

# The **PACRA Pacer**

## Where are they now?

### **KAREN FLOYD**, San Marcos, CA



Karen Floyd, a Point Loma High School graduate, was a member of the third class ever to enroll at Palomar College in 1947-48, when the

college was located on the old Vista High School campus. In the Fall of 1949 there were 240 full-time students enrolled. By the time commencement rolled around in June of 1950, there were 45 students who received their AA degree. The ceremony was held at the Vista Carpenter's Hall.

By spring semester 1950, the College had acquired property off Mission Road in San Marcos and Karen was among a group of students who volunteered to clear rocks, weeds and brush so the baseball team could practice and play its games on the new campus grounds for the first time. The location cleared by those student volunteers was where Myers Field stood until 2015 when the baseball field was relocated to the north end of the campus.

After serving as a volunteer to Athletic Director Mack Wiebe and a year as Secretary to the Director of Research, Karen was named Palomar's first Physical Education/Athletic Secretary in September 1972. She became an integral part of the staff and faculty that served the Physical Education/athletic programs and

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### **DANA HAWKES**, Lake San Marcos, CA (with granddaughter Aubrey in front of a Cathedral in Florence, Italy)



It was a bit of a shock to discover that this spring, 2016, is the first semester I have not taught at Palomar College for 43 years. I retired from full-

time teaching in 2010 and since that time, have carried a diminishing load as an adjunct professor.

My delightful connection with Palomar College began in 1972. I was finishing my MA at San Diego State and was hired as an adjunct to teach one class, Introduction to Radio and Television. It was the first course in broadcasting and electronic communication taught at the school. The next year I was offered a contract and began in the Speech Department with the assignment to build a Radio and Television program. As the program grew we formed the Communications Department consisting of Radio and Television, Cinema, Photography and Journalism. Later, with the help of Russ Jackson, we established KKSM, the Palomar College student run cable radio station. Later, the department was able to acquire broadcast equipment and KKSM became an over-the-air FM broadcast station.

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events. She remained with the department until her retirement in 1986.

Karen continues to work part-time for the College to this day and has done so for the last 30 years. She also volunteers at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

Karen has three children, all of whom attended Palomar College. Her daughter Lisa completed her general education requirements and later received a scholarship to Bond University in Brisbane, Australia. After graduation she worked in New Zealand before finding her way home via the Cook Islands and Hawaii.

Her son David completed his general education at Palomar and was then accepted to the seminary (Lutheran) in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He became a Lutheran pastor and is now living in Benecia, CA., and working on his doctorate. Son Steven, when attending Palomar worked with the Radio & Television Department and was the first person to video tape 'home' football games and other PE. /Athletic events. Steven also had the pleasure of taping the Dave Brubeck concert when he performed at Palomar College.

Karen has three grandchildren, one of whom also graduated from Palomar College, and two grandchildren. ◆

## **PACRA Mission**

*We are retired Palomar College public employees working together to maintain and improve the quality of the lives of our members by protecting and monitoring our retirement benefits and health welfare issues.*

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Later in the '70s I was approached by Dean Ted Kilman to help develop an educational program that would allow Palomar to offer video courses by television.

I wrote the state grant for, and supervised the construction of, Palomar's first fully operational state-of-the-art television production studio in which allowed students to produce high-quality television programs in their production classes. Over the years Palomar students have won over 60 student Emmys presented by the San Diego chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

In retirement I have enjoyed my children, grandchildren and some unusual travel experiences allowing me to use my skills and abilities to influence people in several countries.

First I traveled to Kazakhstan and presented educational seminars to secondary school teachers in that country. In a trip to Bucharest, Romania, I was involved in helping a mission group provide assistance to a large number of orphans that were left as a result of political upheaval in the country. My most challenging assignment was to spend two weeks in Beijing, China, teaching a group of 70 young Chinese professionals a leadership class on strategic planning.

In addition to this, we have managed to travel to the Mediterranean, Caribbean, French Polynesia, Canada, the Panama Canal and Alaska. I also spent a week on an aircraft carrier traveling from Hawaii to San Diego with my naval officer son-in-law. In June of this year we will do a 21-day cruise out of Amsterdam through the Baltic Sea.

I am grateful to God for the many wonderful experiences I have had in my career at Palomar College, and the succeeding adventures in retirement. My memories of Palomar are enjoyable, filled with gratitude, blessed with wonderful relationships and the gift of a thoroughly satisfying career. ◆

As of January 1, 2016, all employees and qualified retirees continue to receive health benefits provided by Palomar College but under a new provider. Palomar discontinued our previous carrier, the Fringe Benefits Consortium (FBC), because of excessively high costs and many other problems, some of which were quite serious. A non-profit group, California Education Coalition for Health Care Reform (CECHCR) was used to find the best plan available that would match, as closely as possible, our excellent benefits. The College then contracted with J. Glynn & Company to analyze costs and set up a contract with the new provider. After a months-long search and many difficult meetings, the campus-wide Health Benefits Committee (which includes four PACRA representatives) settled on a plan for those who prefer a PPO. That plan is the Self-Insured Schools of California (SISC) 100-A, \$10 Anthem Classic PPO. SISC is a much larger pool which allows for lower costs to Palomar College. You are probably aware that Palomar has always been self-insured; that is, our premiums pay for the health services except in very unusual expensive circumstances when a form of re-insurance kicks in.

### **Kaiser Plan:**

As of this date, the Kaiser Plan is essentially unchanged. So if you belong to Kaiser, you should see little, if any, difference.

### **PPO Plan:**

The Benefits Committee could not find a PPO plan that was exactly like the previous coverage. The new Anthem Classic PPO has a much-expanded list of available doctors, there are no more annual deductibles, and one can still choose your own doctor and self-refer to any doctor or specialist on the list. If you are enrolled in Medicare, then Medicare is still your primary provider and the new PPO replaces the old one for your secondary coverage. If you are not yet 65, the PPO is your primary insurance as before. There is a \$10 co-pay per visit. The annual maximum you will be charged is \$1,000 as long as you are using PPO providers.

### **Prescription Drug Plan:**

As before, the drug plan has several tiers for generic drugs, name-brand drugs and a By-Mail option. You DO NOT have to use the Mail Order Service if you don't want to do so. There is an added option of obtaining

your generic drugs through Costco at no charge.

To learn the exact prices for drugs available using these various options (regular pharmacy, Costco or by mail and generic vs name brand), please refer to the material sent to you or go to the website run by Navitus (Anthem's drug manager): [www.navitus.com](http://www.navitus.com), select members, then select MemberLogin, then select Formulary or call them at 1-866-333-2757.

### **IMPORTANT Information in the Event of Serious Illness or Pending Surgery:**

If you have a serious long-term illness or condition that requires frequent doctor and/or hospital visits, or if you have a unique or expensive prescription requirement, it is strongly recommended that you call Anthem Member Services at 1-800-825-5541 and ask to be assigned a CASE MANAGER. If you are expecting to have a surgical procedure beyond a routine outpatient procedure, you should also obtain a Case Manager as well. The function of a Case Manager is to help you in obtaining the services and drugs you need as effortlessly as possible.

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**Prior Authorization:**

Prior authorization is now the norm in the health care industry. Doctors and hospitals have been doing this for years perhaps without you know it. *However, it is important that you ask your doctor before any procedure and services are authorized to be sure it will be covered by your insurance. You will also need to get prior authorization for prescriptions if (1) the drug is rare, if it is expensive or (3) if there is a generic version available. Your doctor can request a prior authorization if needed by calling Navitus at 1-866-333-2757.* (Navitus is Anthem’s pharmacy manager for our plan). You can call them as well if you have a drug a question and their website lists

drugs that require prior approval or more specific controls ([www. navitus.com](http://www.navitus.com)).

**If you have a problem:**

If you have a problem and your Case Manager or other personnel at Anthem or Navitus are not making progress on your situation, our new Benefits Manager in Human Resources, Wendy Corbin, is very knowledgeable and can help you navigate the System. Wendy’s contact information is (760) 744-1150, Ext. 2889.

**Things to consider:**

The world of health care is getting more complex and expensive every day. We all need to be smart health care

consumers by knowing how to navigate both Medicare and Palomar’s benefit plan. We all need to education ourselves in these matters for the benefit of our own health and to be an advocate for our rights and needs. We each need also to have a family or friend that can act as an advocate for us if the need arises.

Remember, PACRA has four(4) members who serve on the campus-wide Benefits Committee and our concerns are heard and respected in that forum. Your continued support of PACRA is necessary as it is your only voice in maintaining the benefits we have. ◆

## LEGISLATIVE WATCHDOG UPDATE

**DeMAIO-REED PENSION MEASURE FLOPS, FOR NOW**

Former San Diego City Councilman Carl DeMaio, along with former San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed, are headed back to the drawing board, following the failure of their latest pension “reform” ballot proposal to gain traction in California.

DeMaio and Reed were hoping to attract funding and political support for a pension reform initiative involving voter approval for each and every future plan throughout the state, negating what is now part of the collective bargaining process.

The California Republican Party failed to endorse the measure during its Anaheim convention held in mid-September 2015. “That the California Republican Party won't back Carl DeMaio's attack on retirement security shows just how shoddy it is,” said Dave Low, Chairman of Californians for Retirement Security. “It's becoming increasingly clear that their measure is destined to fail.”

Sources indicate that the DeMaio/Reed pension reform initiative will be re-written and possibly re-submitted to the Attorney General for qualification on the 2018 state-wide ballot.

## PACRA REQUEST FOR YOUR

EMAIL



ADDRESS

If you haven't already done so, PACRA would very much appreciate having your email address on file. If you prefer we not publish it in our Membership Directory please let us know. We will honor your request for privacy. There are occasions when your Board feels it is in your/our best interest to alert you to events and/or activities that may affect your benefits, and due to the ever-increasing cost of postage it is far more cost-effective for us to do so through email rather than US mail. Thank you for your support.

important stuff goes

**HERE**

### **PACRA Pacer**

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## AACC TO HONOR GEORGE R. BOGGS



This year the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) will be honoring three individuals with its Leadership Award. The Leadership Award, an annual tradition of the AACC since 1982, is presented to individuals whose accomplishments and professional contributions to the community college field have been outstanding. Former Superintendent/President and current PACRA member, George R. Boggs, has been selected as one of those honorees.

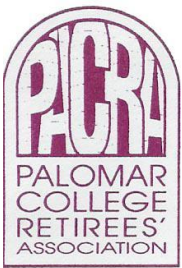
George Boggs served as the ninth president and CEO of the AACC from 2000 to 2010. During that decade, he helped lead an unprecedented period of achievement for community colleges. The colleges were lauded by both the Bush and Obama administrations, and regarded as critical to preparing the nation's workforce for in-demand jobs of the future.

George continues his work with community colleges as a senior consultant and project leader for College Brain Trust, a California-based think tank.

Before coming to AACC, George served for more than 15 years as President/Superintendent of the Palomar Community College District in California, which enrolls more than 26,000 students. Prior to that, he was associate dean of instruction, division chair and instructor of chemistry at Butte College.

He will be honored with this distinguished award during the opening session of the AACC Annual Convention to be held April 9-12, 2016, at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, Illinois.

For more information see AACC release:  
<http://ccdaily.com/Pages/Campus.Issues/George-R-Boggs-Leadership-Award.aspx>. ♦



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**IMPORTANT REMINDER!**

Please keep your address, phone number, email, and emergency contact information updated with Palomar College. The form is located at the following link:

<http://www2.palomar.edu/pages/hr/files/2013/08/address-name-change-form-cw-11.09.12.pdf>

Should the district need to communicate with you, or your advocate, this information will be essential. You can reach Wendy Corbin, Palomar College Benefit Specialist at (760) 744-1150, Ext. 2889 or email: [wcorbin@palomar.edu](mailto:wcorbin@palomar.edu)

**SAVE THE DATE**



Mark your calendars and plan to attend PACRA's

**Annual Meeting** to be held on Thursday, May 19, 2016, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm, at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 111 North Twin Oaks Valley Road, San Marcos. Lunch will be served at noon.

Please plan to join us ... renew acquaintances, take photos and just plain relax and enjoy the company of long-time colleagues.

**COME JOIN THE FUN!**