:45

Enjoy colleagues and friends.



Celebrate Dave's 76th birthday and salute his immeasurable contributions to students and fellow teachers of N-MUSD

1701 Golf Course Drive (SW of Harbor and Adams)

Our Fall General Meeting at Newport Rib Co.



Community Outreach

by Bob Kelly



Fall and Winter 2015-2016 has been a busy time for the N-MFT Retired Chapter. In November we helped organize the Veterans and Labor Day Celebration at the Orange County Fairgrounds. It was estimated that there were over 9,000 attendees in the event's third year, quite an increase over the previous two years. Besides contributing \$500 to help underwrite the event, we also had many of our members participate in helping kids create thank-you cards for veterans. Our station was the busiest of the event with the exception of the one where a crowd was listening and dancing to the music of the '40s and 50's. My granddaughter helped with the face painting activity, and my daughter and I had the honor of writing the names of several hundred Vietnam veterans on individual Appreciation Certificates at the end of the event. A great time was had by all.

In December we combined our efforts with the Fairview Community Church members in making a memorable Christmas experience for five local families (twenty-two individuals) through the Share Our Selves' Adopt-a-Family program. We provided each family member with wrapped presents and gift cards to Target and local grocery stores. Our monetary contribution to this endeavor was \$500. The church leadership was very appreciative of our assistance in this charitable holiday activity, and we got a lot of personal satisfaction from participating.

Several of our members helped evaluate the Teacher of the Year applications in early January at the N-MFT office. This assistance was much appreciated by Blanca Salas, the N-MFT staff person in charge of organizing this event. We also had some of our members on the selection committee, observing the finalists in their classrooms and interviewing them afterwards. The Elementary Teacher of the Year selected was Melissa Price, a special education teacher at Adams Elementary. The Secondary Teacher of the Year selected was Tim McFadden, a music teacher at TeWinkle Middle School. These are two fine teachers who will go on to represent our district in the Orange County competition.

Some of our members also helped evaluate applications submitted to Newport Mesa Schools Foundation's Grants to Teachers. Besides several individual contributions by some of our members, the N-MFT Retired also contributes \$1,000 to this worthwhile organization in the memory of past president, Phyllis Pipes. Several of us are looking forward to attending the ceremony for both the Grants to Teachers and Teachers of the Year on February 11. This has been a very active time of year for our chapter's community outreach.



Veterans' Day 2015



Adopt a Family Drop Off Dec. 2015



**Consider
donating time or
money to this
worthwhile,
rewarding
activity!**



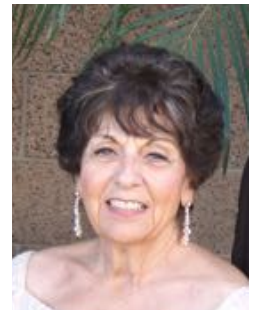
Did you know that of ALL the floats in the **New Year's Day Rose Parade** only SIX are entirely funded, designed and decorated by volunteers. In an attempt five years ago to show the floats to my visiting Illinois cousin, we went up to Pasadena several days after the parade. Too late to see most, we did find the Sierra Madre float still on review. After talking to the people who volunteer in the process, we decided to come back the next day and help take the float apart to get it ready for the next year.

We have been volunteering every year since, during "Deco Week," the last week before the parade when everything is painted and the flowers and other organic materials are applied to the float frame. All this takes place in the "barn," a huge, empty building that houses the frame and necessary materials. Located at 587 Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, it becomes a beehive that last week. For hours of work, lots of fun, camaraderie, and the joy of watching the float YOU helped create roll down Pasadena Avenue, consider joining us next December 26 - 31 at the Barn. Give as much time as you can spare. It does not need to be much. Otherwise, consider a donation to help the cause.

For more information contact the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association at www.SMRoseFloat.org or call me at 714 325 7615. JoAnn Copp

Membership Challenge

by Bernie Neil, VC Membership



A very Happy New Year to you all! Since I have been Membership Chair, our Executive Board has set a membership goal every year. Our goal for 2015-16 is 200. We are 8 members short of that goal. You might think it would be easy to talk 8 more people into joining, but it is one of the hardest tasks I've had to do. I have sent 3 separate mail-outs, trying to coax past members to rejoin and will send out another soon. I have asked all you loyal members to talk to your retired N-MUSD friends and colleagues about our organization. Now I am asking for more help. Please do all you can to help us reach our goal this year. It is such a small number but right now it seems insurmountable. If you have any suggestions, please call or email me.

(714-979-2996 or email: bernie1339@sbcglobal.net)

Board Watch, continued

The Estancia HS community would like an upgraded aquatics program with a larger pool. CdMHS neighbors again spoke of their concerns for the proposed sports complex and their willingness to participate in the planning. Many misconceptions are floating around adding to the stress.

John Caldecott again spoke before the board asking for more transparency by the board concerning his termination and alleged mistreatment of other employees. As always I wonder not about what is discussed at board meetings, but what is decided elsewhere.

JoAnn



In Memoriam

Patricia Ann Stephen

1937 - 2016

Teacher at Rea and Ensign

Served on N-MEA

Observations from a Self-Guided Tour of Sicily

by Bernie Neil

Last October, my husband and I experienced a grand adventure in Sicily where my mother was born. We picked up a car in Palermo and toured the entire island for 3 weeks. My granddaughter, a junior at UC Davis, was in Madrid on her semester abroad and flew over to spend a week with us. What a wonderful time we had and what great memories we made.



Al & Bernie in Cefalu



Al & Bernie's granddaughter,
Riley, on Ferry to Acoli Islands



Bernie at one of the three points
of the island - Capo Passero

- The people are more hospitable than you can possibly imagine.
- There is no litter.
- Considering the age of their buildings 1) the condition is unbelievable, 2) the architecture is fantastic, and 3) the number of buildings is “astonishing”.
- And then there’s the really old stuff—the ruins. (Sicily dates back 3,000 years.)
- Driving etiquette is ignored.
- The land is mountainous; the freeways are straight and supported by hundreds of bridges and tunnels— and they all have names.
- There are no bad meals—just things you haven’t eaten before.
- ”Laid back and late”...stores close in the middle of the day, then re-open in the evening. Restaurants don’t open until 7 P.M. Early dinners just don’t happen.
- Don’t eat at the McDonalds in Siracusa.
- Visit at least one smaller island.
- Every church is unique...See as many as you can.
- Signals, traffic control, road signs and lane markings are merely suggestions.
- Don’t look for a “pizza place.” Every restaurant has pizza on the menu.
- Mt. Etna is there, but you’ll probably never see it.
- Go for a drive every day. You will see something new and amazing.
- Have a glass of wine with every meal. Breakfast is optional.
- Lots of rocky shoreline. Not much beach.
- Visit as many shops and restaurants in the small towns as you can.
- Italians don’t do “bacon and eggs.”
- Make sure there is a person in every picture you take...even if you don’t know them.
- Avoid modern or new hotels.
- If you rent a car, be sure you have a GPS.

Note: If you are planning a trip to Italy, I am available for consultation.

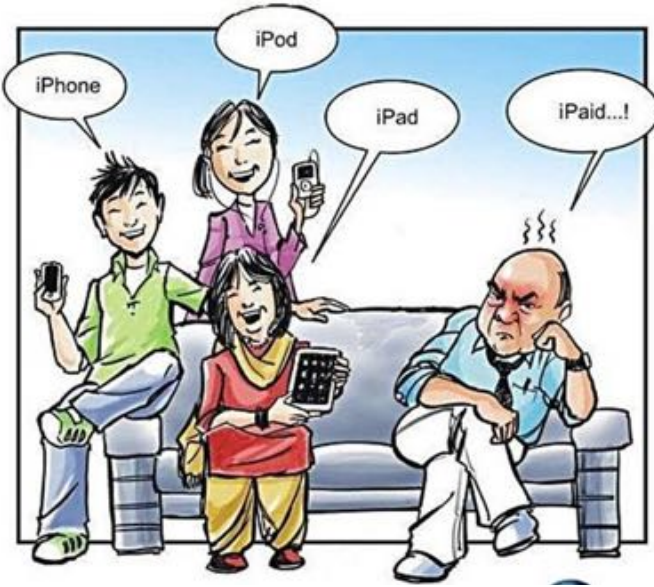


Puns for Fun

I changed my iPad's name to Titanic.
It's syncing now.

I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went,
and then it dawned on me.



*Best way to get rid of kitchen odors:
Eat out.*

-Phyllis Diller

Why Should You Be on our Email List ?
by Donna Ewing, ViceChairperson: Communications

This quarterly newsletter helps keep you informed. If you are not also on one of our email groups, you are missing chapter and health benefit updates, meeting reminders, news about N-MUSD, your friends and colleagues. The identical information is posted to both Yahoo and Google, so take your pick. Email comes directly to your inbox, or you may view it on the web, while browsing archived messages.

Please advise, and I will add you to the email group of your choice. fvdewing@gmail.com

Chapter Chatter



N-MFT Retired Executive Board

Standing: Bob, Rich, JoAnn, Gina and Dave

Seated: Donna and Bernie

Jo Black is playing the title role in the
WORLD PREMIERE
of
"OPALINE" by Mary Fengar Gael

March 4 - April 2, 2016
THURS-SAT @ 8 PM

GARAGE THEATER 251 E. 7th St.,
Long Beach CA 90813
Box Office: 562-433-8337

Update on Scott Paulsen

by Sandy Asper

Here's the scoop on Scott Paulsen. After four operations and a devastating infection, he is doing great. He works four hours a day at the OASIS senior center as the head of the travel bureau and works out at the their gym, walks a mile a day, rides his bike for 30 minutes, and is soon going to start the Hoag Hospital Rehab. Program. He says that the 300+ cards and letters he received made a huge difference to him at some of his lowest points in the hospital. He is very, very grateful. Liddy (his wife) has said that he no longer needs a funeral, because all the wonderful things have already been said. Scott also wants you to know that Liddy has been a "warrior" throughout this ordeal...driving twice a day to the hospital in Anaheim. He says that she is really responsible for his recovery. He is also grateful for the former students, teachers and multitudes of friends who visited him. He would want you to know that he and Liddy were told that they were the most popular couple in the hospital. Welcome back, Scott!

**N-MFT RETIRED
CHAPTER**

nmftr.net

**2900 Bristol St.
Suite C-107
Costa Mesa, CA 92626**

Phone: (714) 754-6638

FAX: (714) 754-1514

Winter General Meeting

When: 11:00 02/24/16

Where: CM Country Club

1701 Golf Course Drive, Costa Mesa (714) 540-7500

Special Program

Delicious Buffet - \$20

Renew Friendships

Prizes * Fun



Retired Chapter

2900 Bristol St C-107

Costa Mesa, CA 92626