



The **PACRA Pacer**

Where are they now?

GEORGE BOGGS, Ph.D., San Marcos, CA



After more than 15 wonderful years as president of Palomar College, I retired in September of 2000. Ann and I moved to a small condominium in Washington DC, where I worked as president of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) for more than ten years of representing the na-

colleges and 12 million students. Highlights of our time in DC include working with the Bush Administration to prepare workers to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina and to prepare security workers after the attacks on 9/11/01—and working with the Obama Administration on the White House Summit on Community Colleges.

Ann and I moved back to San Marcos in 2011 and built a new home in North Twin Oakes Valley, across from Walnut Grove Park. We enjoy spending time with our sons and their families, including a grandson who lives nearby. Some would say that I am flunking retirement as I am still teaching doctoral classes in higher education and chairing dissertation committees at San Diego State University and Kansas State University. Since retiring from AACC, I have provided consulting services to help colleges in California, Wyoming, Michigan, New Mexico, Utah, Oregon, and Minnesota—and I am

PACRA and the Campus-Wide Benefits Committee

All campus employee groups have representation on the campus-wide Benefits Committee. We retirees are very fortunate to have representation because Palomar College is one of the very few



Steve Spear, Vice-President, PACRA

community colleges to have retiree representation on a committee such as this. The committee discusses broad concerns about health, dental, and other benefits and makes recommendations to the administration about changes in coverage, carriers, and common specific problems that may occur. For many reasons, the committee does not usually discuss specific problems that may arise with individuals. Such matters are handled through the Human Resources department. The committee has 18 voting members. PACRA has 4 voting members and one alternate. Thus, we retirees are a strong voice in decisions the committee may make.

The previous college administration undertook several actions to reduce the costs to the district of current employee and retiree benefits. PACRA representatives made it clear that reducing coverage to current Group I retirees (those employed before March 1994) with over 20 years of service) was counter to

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chair of the Board for Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for community college students. Since retiring from AACC at the end of 2010, I have written 28 articles or chapters on higher education. Our most recent book, *Team Leadership in Community Colleges* was just released in January.

Now that I am not a college president, I have been able to spend more time in my woodshop and garden, and I enjoy developing creative

recipes for meals and desserts. Woodshop projects include making bowls and cutting boards and working with my sons to make furniture and archery bows. Ann and I continue to support our wonderful college through membership in the President's Associates and attending college performances and celebrations. We value our continuing connections with friends and colleagues through PACRA. ◇

Woodworking Projects by Dr. Boggs



1. Orange Wood and Resin Bowl
2. Candlestick and bandsaw flowers
3. Captive ring baby rattles & cherry and resin bowl

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



Your Board and I hope you are staying safe and well in the extraordinary circumstances we find ourselves in these days. I doubt any of us dreamed we'd be dealing with a pandemic and the massive, world-wide disruptions it is causing. Having to cancel our annual meeting was sad for us "locals" and, circumstances permitting, we look forward to April 2021 when we can be together again. Based on comments

from your 2019 evaluations, we will have a microphone! Until then, take good care and send us your news and updates.

Your Board has been active in recruiting new members, especially from the bumper crop of 2020 retirees. There were over 40 retirements this year!

Retiree health benefits are at the top of everyone's priority list; please see Dr. Steve Spear's excellent summary of how your Board is addressing this critical issue. We remain vigilant in service to our mission in this regard. Thanks to all of you who sent in the prescription benefits survey; a summary of the results will follow in a future PACER and/or via an email blast.

Palomar College is facing diffi-

cult times due to the financial crisis and the Covid-19 virus. It is impressive how, in a very short time this spring, classes were moved on line and steps taken by the College and the Foundation to assist students facing a variety of serious challenges. In the absence of applications for the PACRA scholarship, your Board voted to make a one-time donation of \$1000.00 to the Foundation to assist students.

Thanks to my fellow Board members for their outstanding work and special thanks to John Dise for a generous donation in support of the PACER. You are all appreciated more than you know!

Judy ❤️

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established case law in California. Thus, when they moved all retirees over 65 to a Medicare Part D plan against our wishes (and without any input from us), we pointed out that such a move requiring us to make Part D premium payments was illegal. Therefore, the District agreed to reimburse us for any such payments. These re-imbursement procedures remain confusing, and for many people, very difficult to accomplish. This is an on-going issue.

Representatives from PACRA (but NOT using

using PACRA funds) engaged an attorney and obtained written confirmation that our opposition to any future cuts or changes agreed with California state case law. We shared those affirmations with the administration and the Palomar College Governing Board. As of this date, PACRA and the Palomar Administration are in agreement that our current benefits are not subject to change.

PACRA will continue to monitor and defend retiree benefits.



WATCH THIS SPACE

The Library/Learning Resource Center Grand Opening on Friday, February 22, 2019 featured a number of speakers and a ceremonial ribbon cutting by the Governing Board Members. All agreed that student Kena Haun stole the show. Those of us fortunate to attend the 2019 PACRA Annual Meeting had the privilege of hearing Ms. Haun speak of her gratitude to Palomar and what it meant to her on her path to a bachelor's degree and beyond.

A future edition of The Pacer will include an article from the LRC staff about this fabulous facility and what it means to students, staff and the community. Until then, please enjoy these pictures!



"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."

"Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else."

Palomar College's new Maintenance & Operations building named best "Green Project" in So. California





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❖ Receive our emails by sending us your email address if you have not already done so.

❖ Keep abreast of PACRA news and activities by logging on to our website at: <https://www2.palomar.edu/pages/pacra>

❖ Have a question or comment?
Email us at: pacraboard@gmail.com

PACRA Mission Statement

The Palomar College Retirees' Association provides a forum for fellowship and community for Palomar retirees. PACRA, a unique organization, represents all college retirees.

The mission of PACRA is to foster active communication between the retiree and the college; to monitor retiree benefits; to inform retirees of health and welfare issues; and, to administer the PACRA scholarship.