

# TUKWUT TIMES

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Newsletter March 2022

## Message from the Chair

By Michael Yee



Welcome to the many new members who recently joined our retirees family, and to our loyal long-term members, as we look forward to an enjoyable 2022. We are finally able to resume in-person gatherings starting in March (California Surf Museum) and April (see the event details that follow). Music and other outings are in the works. We plan to continue at least one virtual activity to bring together members who are far away.

We are grateful to have Anna Fleming as our new RA Coordinator to help us stay organized so we can enjoy our fellowship. I'm glad to be working with Anna and as a long-time employee she is already a familiar face. Please join me in welcoming her!

We are actively looking for ways for RA members to stay connected. Please contact me at [michaelyee@csusm.edu](mailto:michaelyee@csusm.edu) if you have any ideas. We are also looking for members to join our Board and our RA Membership Committee. Maureen Dupont leads the Membership Committee so let her know if you'd like to get involved in some way.

Previous newsletters shared information about CSU-ERFSA. This CSU wide organization actively advocates for the benefit of CSU retirees at the policy level. Be active with your RA first, but please consider joining the CSU-ERFSA if you support policy and legislative efforts. The difference is your Retirees Association's focus is on the Cal State San Marcos family, while CSU ERFSA focuses on issues across the CSU.

Best wishes and hope to see you all soon!

Michael Yee, Chair

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### 2021/2022 Board of Directors



Michael Yee, Chair



Pam Wells, Vice Chair



Maureen DuPont, Treasurer



Marie Thomas, Recorder



Dawn Schmid, Member at Large

## Calendar of Events

### California Surf Museum Tour & Lunch

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

[Register Today](#)



Join us for our next gathering on Wednesday, March 16. It promises to be something you won't want to miss; a tour of the California Surf Museum followed by al fresco dining at the French-inspired Mexican bistro, Carte Blanche. There is no cost to register but come prepared to purchase your museum entrance and lunch.

The event schedule:

**10AM: (optional) Pre-tour walk on the Oceanside Pier**

**10:30: Museum Tour** (visit [California Surf Museum](#) to see exhibits, stories & more) *Museum Admission: Adults: \$7, Seniors (62+), Military, Students: \$5*

Our tour will be guided by Tom Dahnke who honed his surf skills at Huntington Beach and Newport Beach. Joining our tour will be a long-time surfer who graduated from Oceanside High School in the late 1950s, Tillman Eaks. He will provide "color commentary" and surfer stories.

**Noon: Lunch at [Carte Blanche](#)**



Special thanks to RA Member, George Diehr, who was the catalyst in bringing this event to life.

### Annual Business Luncheon Meeting

Friday, April 29, 2022, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

\$30 per person; [Register Today](#)



We are excited to host our Annual Retirees Association Business Meeting and Luncheon once again in person at the McMahan House. We hope you will join us to visit and catch up with your colleagues, fellow retirees, and friends. There will be a brief business meeting after lunch where you will learn what the Retirees Association has been doing for the past year and what is on the horizon.



Our featured speaker will be Dr. Carl Kemnitz, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Kemnitz spent his first year during remote operations, leading the academic response to the pandemic and planning a "post-pandemic" return to campus. He partners with the Vice President for Student Affairs and many other campus leaders to coordinate student success efforts and co-chairs the University Strategic Planning Steering Committee. Dr. Kemnitz will be sharing campus updates on new campus initiatives, an updated strategic plan, and describing the changes the pandemic brought and how those changes will affect the campus moving forward.

## Member Profile

*Submitted by Jim Mickelson*

### What ever happened to President Haynes & First Gentleman Mickelson?

Our plan was to keep our distance from CSUSM for a year, but what we did not plan for, nor you I am sure, was a global pandemic. In retrospect we are very happy we retired when we did, however we miss the people. Now that it has been well over two years since we retired, I thought I would fill you in on a few things.

The last month of work was a whirl wind ending with the greatest party of all. the gala. What a wonderful night. After sleeping in on July 1, 2019, reality set in - we have no staff for scheduling, entertaining or IT issues. We both acknowledge this would take a little adjusting. So, Karen worked on scheduling, and I worked on my cooking skills. After talking with other retired university presidents, I could write a book on the transitions process.

We took a page from Marion Reed's playbook and set out to DECLUTTER. After 15 years in a home with no time to address the issue, it was needed. So, we worked for weeks and really did a good job. Now I wish we waited until the COVID lockdown. Such is life.

We took our planned trip to cruise the fall colors from Montreal to New York and see some Broadway shows. Despite the rain and storms at sea, we did enjoy it. Although we enjoyed revisiting McGill (Karen's alma mater for her MSW) and good food, New York was the highlight and seeing Hamilton was the best. See it if you can. However, we do suggest a little history review to really understand the play as it moves fast, and Alexander Hamilton is a complex and fascinating person. I digress.

Back home and with the decision made to remain in our home in Vista, it was time for some upgrading of our kitchen and master bath. Plans in place - contractors in place. We are ready. But that growing problem of COVID was on our minds. And of course, it got worse - so we put it on hold. Now what? We are stuck home, and we already did all the damn decluttering. After much discussion we came up with a way to keep the workers from having contact with us and the rest of the home and thought why not, we have nothing else on the agenda, we found out others had the same thoughts and supplies, and workers became harder to obtain.

We couldn't eat out, so we created a makeshift kitchen in the laundry room. I used my cooking skills with a microwave and a grill, refrigeration is another thing. Never thought I would long for a rubber chicken banquet. Sorry - digressing again.

We start - GREAT! What was to take 2 months took 8 to get everything completely finished and working. I decided to make our home a smart house and set out to WiFi switches, lights appliances etc. Now with one command all lights come on. I was so proud of myself; I even got the coffee to come on: "Alexa Coffee" - she replays "good morning" I am still working on getting her to call me "Your Excellency" - and turn on the coffee maker. Ah but AI technology is not perfected. One morning waking up tired and groggy "Coffee" ... now I guess it sounded like "Call...me", as my phone started to ring... it was Alexa!

We made it to campus once during this time, for of all things, a COVID test. An eerie return. Results - negative - we dodged that bullet. Sorry, I've got to learn to focus again.

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## Member Profile ~ *continued*

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We had not heard anything about the CSUSM Retirees Association and just thought that it was in hibernation during the pandemic. We did not think much about it. After our vaccinations I had lunch with Pam Wells, now the Vice Chair for this distinguished group. As I left our luncheon, I thought it was time to joint.

In between travels to see our four grandchildren in Texas and Montana, we never heard anything about the group. Then one day we both received a pad of paper in the mail from the CSUSM Retiree Association. How nice. But the note said thanks for being a member. Confusion - as we had not anted-up. Karen, I asked, "did you join and not tell me?" "No," was her reply. I decided to use my back chancel connection and emailed Pam - she emailed Arlene Cratsa, who everyone knows.

Arlene sent me an email notifying us that we are honoree members. That a framed certificate was on display during the gala. EMBARRASSING! We never got the certificate. As I stated, the last month on the job was a whirlwind. Somehow it got lost. If it wasn't for the nice note pad in the mail, we may never have known. Arlene sent us the latest newsletter and we discovered the Retirees Association is doing quite well. That's when Arlen discovered that our names were never added to the mailing list. That is why we did not hear anything. She sent us the note pad out of thoughtfulness. So much for a smooth transition.

Karen joined the AASCU (American Association of State Colleges and Universities) consulting group. Spreading her wisdom and experience of 24 years as a university president. She has helped several presidents with some dicey issues. Now the interesting part - but first a little background for some of you. Matt Ceppi was Chief of Staff under Karen for 11 years. He was her go to person to get problems addressed or take on new projects. She issued the order and Matt delivered. He left CSUSM to provide his wisdom to other universities through consulting.

I can just hear Karen in my head saying "Jim get to the point." OK, ASSCU needed an Executive Director of the consulting group and engaged in a national search. They needed someone who is talented, ideally worked in higher education as well as consulting and could move the consulting program to the next level. They made the hire and Karen got a new boss. You guessed it. Matt Ceppi got the job and now Karen now reports to Matt. Life's ironies.

We look forward to seeing everyone someday soon in between our travels to Houston, Tahiti, Las Vegas, Québec City, and Egypt.



## RECAP of RA Activities

### Virtual Holiday Happy Hour ~ December 2, 2021

*Submitted by Pam Wells*



The Retirees Association wrapped up its year of events on Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> with a virtual Year End Celebration. Michael Yee welcomed the participants with a year-end message. The event coincided with Arlene Cratsa's retirement and conveniently provided the opportunity for the officers of the Retirees Association to recognize her with a flower arrangement delivered by Lori Brockett. In addition, she was presented with numerous cards from members of the organization. We managed to totally surprise Arlene. The remainder of the celebration was a discussion about "what are you looking forward to in 2022?"

### Welcome New and Renewing Members!

We are honored to welcome the following new members into our CSUSM Retirees Association family since November 2021. We look forward to seeing and connecting with you all at an upcoming event.

Damon Adamo  
Soheila Beladi  
Dinnah Didulo  
Evelyn Herb  
Robin Martens  
Thomas Olson  
Mary Jo Poole  
Kathy Shellhammer  
Diana Wilstermann

Theresa Aitchison-Clark  
Oneita Billings  
Cathie Dorsett  
Laura Ledyard  
Dreama Moon  
Ilia Elijah Pauser  
Paulette Renfro  
Diana Soderbeck

Chuck Allen  
Gezai Berhane  
Jo Ann Espinoza  
Rafael Lopez  
Kevin Morningstar  
Joanne Pederson  
Clint Roberts  
Carol Van Vooren

Chris Ashley  
Luann Cornish  
Carl Hanson  
Bella Newberg  
Virgian Morrisette-Hughes  
Diane Petersen  
Allen Risley  
Steve Watters

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## Membership Information

[Go to our website](#)

## A Note from Anna Fleming, our new RA Coordinator



As a CSUSM alumna and 20-year employee, I cherish the bonds we build at the University. I see the important role the RA serves in keeping those connections. In addition to my RA duties, I am the Alumni Engagement Specialist supporting Affinity Alumni Programs. I very much look forward to supporting the Retirees Association and engaging with all of you.

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*For the latest updates be sure to follow us on Facebook*

[www.facebook.com/CSUSMRetireesAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/CSUSMRetireesAssociation)



## We need your input!

Interested in volunteering for the RA? Would you like to be featured as our member profile?

Do you have ideas of fun events we can offer either in-person or virtual?

Are you interested in learning more about joining our Retirees Association Board?

Email us at [retirees@csusm.edu](mailto:retirees@csusm.edu) with your ideas