

## **PBLSA Board of Directors**

### **David Cooper, Chair**

Resides in Paso Robles, CA. David D. Cooper (Ph.D. Brown University, 1977) is Professor Emeritus of American Studies at Michigan State University (MSU). He taught in the English Department at University of California, Santa Barbara (1978-88). At MSU Cooper founded and directed the Public Humanities Collaborative (2004-2009). He is a founding faculty member of MSU's Residential College in Arts and Humanities (established in 2008). The John Fetzer Institute and the Kettering Foundation have supported his writing and research on civic engagement. The author of several books, Cooper recently published a career-spanning selection of essays, *Learning in the Plural: Essays on the Humanities and Public Life*. He maintains an appointment as Senior Editor at Michigan State University Press.

### **Tim Postiff, Vice-chair**

Resides in Cambria, CA. Born and raised in Michigan, Tim moved to California in 1957. He graduated from UC Riverside (B.A. 1963) and taught science at Rialto (CA) Jr. High School (4 years) and physics and math at Aquinas High School in San Bernardino, CA (4 years). Between those two placements he took psychology classes at San Diego State. Tim received a Master of Science Teaching degree from the University of Wisconsin, Superior in 1972. He then taught physics, math and computers at Holbrook (AZ) High School (13 years). While at Holbrook he was at times, chairman of the math department, science department and member and chairman of the curriculum committee. While in Holbrook he also taught math classes for Northland Pioneer (community) College. After studying computer science at Arizona State University Tim moved to Whittier, CA to care for his mother. Tim moved to Cambria in 2006, and since 2007 has been a volunteer guide for the Piedras Blancas Light Station. He has been vice-chairman of the PBLSA board since 2012. Since 2007, he has also been a volunteer guide for Friends of the Elephant Seal where he also served on the board (2009–2013).

### **Harry Thorpe, Treasurer/Secretary**

Harry Thorpe spent over 40 years in information systems and services organizations. He sold his company, International Management Systems (a provider of computer staffing and consulting services) and retired in 2009 after 25 years with IMS. Prior to IMS, he spent over 15 years in business information systems for companies such as AT&T, GAF Corporation and Pertec Computer Corporation. He has served on a number of Boards of Directors for various groups, including a homeowner's association, an animal welfare organization and several professional associations. He and his wife Molly spend most of their time in Cambria, where he volunteers as a guide at the PBLSA. He has served on the PBLSA Board since 2014 where he is the Treasurer/Secretary. Prior to that, he performed volunteer work at the Los Angeles Veterans Administration Hospital for 5 years. Harry has a Bachelor of Science in mathematics from Penn State University and an MBA from Pepperdine University. He served as an officer in the U.S. Army and is a veteran of the war in Vietnam.

### **Jim Harris**

James G. Harris received his BS and MS in EE from UCB and the PhD in EE from Syracuse University. He was an Assistant Professor at Howard University, and an Associate Professor at the University of the District of Columbia, both in Washington, D.C. He is a Professor (emeritus)

with the Department of Electrical Engineering and the Computer Engineering Program at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, CA. He served as the Department Head of the EE Department from 1982-89, and was Director of the Computer Engineering Program in 1993-97 and 2008-09. From 1990-92, he was a Program Director in the Division of Undergraduate Education at the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C. He worked for TRW in Redondo Beach, CA for 11 years, primarily on signal processing projects. He is a member of IEEE, ASEE, AAAS, and SHOT.

### **John Brass**

Giving back to the California coast by way of the Piedras Blancas Light Station is my way of giving back to California history and to future generations. My participation with others from the community with lighthouse tours, board of directors and the financial committee is a great opportunity to offer my efforts for the continuance of the light station. I consider myself fortunate having been born, educated, employed and living along this beautiful coast; it's a great place.

### **Gary O'Neill**

Gary spent 45 years working in production agriculture in the central valley. He has a BA in Liberal Arts from St. Mary's College (1971). Gary was a Peace Corp volunteer in Liberia W. Africa (1972-1977). He has a BS in College of Agriculture Cal Poly Pomona Class (1980).

### **Zale Schuster**

A graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Zale served in the US Air Force for five years as an aircraft mechanic and aircraft maintenance instructor. He spent 40 years in the aviation and aerospace field working as an aircraft mechanic, inspection flight test engineer, propulsion engineer, and systems and design engineer for Douglas, Hughes, Boeing, Lockheed and United Launch Alliance among others. He retired in 2015 and enjoys cycling, sports cars and volunteer work.

### **Holly Gant, Program Manager**

A graduate of San Diego State University with a BS in Recreation Administration, Holly has worked for California State Parks and the County of San Diego as a park ranger and earned her arborist certification. She's held unique jobs over the years including maintaining salt-water aquariums, driving a handsome cab in downtown San Diego, and washing vintage airplanes while earning her pilot's license. In 2013, Holly and her husband started a nonprofit foundation for retired State Park canines. Holly joined PBLSA in 2012 as our sole employee and has designed our website, installed a webcam, and handles general bookkeeping and membership processing. She is also the buyer for our successful gift shop and writes our quarterly newsletter. Holly works closely with board members on varying projects including grant applications and fundraising events, and also volunteers at the light station.