

# Days of Grace

FEBRUARY 2016

## Hurricane Katrina Lives On

From Floyd Quenzer

**N**early eleven years ago, Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Katrina was followed by four additional hurricanes of different strengths. Of all the cities along that coast, the city of New Orleans was damaged the most. The devastation was unbelievable. People scatter far and wide during the recovery process and many people have chosen not to return at all. While much recovery work has been accomplished by many groups, driving through the 9th Ward, one sees many vacant lots, damaged home, and roads that are nearly impassable.

Into this setting seven retired clergy, spouses, and friends arrived on October 30, 2015. This was the 9th trip RCA had sponsored to New Orleans. We were graciously received by "Coach", the director of the Rampart Community Center. We spent time settling into the dorm-like accommodations, toured parts of the city, worshipped at St. Marks UMC and then on Monday morning began 5 days of fairly intensive labor.

We spent two and one-half days working on a house that had been damaged but was being repaired. One of the issues that has, and continues to, confront the rebuilding process is the lack of integrity in city government and in the building trades in general. In this house we discovered that the electrical contractor had failed to string the wires of the electrical outlets is just one example. Our second project was at a local church where we cleaned up showers that had been installed and hooked up clothes dryers for a program related to single parents. Our final day was spent scraping up floor tile from former classrooms so the church could get permits to rebuild the upstairs room for apartments. The rooms had been damaged by volunteers who had been provided a place to stay.

As a team, through our working together, providing worship experiences, and supporting each other in many ways, we developed a comradeship that will remain with us.

Thank you RCA for providing us this opportunity to serve in New Orleans.

*"Total hours worked: 43 hours x 6 people = 258 volunteer hours.*

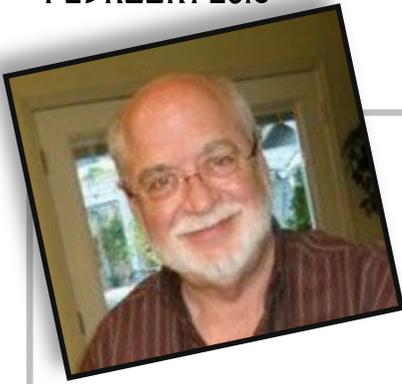
*1 single family home and 2 churches.*

*\$2040 donated in cash and supplies to the ongoing programs."*



### In This Issue

- Adventures of VIM in New Orleans
- Spring Fling Registration
- We Hear From...
- Words from Colleagues
- Board of Directors



## President's Ponderings

~Dave Bennett

Greetings Friends,

Grace and Peace to each of you as we move through Epiphany towards the Lenten Season. I trust that Lent will be a season of reflection and renewal for you all.

As you know, the liturgical season of Lent is forty days long (not including Sundays). It is a season to look inward, to reflect on our spiritual disciplines, to renew those disciplines, and to prepare us for the joy of Easter Day.

Ann Weems writes of this season of renewal in her book *Kneeling in Jerusalem...*

*Lent*

*Lent is a time to take the time  
to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,  
a time to let the events  
get up and walk around in us,  
a time to intensify  
our living unto Christ,  
a time to hover over  
the thoughts of our hearts  
a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem  
or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,  
a time to touch his robe  
and feel the healing surge through us,  
a time to ponder and a time to wonder...*

*Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!*

During this holy and sacred season, may we ponder and wonder of the ways we can *live more unto Christ* and *feel his healing surge through us*. May Lent touch us, change us, heal us.

Be gentle with yourself, with others, with all creation.

Blessings and Peace,

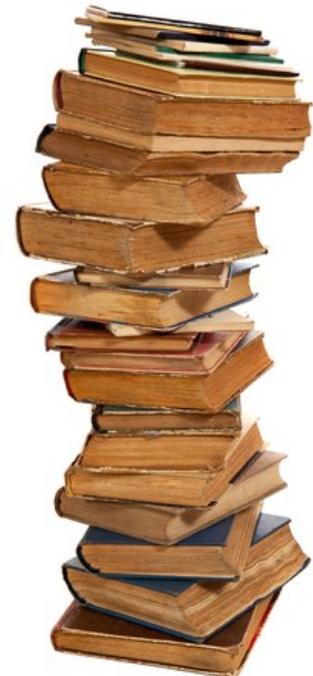
Dave

## Volunteer(s) Needed!

The Board of Pensions is looking for a volunteer or two or maybe three, to sort through some old Journals. When they moved, they uncovered Journals dating back decades. There are multiple copies of some and they are looking to just keep one copy and send the remainder on to the Archives. The work will take place at the Board of Pensions office on Howe Ave. in Sacramento.

Contact:

Paul Extrum-Fernandez if you have an interest.  
916-913-1049



## New Office Info

The Board of Pensions is now located at:

1337 Howe Ave. Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
Phone: 916-913-1049  
Fax: 916-913-1449  
Please use these numbers to contact Paul Extrum-Fernandez or Brian Grimmer at the Board of Pensions.

For RCA, continue to use:  
9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #104-141  
Elk Grove, CA 95624  
as the mailing address.

## Executive Officer's Message

Greetings and salutations! I hope this issue of Days of Grace finds your days filled with grace indeed!



2016! Is it just me or does it seem like yesterday that we were worried about the Y2K bug and the collapse of all computer programs?

While not as big (or was that bust?) as Y2K, this year brings some changes. First of all, I have moved out of my home office and into an office with the Board of Pensions. The Board of Pensions moved from Oakland to Sacramento and generously offered office space to the RCA. In an odd coincidence, I had been thinking how I'd like to have a not-in-my-house office about three days before Paul called and offered up the same. It was meant to be! This means I will be keeping more regular office hours and leave work at work on weekends and holidays. This will give me and my family better work/life balance.

You probably have noticed a different look to this issue of Days of Grace too. I have simply changed desktop publishing programs as my old one has been "improved" to the point it is unusable for my purposes. Nothing more than that. Same info, new look.

The Conference office, a 2015 event, has moved to a new space as well. It is just down the street from the old building. Turn south onto Halyard instead of north. It's right on the corner of Halyard and Beacon.

I hope all your "new" is the good kind of new this year!

*~Nancy*



Have you moved?  
New phone number?  
New email address?

Please send updates to:

RCA  
9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141  
Elk Grove, CA 95624

[nancydaley@frontiernet.net](mailto:nancydaley@frontiernet.net)



## SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED BY RCA IN 2015

The Retired Clergy Association received special donations in memory of persons who passed away during 2015, and in honor of others. Funds were credited to specific projects or funds as designated by the donors, including: Seminary Scholarship Fund; Health Care Assistance Fund; per diem; UMVIM; and general RCA activities. All donations are tax deductible and RCA welcomes the opportunity to recognize and honor those who have served Christ through the church.

In memory of:	Bob Hawthorne	Robert Schlager
Fortunata Autajay	Evelyn Herrell	Franklin Scott
Jim Barker	Jong-Won Kim	Everett Swedenburg
John Berger	Michael Morizono	Dennis Taber
Linda Butler	Callie Morozono	Alfred Thornburg
Travis Campell	Bob Moon	Wayne Williams
Art Catterall	Doris Moon	Sarge Wright
Rolfe Conrad	Wally Riches	In Honor of:
James Corson	Frank Roberts	Bob Chicou
Don Fellers	Suzanne Sartoring	In Thanks to God

### *Opportunities to Assist Others*

The RCA has two major funds that have been established to assist others. The first is our Memorial Scholarship program to assist seminary students with their expenses. The second is our Health Care Assistance Program. In the face of increasing health insurance premiums, deductibles, and related costs, some are experiencing difficulties making payments. If you are in the position to help either group, please send your contribution with a note indicating how to direct your donation. Together we can help those in need.

Make your check payable to: RCA

Send to: RCA  
 9328 Elk Grove Blvd.  
 #105-141  
 Elk Grove, CA 95624



## Northern Nevada

Elena De La Peña

The Retired Clergy of the district gathered in mid October for their bimonthly luncheon. The luncheon was graciously arranged and hosted by Elaine and John Schmidt in a Chinese restaurant. In December clergy and spouses gathered at the home of Nadine DeWitt and John Sublett to celebrate the Christmas season.

Nadine DeWitt and John Sublett to celebrate the Christmas season.

**Nadine DeWitt and John Sublett** spent time in Yosemite Nat'l Park celebrating their third wedding anniversary in October. They reported great weather and no smoke from the fires. In December they spent a week in Italy.

**John and Janice Emerson** drove to Southern California to attend their youngest daughter's wedding in September.

**Art Gafke and Elena De La Peña** spent a few days in July in Mendocino to celebrate Elena's birthday. It was hotter than normal. They explored the Botanical Garden south of Fort Bragg and ran into a friend's son, Matthew, and his family. The last time they'd seen Matthew was when he was seven years old. In December they joined son Adam and his wife Silvia for a wine tasting tour in Napa.

**Tom Butler** attended a PreConference on John and Judaism to be held at Mercer University's McKathy School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia, from November 18-20. Following the Pre-Conference session he attended the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature from November 21 - 23rd, 2015.

**Patrick and Carol Leamy** were welcomed to the Retired Clergy Group's luncheon.

**John and Helen Foster** have moved from Kings Beach, CA, into an apartment in a graduated senior residential home (The Cascades) in Sparks. All three of their children (Ginger, Bard and Susan) helped transfer them into their new living quarters. Their new address is 295 Neighborhood Way, #327, Sparks 89441. Phone: 775-424-2304.

**Mary Helen Thomas** joined the retired clergy luncheons in October and December. It was a happy moment to see her and welcome her. She spent Christmas with her children on the East Coast. A second memorial service was held late September in memory of Larry Thomas

**Velma Thornburgh** fell at home the week of January 10th and has been resting in bed. The retired clergy hope to have a luncheon in Fernley in order to include Velma, widow of Alfred. Velma lives with her daughter in Fernley, Nevada.



FEBRUARY 2016

## Sacramento Is-Beens

*Sue Angove*

**ALBRIGHT, JOHN and LOIS** are staying close to home for now. Lois fell in her kitchen around Christmastime. She fractured vertebrae in her upper and lower spine. She is home from the hospital now receiving excellent care from John and home health nurses. Then John broke his arm! Please take some time to send cards and prayers.

**ANGOVE, JERRY and SUE** enjoyed some R & R at their So. California timeshare in early December. Christmas was special with their children, grandchildren, and two of Jerry's siblings and families gathered in Sacramento. Sleepovers at Grandpa and Gram's house in December and January have been delightful! Our colds have not been delightful!

**CALLAWAY, NORMAN and ARDITH** are looking at some changes ahead. Norman was hospitalized with high blood pressure and is now in rehab. They will be moving to St. John's Retirement Home once Norman is on the mend.

**DAHL, JAN** had her house full of family for Christmas. She enjoyed every minute of their presence. She also enjoys continued support from retired clergy offering prayers, making calls to her, and sending her cards.

**FADO, DON and JEAN** reported in our fall Days of Grace that infant great grandson Connor was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor located between his heart and lungs. Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, Connor had surgery to remove the tumor. Drs. had told the family surgery would last 10 hours, it lasted 5. The now 8 month old baby was expected to remain hospitalized for some time. Instead, he IS HOME as of Tuesday. It is amazing what God does when we put our faith and trust therein, when we pray, when we learn this MIRACLE has happened. Hallelujah!

**GRUNDMAN, DEB and GARY** keep busy with Gary continuing to serve as interim pastor at Evergreen UMC, San Jose. The two of them have renewed interest in handbells at Evergreen where a group of beginner ringers shared in the Christmas Eve services. Deb is spending time in PA with

her grandsons for a short visit while their father travels on business. After a summer visit together, the PA grandsons asked if they could continue reading aloud each night via IPad. Now, four and one half months later, this continues nightly. It is a GREAT way to stay in touch and grow a library of favorites!

**HINSHAW, DOREEN and LARRY** celebrated ten years of marriage on September 17 with a trip to Tahoe. Despite a return of Larry's cancer (bladder cancer in the lungs) they have been able to take many trips to visit family and see more corners of the country! All of their children are doing well and they look forward to starting a new chemotherapy regimen. He will be in a trial study that will include the same medication that was much help to President Carter in his recent cancer fight. Life is full!

**JULSING, KAY WATTERS** is so grateful to God that daughter Kathy is doing so much better following cancer therapy. Our prayers for her are still appreciated and helpful. Kay is grateful for life and health as we begin this New Year, 2016. She wishes a



## VIM—Continuing to Serve

The VIM Committee, chaired by Betty Pagett, is looking for both volunteers and input on where to serve. There are some that wish to continue the annual trip to New Orleans, as there is still plenty of work to be done. However, interest has been expressed in VIM trip or trips more local. Specifically, in the fire areas within the Cal-Nevada Conference.

If you are interested in serving in either area...or even a different site altogether, please reach out to Betty at [bettypagett@gmail.com](mailto:bettypagett@gmail.com) or 707-981-8636.

peaceful New Year to all.

**KIMBALL, CONNIS and TOM** continue his interim pastorate at Downs Memorial UMC, Oakland. It is going very well. Connis had a total knee replacement November 18<sup>th</sup> and is recovering nicely. She is involved with the rehab stage at this time. Let us keep them in our thoughts and prayers. Cards help too!

**MARTIN, ED and EVA** went to their granddaughter's wedding on the beach in Santa Cruz. The family all brought their RV's. They had a family campout at New Brighton Beach State Park. She had a lovely wedding and reception and we ALL had fun!

Both Ed and Eva are dealing with health issues, In spite of all of the Drs' visits, we are doing just fine and are planning an RV trip soon!

**MOON, DORIS** left this earth December 13<sup>th</sup> to join husband Bob in Heaven. We will honor her and celebrate her life this Martin Luther King day at St. Marks UMC, Sacramento. Well done, good and faithful SERVANT.

**SCHWARZENTRAUB, BETSY and KEN** are enjoying good health following some concerns this past spring. They spent wonderful holiday time with their family. Their two rescue dogs continue to bring great joy to them. The younger dog is in good health now following diagnosis and daily treatment for diabetes. Their very old horse had to be put down. That has been quite an adjustment for the two remaining horses, as well as for Betsy, Ken, and their dogs. Good health brings blessings and the realization that we must not take it for granted. AMEN.

## South Valley

**Ray Alderman** enjoys his electric wheelchair. It does, however, limit his activities. He no longer travels at night, but does get out during the day, including church. He and his son, Mark, were with his daughter and family for Christmas. He is proud of his grandson who is at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where he is studying architecture. This was a dream Ray once had, but God had other plans! Ray has postponed moving to a retirement residence for now.

**David and Sherry Atkins** bought a condo in Laguna Woods, after a great deal of research. They have two daughters that live in Southern California, and made the move over the holidays. They will keep their home in Bakersfield, and use the condo for extended visits with their daughters' families. They enjoyed Christmas at their cabin and their new condo. They both continue to be involved in the music at Bakersfield Wesley UMC and Laguna Country UMC.

**Dick Bayard** and his youngest daughter, Paula (who lives with him), found the Christmas season a bit of a let-down. He had a bout of angina mid-month that resulted in another stent added to his prior bypass. Then, Paula got sick, causing them to cancel dinner with friends. However, the smoked turkey was a life-saver during a week of recuperation with "no time or energy to cook." The lights and decorations were done in time for the house to be festive.

**Alf Christiansen** died on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. His daughter reported that the service was to be held in Sa-

Sylvia Corson

linas on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. You will receive this newsletter after this date. This reporter was very sad to hear the news. He was a fascinating person, and a real joy to converse with in our phone visits. Alf was the author of three books of poetry and stories. He was a warm, kind gentleman.

**John and Sylvia Corson** spent Christmas with their W. Sacramento grandsons and parents, and then with their sons and wives in Bakersfield. Their September cruise crossing the North Atlantic was spectacular! They will celebrate John's 80<sup>th</sup> with a 30 day "Hawaii and South Pacific Voyage" in April. On this trip they will visit their 100<sup>th</sup> different country, including all 7 continents! They have experienced amazing sights, fascinating cultures, wonderful people, and learned much history.

**Harry and Anita Dutt's** youngest daughter came to Santa Barbara to join them and their oldest daughter's family for Thanksgiving. After Christmas, they took the train to Palm Springs to be with their son's family for 4 days. They watched their grandson, Ryan (16 and 6' 5 1/2") play in a basketball tournament that included teams from as far away as Germany and Georgia. The Liberty HS team had 3 wins by 2 points, and 1 loss by 3 points. It was an exciting time!

**Brian and Barbara Mark** spent the holidays at their place in Los Osos, just west of San Luis Obispo. They had their children together at Christmas for the first time in several years. Brian is pastor at St. Mark's UMC, Bakersfield, where they cel-

celebrated Christmas Eve with the largest congregation they have had in a long time. It was an exciting service with a wonderful response from everyone. Their adult Discipleship class is studying *"The Call"* by Adam Hamilton.

**Mark and Young Moon** wish everyone a Happy New Year. In 2015 they traveled extensively, including Korea with a Korean group of 140. Mark's second son joined them for his first Korean trip. Then, they went to the Czech Republic to visit with Young's son and family. This was a special time to welcome a new granddaughter. Afterwards, they took a River Cruise from Prague to Paris. The Christmas holidays were spent in Southern California with family. Whew!

**Bob and Nancy Schwartz** had a lot of hospital time the last few months of 2015. There were three admissions in six weeks for Bob. He got out of the hospital in late December, just in time to attend celebrations on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. They rejoice and give thanks that Bob is feeling much better than he has in a long time. They are delighted that their son, wife, and grandson, Malcom, are back in Oakland permanently after living in Paris.

**Alpha Takagi** turned 98 in November, according to Mark Moon, who keeps in touch with Alpha faithfully. Mark reports that Alpha lacks energy these days, and is mostly homebound. Let's keep Alpha in our prayers, along with our other colleagues.

**Sharon Watson** is planning to have some major work done on her home. She has decided that floor tile is the best way to deal with her dogs in the house. She has a houseful of exquisite doll houses that are showpieces to protect, also. Her son, Joel, has joined the Navy. He is based in Chicago, and was home for Christmas. Her son, Jonathon, escaped the recent raging fires in Washington. She spent Christmas with her daughter and family.

**Harry and Ruth Woods** are now living in a condo in Visalia, after deciding to downsize. Ruth continues to have some health struggles. She had ankle surgery in October, but the surgery was not successful. Also, the surgical wound is still healing very slowly. There will need to be another surgery. This news has been disconcerting for both Ruth and Harry. A Christmas joy was a 3 day visit by their daughter, Robin, who lives in Miami.



Word has been heard from....

Michael Swartz & Nancy McConnell

**R**ev. Michael Swartz (former pastor of First UMC Redwood City and Hillsdale UMC in San Mateo) was appointed ABLC in 1990 when his family moved to the Quad Cities in Iowa for a career change for his wife, Nancy McConnell. Michael received dual standing with the United Church of Christ and became pastor of Church of Peace UCC in Rock Island, IL. He retired in 2012 after serving that congregation for 21 years. Retirement lasted one month when he became Interim Pastor at First Congregational UCC in Moline, IL for 18 months. After another brief retirement, he became Interim Pastor at Congregational UCC in Sparta, WI, about a 3-hour drive from home. That position will end in January 2016. Michael also continues to serve as part-time Pastor of Visitation at First Congregational UCC in Moline. As Nancy says, "Michael brings new meaning to the word retired!"

Michael and Nancy have two adult daughters. Rebecca Swartz lives in Long Beach, CA and is finishing a Master's Degree in Theater Management. Taylor Swartz is an English Language Learning Teacher in Minneapolis and is engaged to Jesse Cole. The family is looking forward to their wedding next summer. Nancy is a Speech-Language Pathologist in the public schools and is looking forward to maybe retiring soon....but only if Michael really retires!

We enjoy reading about former California-Nevada colleagues in the RCA newsletter!

## Pacific NorthWest

Bert Schniepp

**Ginnie and Larry Pearson** write that this past August they decided to relocate to a retirement community near their children.

"We now live in Roseville, CA, just 5 miles from our son's family and not too far from our daughter's family in Napa. We are happily settling into a brand new home and re-acquainting ourselves to an area we lived in 25+ years ago and re-connecting with old-time friends. We miss Ashland and our friends there, but this seemed like a wise decision at this time of our lives."

Their new address is:

Ginnie and Larry Pearson  
1440 Volonne Dr.  
Roseville, CA 95747

**Bert and Linda Schniepp** spent last October enjoying the gorgeous fall scenes and activities in several different parts of Washington, and returned home to spend a quieter fall and winter leading into the new year. Both kept busy with many neighborhood, church, and community activities and enjoying the coastal Oregon weather that has remained fairly mild again this year. They are looking forward to visiting with family and friends on a trip to California in February. Their daughter Jenny keeps very busy during the holiday season singing and playing handbells at Disney's California Adventure, Knott's Berry Farm and two restaurants.

# Spring Fling April 20—21, 2016

FEBRUARY 2016

Christ The King Retreat Center

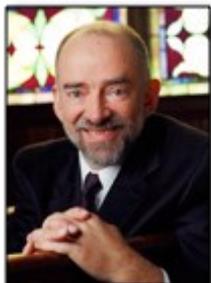
6520 Van Maren Lane \* Citrus Heights, CA 95621 \* 916-725-4720

## Barbara Troxell SEEKING BALANCE



Following service as a campus minister, pastor, and district superintendent within the bounds of the California-Nevada Conference, Barbara served as dean of students at Pacific School of Religion and finally on faculty of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. There she was director of field education and taught courses in spiritual formation and in UM studies. She and her husband Gene Boutilier live at Pilgrim Place in Claremont, CA where they are involved in many circles from music-making and spiritual guidance to peace and justice actions.

Barbara will be speaking and interacting with us on “Seeking Balance.” She has been engaging this theme with emphasis on four balances in diverse contexts of our lives: Solitude and Community; Keeping Silence and Speaking; Letting Go and Holding On; Lamenting and Rejoicing. Many resources come into play from the Psalms and Jesus to historical and contemporary thinkers, writers, musicians, and, of course, our own lives, in how we experience and respond to both the dreadful and the beautiful within and around us.



## Dan Damon – Music

Dan is an internationally published writer of hymn texts and tunes. He serves as adjunct faculty of church music at the Graduate Theological Union, Center for the Arts, Religion, and Education in Berkeley, California.

He has four published hymn collections: *Faith Will Sing* *To the Thirsty World*  
*The Sound of Welcome* *Fields of Mercy*

### Registration Form

# \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street

Apt#

City

State

Zip

We will (check one): **Stay on Campus** \_\_\_\_\_ | *Bring an RV for lodging* \_\_\_\_\_ | Commute daily \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUTERS, Thursday breakfast on campus? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Bed preference: Two single beds \_\_\_\_\_ Double bed \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: On-campus: \$120 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL **per person** by April 1 (\$135 after April 1)

**First time** attendees \$ 60 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL **per person** by April 1 (\$67.50 after April 1)

RV/Commuter: \$ 75 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL **per person** by April 1 (\$85 after April 1)

**First time** attendees \$ 35 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL **per person** by April 1 (\$42.50 after April 1)

Scholarship Assistance? \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have special needs?\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*We cannot accommodate specific **dietary** requests.

**Make Check Payable to: RCA** Send to: Registrar Nancy Daley, 9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141, Elk Grove, CA 95624

Office Use Only: S \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ CK# \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Rm \_\_\_\_\_

California-Nevada Annual Conference of the  
United Methodist Church  
Retired Clergy Association  
P.O. Box 980250  
West Sacramento, CA 95758-0250

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
PERMIT NO. 1914

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: *Dave Bennett*

Vice President: *Marty Murdock*

Treasurer: *Doug McCoy*

Secretary: *Carolee Catterall*

Scholarship Program: *Judson Gears*

UMVIM: *Betty Pagett*

Spring Fling: *Larry and Lynn George*

Relational Care: *vacant*

Class of 2016: *Carol Carter, Jim Current, Bill & Kate Johnson,*

*Class of 2017: Jerry Angove, Carolee Catterall, Siosifa Setoki, Dave Thompson*

*Class of 2018: Janna Adamson, Debbie Dillon, Tom Kimball, Floyd Quenzer*

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Nancy Daley

9328 Elk Grove Blvd. #105-141

Elk Grove, CA 95624

**916-539-4249**

nancydaley@frontiernet.net

<http://ca-nv-rca.org/>

## Upcoming Events

February 17-

Board of Directors  
Meeting

March 9 -

Executive Committee  
Meeting

April 20-21

Spring Fling

June 22-25

Annual Conference  
Session > Burlingame