MARILYNN DUNN GUSTAFSON TRUSTEE REPORT September 2014

The MPC Governing Board will be meeting while I am enjoying a 50-year college reunion in Pavia Italy. I have great confidence that you will all carry on fine in my absence. Walt was kind enough to spend a few minutes with me before my departure discussing the agenda. He will share with you any concerns that I might have.

There are a couple of events that occurred this past week that I would like to comment on. The first was the September Government Affairs Committee meeting of the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce. This meeting is well attended with a cross section of private business, agriculture, education, and legislative liasons from Senator Monning's and Assembly Member Stone's offices. In addition to covering local issues, representatives are invited to give updates. I spoke of MPC's restructure of the Child Development Center and also the continuing issue of declining enrollment (hence fiscal problems). Several new program ideas were shared. Fred Meurer spoke about the need for a paramedic program to serve Monterey County; another comment was that providing residential housing had boosted enrollment in other jurisdictions. David Spaur, Director of Economic Development for Monterey County, is very interested in beginning discussions with MPC about Homeland Security training. I have given his card to Walt.

Sunday afternoon I attended the reception for State Superintendent Tom Torlakson. While he is not directly involved with the community colleges he was interested in hearing about our issues. He strongly supports working together (community colleges and k-12) for a seamless continuum. AND he was not at all familiar with the problem that community colleges like MPC are having with serving our adult community and repeatability. He even asked why students who for whatever reason no longer qualify to enroll could not take the same class at the same time as regularly enrolled students AND PAY THEIR OWN WAY. He invited further discussion on this issue and suggested we come up with a proposal.

So, as part of our Board goals I would like to foster a solution to the decline in MPC's adult population and find some means whereby community members can continue to enjoy the wonderful and diverse educational opportunities at MPC.