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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Kellogg

Dear Friends,

Not much has changed since I last wrote to you in our Fall Quarter newsletter regarding our ability to meet face-to-face as an Association. The good news, thankfully, is that we do have the Zoom platform to come together, at least virtually. I hope you participated in our Fall meeting where we received an update from President Armstrong about Cal Poly, and all that had changed and was taking place at the start of the quarter. We were also honored to meet Professor Aydin Nazmi (Food Science and Nutrition Department) who shared with us many very impressive actions the university took regarding the COVID-19 situation.

Your Board has been meeting regularly to further our organization, and plan for future events. We owe a debt of gratitude to our Board members for their continued service to our Association. Our Board members include Gail Simmons who serves as Treasurer/Membership Chairperson, Carolyn Jones serving as our Secretary, Laura Dimmitt oversees our student scholarship program as our Scholarship Chairperson, Elaine Ramos Doyle serves as our Newsletter Editor, Kathy Mastako serves as our Membership Recruitment Facilitator, Don Morris serves as our Membership Enhancement Chairperson, Dana Azevedo is our Facilitator of Special Events, and Joe Grimes serves as our Past President. We welcome Dr. Jim Murphy as our new Vice President. Jim taught in the Industrial Technology Department and was a former Chairman of the Academic Senate during his tenure as a Professor. Jim replaces V.L. Holland who stepped down from the Vice President's role due to medical reasons. I appreciate Jim's willingness to serve our Association.

The Cal Poly RFSA has awarded two scholarships again this year. Our robust RFSA Student Centennial Scholarship program is pleased to have awarded two \$3,000 scholarships. You can read about our scholarship recipients in Laura Dimmitt's article in this newsletter.

At our September 17, 2020 Board meeting, the Board posed the question as to whether we should extend Membership and Life Membership to surviving spouses. We also considered whether faculty and staff in the same family should pay dues separately. The Board is recommending changes to our by-laws. (See article below) The proposed by-law changes will be voted on by the membership during our February 18 general meeting.

The Board is very excited about our February 18 Winter Quarter general meeting. The theme of the program will focus on the pandemic situation in San Luis Obispo County and at Cal Poly. A panel consisting of Dr. Aydin Nazmi (Faculty member in the Food Science and Nutrition Department and member of the Cal Poly COVID-19 task force), Dr. Keith Humphrey (Vice President for Student Affairs), and Dr. Penny Bornstein MD, MPH (San Luis Obispo County Health Officer/Public Health Director) will bring us up to speed on COVID-19 issues in our area. Clearly, this is an important topic to address with the surge of COVID-19 cases we are now seeing on the Central Coast. A time for question and

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RETIRED FACULTY & STAFF ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Dr. Bill Kellogg bkellogg@calpoly.edu

PROGRAMS VICE PRESIDENT

Jim Murphy jlmurphy@calpoly.edu

TREASURER

Gail Simmons gsimmons@calpoly.edu

SECRETARY

Carolyn Jones carolynjones123@sbcglobal.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Elaine Ramos Doyle eramosdo@calpoly.edu

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR Laura Dimmitt ldimmitt@gmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Dr. Joe Grimes jgrimes@calpoly.edu

MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Don Morris dmmorris@calpoly.edu

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT FACILITATOR
Kathy Mastako

klmastak@calpoly.edu

FACILITATOR OF SPECIAL EVENTS Dana L. Azevedo

dazevedo@calpoly.edu

UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Jenny Heckendorf jheckend@calpoly.edu

answers will be part of this valuable program. You will soon be receiving an invitation to the virtual event that will be held on Zoom. Please be sure to RSVP so that the Zoom link to the event will be sent to you. You can submit questions in advance for the panel members to address in their presentations, or you will be able to ask a question during the Zoom program. These are unique times for us on the Central Coast. I am excited to hear how the university and our county health officials are addressing the many challenges. Moving forward in the months ahead we will continue to see our gatherings being done virtually. Fortunately, we live in an age of technology where we can meet, albeit virtually. If you need help with Zoom or other platforms, please reach out to me. We have personnel who can assist you to get set up or learn how to use Zoom or other aspects of technology. You can call me anytime at (805) 441-7894 or send me an email at bkellogg@calpoly.edu. We certainly do not want you not to participate because of technology issues.

Lastly, our website https://rfsa.calpoly.edu is loaded with information to keep you informed. New content is added frequently and can assist you during these challenging times. Dana Azevedo is watching for online activities/opportunities for our membership and is having them posted on our website.

Although we cannot physically be with each other during this season, we can stay connected and involved with each other. We will continue to support the university as attested by awarding student scholarships, and offering our time, talents, and resources to Cal Poly. Check out Joe Grimes' article in this newsletter about giving back to Cal Poly.

Please stay connected. I am looking forward to "seeing you" on February 18 for our Winter Quarter program.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO BY-LAWS

At our September 17, 2020 Board meeting, the Board posed the question as to whether we should extend Membership and Life Membership to surviving spouses. We also considered whether faculty and staff in the same family should pay dues separately.

The Board is unanimously recommending the following changes to our by-laws (Article IV Membership) that will include:

- 1. "Membership and Life Membership shall pass to the surviving spouse upon death of the member."
- 2. "Retired faculty/and or staff in the same family shall pay Annual or Life membership dues separately."

If you have any questions about these proposed changes to the by-laws, please reach out to Bill Kellogg at (805) 441-7894 or send him an email at bkellogg@calpoly.edu. The proposed by-law changes will be voted on by the membership during our February 18 general meeting.

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from the editor

If you have a short article, remembrance of a significant person, or event from your time at Cal Poly, submit the article and I will include it in our next newsletter.

Please email your article to: eramosdo@calpoly.edu

Or you can mail it to me at:

Elaine Ramos Doyle 2381 Claranita Avenue Los Osos, CA 93402

WINTER QUARTER VIRTUAL EVENT

When: Thursday, Feb. 18, 2-3:30 p.m. PST

Where: Zoom Meeting

Please RSVP by Monday, Feb. 15

Retired Faculty and Staff Club President Bill Kellogg and Vice President Jim Murphy invite you to join them for an interactive panel discussion with experts on COVID-19 and the pandemic's effect on campus and the San Luis Obispo community.

Panelists include Dr. Keith Humphrey, Cal Poly Vice President for Student Affairs; Dr. Aydin Nazmi, epidemiologist and professor in Cal Poly's College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences; and Dr. Penny Borenstein, Public Health Director for San Luis Obispo County.

Please RSVP by clicking the button below. You will have an opportunity to submit questions for the panelists during registration.

The Zoom meeting link, password and instructions will be emailed upon your reply.

http://calpoly.imodules.com/s/699/bp19/interior.aspx?sid=699&gid=1&pgid=1649

RETIRED FACULTY & STAFF MEMBERSHIP

By Kathy Mastako

Know Someone Who's Recently Retired? Give Them the Gift of RFSA Membership!

Perhaps the "giving season" is over until the holidays roll around again in 2021, but there's no reason you can't surprise a recent Cal Poly retiree *now* by gifting them an annual membership in the Retired Faculty and Staff Association and paying their 2021 \$10 dues. It's a nice and thoughtful way to congratulate a co-worker, colleague, or special person in your Cal Poly career on the occasion of their retirement.

To give the gift of membership to a retiree you know who isn't yet an RFSA member, send a check for \$10, payable to Cal Poly RFSA, to Gail Simmons, 4615 San Vicente Avenue, Atascadero, CA 93422. Be sure to include the retiree's name, your name, and your email address. We'll email you a gift certificate you can either email or snail-mail to the recipient along with your personal note. And if you haven't yet joined yourself, it's a good time to give yourself this gift, too. See the membership forms (annual or lifetime) at the end of this newsletter.

The RFSA was organized to enrich the retirement experience and promote the welfare of its members and to connect retired faculty and staff to Cal Poly and to each other. All retirees are eligible for membership in this Association, as well as encouraged to become members in the CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association. To learn more about joining the RFSA, click here: https://rfsa.calpoly.edu/join. Information on membership in CSU-ERFSA is available at: https://csuerfsa.org/.

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PAID MEMBERS

January 2021 – December 2021

Amaral, Rose* Andrews, Charles* Armentrout, Doris* Baker, Warren* Bailey, Phil* Balasubramanian, K.N.* Baldwin, Sharon * Barboza, Val* Bertrando, Luther 23 Bethel Walt* Bierly, Lee * Biezad, Daniel* Blakely, David 31 Bostrom Ruth* Bragg, Martin* Brookshire, Carol* Brown, Joanie Brown, Johanna* Butler, Kent* Cameron, Rosemary 22 Carter, Lark * Casey, Glen* Ciesielski, Barbara* Coats, Elaine* Connely, John* Cota, Harold* Crabb, Charlie* Daly, James* Dana, Charles* Deaton, Len * Degnan, Jean DeLey, Warren* Devore, Jay* Dimmitt, Laura* Dingus, Del* Duarte, Arthur * Eastham, George * Edmisten, Yvonne* Eltzroth, Tom Equinoa, Richard * Ericson, Jon* Eto, Janice* Eyler, Mary * Fierstine, Harry & Arline* Fong, Jane* Frey, Winton * Fujitani, Sharon* Genereux, Douglas * Gerard, Doug* Glassmeyer, Sonja * Glidden, Marge* Gordon, Raymond*

Gowgani, George *

Grimes, Joe*

Gurnee, Meri Kay* Hale, Tom & Ruth* Hanks, Marjorie* Haskell, Mary Jane Head, Dwayne Henry, David* Herlihy, Jack* Holland, VL* Hollstein, Roy* Holz, Alan* Hood, Myron* Hoover, Robert L.* Hosegood Martin, Patricia* Hostetter, Carolyn* Howard-Green, Paula* Hsu, John* Jenkins, Starr* Johnson, William* Kellogg, Bill* Kenvin, Roger* Kinunen, Diana* Kitamura, Bob* Krishnan, Ramasubramanian*Stebbins, Michael* Kuhlenschmidt, Sharon* Lang, Martin* LaSalle, Tim* Lebens, Frank* Lewis, George* Lindvall, John* Liu, Mei Ling* Loh, Larry Loper, Kathy* Mach, George* Maksoudian, Y. Leon* Mastako, Kathy* McCarren, Laura McCorkle, Bob* McNeely, George* Melvin. Barbara* Michaud, Bill* Michel, Clem* Milburn, Viola* Morris, Don* Mulder, Tahoma* Munro, Dottie 21 Murray, Randall* Naretto, Ed* Neelands, James Nelson, Lawrence* Oates, Guy* O'Connor, Eugene* Olivas, Susan* Palmer, Ken

Greil, Jim*

Plumb, Timothy* Ramos Doyle, Elaine Rathbun, Elaine* Reif, Gary Regan, Jan* Rheinisch, Diana* Richardson, Bill 22 Riener, Kenneth* Rogalla, Connie* Rosenfield, Stan* Rosenthal, Bianca* Saam, Pat* Sabol, Joe* Salo, Glenn* Saltzman-Saveker, Judy* Scales, Harry Schaffner, David* Sharp, Harry Jr.* Simmons, Gail Snyder, Dave* Sorensen, L. Robert* Stansfield, Janis* Starkey, Jean* Stern, Joan* Story, Elisa* Stowe, Keith* Suhr, Moon Ja Minn* Takken, Meredith* Tantum, Claudia 22 Toma, Yvonne* Troy, Bernie* Truex, Joseph Tuttle, Sondra 24 Tyner, Judy* Van Wyngaarden, Willem* Vollmer, Howard* Voss, Carolyn* Waddell, Joseph* Wall, Matt* Walters, Dirk* Waterbury, Archie* Webb, James* Webster, Jim* Wheatley, Patrick & JoAnn* Wiley, J. Barron* Wilson, Malcolm* Yang, Dave* Zuur, Tom*

*Life Member

1/10/2021

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friends noted in passing

BY ELAINE RAMOS DOYLE

LEON MAGUR (PHYSICS)

Leon passed away March 14, 2020. He devoted his life to helping students learn the sciences of math and physics. Leon was a talented wood craftsman, avid hiker, traveler and lover of nature.

RHONDA DeSOMER (COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN)

Rhonda passed away April 28, 2020. She provided secretarial support to the Dean as well as professors in the Architecture Department. She learned to play the organ and served as an organist for churches in San Luis Obispo County.

ROBERT DENSHAM (ART & DESIGN)
Robert passed away July 25, 2020. The
University Art Gallery held an exhibit
which included original sketches, designs
and drawings. His later work includes
poster art, typography and graphics for
the San Luis Chamber Orchestra and
Mothers for Peace.

STEVEN McDERMOTT (COMMUNICATION STUDIES)

Steven passed away August 21, 2020. He served as co-director of the Brock Center for Agricultural Communications. Steven was never idle; always reading, researching for his books, working in the garden and yard, and enjoying family and friends.

WILLIAM HOWARD (CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING)

Bill passed away August 29, 2020. He was a cherished professor and Department Head. Bill used his endless energy to enrich students' planning education and preparedness for the real world by finding ways in which they could assist communities with their planning efforts.

CONTINUED on next page

VIRTUAL SPECIAL EVENTS

By Dana Azevedo

Hope everyone is healthy and doing as well as can be expected during this pandemic! Also hope we're able to gather again soon. In the meantime, below are some ideas to help keep you busy.

-Cuesta College Emeritus Program (Free). This noncredit program boasts enrichment courses catered to the older adult community, with an emphasis on new skill acquisition, healthy living strategies, and artistic expression. Connect with others who share similar interests and continue your path to lifelong learning! They have quite a few offerings and their classes are currently all on Zoom. www.cuesta.edu/academics/continuinged/emeritus/index.html

https://Slolibrary.org_has a 'Best Books of 2020' that you might like to check out?

Have you hiked East Cuesta Ridge Road, also known as Mount Lowe Road? It is a dirt road (wide enough so you can socially distance) that crosses the dominant ridgeline in the Santa Lucia Mountains northeast of San Luis Obispo. Views from the trail extend over San Luis Obispo and its surrounding peaks toward the ocean to the west at Morro Bay and to the south by Oceano Dunes. The hike starts just off Highway 101 at the top of Cuesta Grade. More details:

https://www.hikespeak.com/trails/east-cuesta-ridge-mount-lowe/ For more hiking possibilities in our County, visit: https://www.hikespeak.com/central-coast/san-luis-obispo/

Paso Robles Zoo to You is offering personal experiences during this pandemic: https://pasoroblesdailynews.com/take-a-walk-on-the-wild-side-with-up-close-animal-encounters/119159/

If you find some places you enjoyed, please share via email, dazevedo@calpoly.edu, so we can share with everyone in our next newsletter.

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friends noted in passing

DAVID HARRIS, MD (HEALTH AND COUNSELING SERVICES)
David passed away September 26, 2020. He served as a physician and then became the Executive Director. He always considered it one of the great honors in life to bring compassion and healing to others. David had a lifelong love of the sea through sailing and surfing.

CARROLL MCKIBBIN (POLITICAL SCIENCE) Carroll passed away October 6, 2020. He was truly a citizen of the world. He fostered friendships and connected with people all over the United States and several countries.

NONA MARCIE LITTLE (CORPORATION)
Marcie passed away November 23, 2020.
She could be found at Vista Grande
Restaurant for many years until she
retired to care for her grandchildren.

ESTHER IGLESIAS (GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS/PHILOSOPHY)
Esther passed away December 1, 2020.
She was dedicated and passionate about living her best life and doing her part to make this a better world. Esther was an active member in numerous groups dealing with diversity. She enjoyed making jam, canning/dehydrating fruits and vegetables and sharing these with others.

GEROLAMO SALMINA (PLANT OPERATIONS)

Gerolamo passed away December 2, 2020. He was born in Switzerland and became a citizen in 1968. Gerom retired with a record of no missed time or sick days! He could be found all over town walking with his backpack, visiting friends and having coffee.

CONTINUED on next page

RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

By Laura Dimmitt

Greetings for the New Year!

We are pleased to inform you of the 2020-21 Retired Faculty and Staff Centennial Scholarship recipients from the College of Architecture and Environmental Design and the College of Engineering. Alycia Darby and Evan Hall were each awarded \$3,000. They are the 21st and 22nd students to be awarded this scholarship.

Alycia is an Architectural Engineering major from Honolulu, Hawaii. She is a graduate of President Theodore Roosevelt High School. Her love of structures and interest in engineering building concepts and problem solving led her to Architectural Engineering. Alycia intends to augment her college career by studying abroad. She also hopes to start a non-profit that designs and builds sustainable and safe homes and facilities for communities in need.

Evan Hall is a Mechanical Engineering major from Orange. He is a graduate of Lutheran High School of Orange County. After experiencing a meaningful high school internship in Phantom Works at the Boeing Company facility in Huntington Beach, he hopes to be a workforce leader. Utilizing those experiences as well as the diversified hands-on Cal Poly curricula, Evan hopes to realize satisfaction connecting disciplines to cultivate a broad-based career.

Both are excellent students, and we look forward to meeting Evan and Alycia at the June Jubilee.

At press time, year-end gifts were still being processed. Consequently, the RFS Centennial Scholarship Endowment fair market value is \$163,389 for the month ending November 30, 2020. As always, we encourage you to remember or honor a loved one with a donation to the endowment. You can find a donation form in this newsletter or visit https://rfsa.calpoly.edu/scholarship to donate online. Thank you for your ongoing generosity!

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friends noted in passing

LEON MAKSOUDIAN (MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS)

Leon passed away January 6, 2021. He was instrumental in the development of the Computer Science and Statistics Departments. Leon touched the lives of thousands of students and was well respected by his colleagues. He was a man of strong faith, devoted to family and community and extremely generous to those around him.

JON ERICSON (COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS)

Jon passed away January 19, 2021. As Dean, he pioneered international education programs for students highlighted by the popular London Study program which became the largest study abroad program in the country. Jon also launched summer English programs for visiting Japanese university students and organized numerous campus cultural events.

ROBERT KIMBLE (THEATER AND DANCE)
Bob passed away January 21, 2021. He
worked in Audio-Visual and as a Theater
Technician for many years before
retiring. Bob was a projectionist in local
theaters, enjoyed Native Sons of the
Golden West and was a member of the
American Legion and Cabelleros de San
Luis Obispo.

DALLIS DAY RICHARDSON

(ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE)

Dallis passed away January 27, 2021. She worked in various offices and in supervisory positions for nearly 30 years before she retired. Dallis had a way of putting people at ease with her wit and her charm. She was a master of keeping conversations going in social situations and helping everyone enjoy themselves.

WHO, WHEN AND WHERE?

Lauren McCarren (Facilities) Lauren is working on home improvement projects, second home in Las Vegas, doing some sailing and bicycle riding.

Gary Reif (Dairy Science) Gary admits not doing much since March! But he is still farming wheat, milo and soybeans. Bet you didn't know that one bushel of wheat makes 90 loaves of bread!

Tom Eltzroth (Horticulture) Tom is working on home projects – gardening and battery back-up for solar panels. He is Zooming everything! Tom is also walking and watching baseball – "Go Dodger Blue"!

RETIREE RESOURCES

By Joe Grimes

RETIREES ASSISTING THE UNIVERSITY

This is a challenging and sometimes difficult time for the students, faculty, and staff of the university. For example, budget cuts have caused cutbacks in staffing and student assistant support for faculty. This is a time when our retirees may be able to provide much needed talent and assistance or financial support. Some examples of possible assistance that may be important are the following.

- 1. Assisting staff in various ways
- 2. Assisting in the advising of struggling students
- 3. Helping faculty:
 - a. As a guest lecturer
 - b. In the development of course material
 - c. In grading
 - d. In observing students while they are taking exams online
- 4. Donating to a department to support a particular need

If you are interested, please contact someone you know in a particular department or an appropriate associate dean:

- CAED: Mark Cabrinha (mcabrinh@calpoly.edu)
- CAFES: Bill Hendricks (whendric@calpoly.edu)
- CENG: Eric Mehiel (emehiel@calpoly.edu)
- CLA: Josh Machamer (jmachame@calpoly.edu)
- CSM: Derek Gragson (dgragson@calpoly.edu)
- OCOB: Stern Neill (sneill@calpoly.edu)

They will be able to discuss with you the assistance that you would be able to provide.

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news and dues

Annual dues for 2021 are due January 1, 2021. To pay dues for 2021, enclose your \$10 check payable to: Cal Poly RFSA

Complete and include the form to the right and mail to:

Gail Simmons 4615 San Vicente Ave. Atascadero, CA 93422

Dues for the year are from January 1 through December 31.

For a Life Membership, fill out the Centennial Scholarship Endowment Donation form on the following page. The entire \$250 will be added to the Retired Faculty and Staff Centennial Scholarship Endowment.

Make your \$250 check payable to: Cal Poly Foundation

The entire \$250 will be added to the Retired Faculty and Staff Centennial Scholarship Endowment.

Let Cal Poly know if your contact info needs updating. Please use the form on the right so that your university records stay current.

Retired Faculty & Staff Membership

DUES AND NEWS FORM

Name			
Spouse's name			
Address			
City		State ZIP	
Phone	Email address		
□ Check here if you do	o not have email and need to have	the newsletter maile	ed to you.
Year you began at Cal I	Poly Position/Departmen	t	
☐ Faculty ☐ :	Staff Year retired	_ Today's Date	
Please share some of v	what you are doing in retirement.		
Chack payable to:	Mail the above form and ch	ock to:	
Check payable to: Cal Poly RFSA	Gail Simmons 4615 San Vicente Ave. Atascadero, CA 93422	еск to:	Thank you!
	for University Records		
CURRENT	CONTACT INF	O jor CAL	POLY
Name			
Address			
City		State ZIP	
Email address		Year retired from Cal Poly	
Position/Department		П	Faculty □ Staff

Return this form to:

Jenny Heckendorf / University Development Attn: Cal Poly Retired Faculty and Staff

1 Grand Avenue

San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0443



CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

Please complete this form to donate to the Retired Faculty and Staff Scholarship Endowment. A \$250 donation enables you to become a life member of the Cal Poly Retired Faculty and Staff Association. You may also wish to make a donation in honor of someone or in memory of someone.

Enclosed is my contribution of (check one):	
□\$1,000 □\$500 □\$250 □\$100 □\$	50 🗆 \$
Name(s)	
Address	
City	State ZIP
Phone	
Email address	
Donation in Honor of	
Donation in Memory of	
Make check payable to:	CAL POLY
Cal Poly Foundation	Foundation
Mail check and this form to:	•
Cal Poly	
University Development & Alumni Engagement Attn: Office of Gift Planning	Thankmant
1 Grand Avenue	Thank you!
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0444	

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our

endowment

The Retired Faculty and Staff Centennial Scholarship

Endowment is a way for us to give back and collectively make a greater impact on deserving students. Please consider donating to our endowment by using the form on the right.

One may also donate online at http://bit.ly/2u3r6yM It is a perfect opportunity to secure lifetime dues and/or honor or memorialize someone special.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and believing in the future leaders of tomorrow.

Interested in creating a personal endowment?

Please contact Office of Gift Planning at 805-756-7125 or plannedgiving@calpoly.edu

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VICE PRESIDENT MUSINGS

By Jim Murphy

As you read other jottings in various publications or listen to the news broadcasts, you will begin to understand and realize how this coronavirus has impacted not just our daily lives and activities but our social interactions as well. Here's what I consider a very misleading statement. We are told that except for very special needs, stay home! Well, this almost makes sense. To those of us who've lived in cold climates such as the northeast, or even the Midwest, we know that when winter comes, we hunker down inside! But the advice we hear to "go home and stay inside!" is not good advice. The facts are different: The real advice should be limiting your exposure to others, and in your home environment, (depending on the weather, of course!) get outside! Spend time in your backyard, soak up the sunshine! Get that vitamin D! Inside, it becomes stuffy, and if there are others in the house, you are just sharing the same air! So do your household chores then get outside! Breathe that good central coast fresh air! In my neighborhood, I see many just walking! Sometimes they may be joined by another friend, but just as often, alone. They are out and not cooped up in the house!

Over many years I have traveled around many parts of the world and have visited every state and all of Canada except Newfoundland. Sadly, I am now stuck to my small area of the world! But I do get out! Yes, an occasional visit to the market, but I stay safe! I practice social distancing, and mask up when I do go out! There are some family and special friends that I gather with from time to time. But we exercise extreme caution! So, I would continue to advise you to be safe and smart! Not dumb and foolish! This virus is very contagious, but according to medical experts, the survival rate is about 99.6%. It's we older folks that must be especially careful about our interactions. Hand sanitizers, hot water and soap! Mask up! Be especially careful about touching any surface, and again, 20 seconds especially careful about our interactions. Hand sanitizers, hot water and soap! I had uncles (I never met) that died in the 1918 flu scourge. We survived that and will see this pandemic behind us at some time in the future. I spent thirteen months in Korea and later another thirteen in Okinawa and Vietnam. If I can endure these times from family and loved ones, each of us should be able to look to the future with the glow of knowing "this too shall pass." Some ask why I have such a positive attitude. I ask what is the alternative?