

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



We are having an exciting, productive year! There is a great group of people on the board of directors who are always willing to do whatever needs to be done without complaint.

Some of this year's accomplishments include the much needed revision of the bylaws of the organization to bring our operation in line with

the state organization. This included opening our membership to non-school PERA retirees. This new organizational structure and philosophy will, hopefully, increase our membership locally and at the state level. There is power in numbers, and we all know that there will continue to be threats to PERA. From this positive new coalition came the necessity of changing our name to Pikes Peak School and Public Employees Retirement Association (PPSPERA). Thank you for your support in passing the new bylaws at the October general membership meeting.

Standing rules were also created to guide how the board does business for the association. A positive outcome of standing rules is that they can be changed by a majority vote of the board for those functions that may change frequently and are not base policy of the organization. We updated job descriptions of standing committees and their chairpersons. This was accomplished with the help of current committee chairs. Another goal that will be completed by the time I leave office is the creation of a calendar of deadlines for the president and board. This ready reference will allow us to do association business in a timely manner.

Please remember that we will change our fiscal year on September 1, 2009. We must, therefore, change our dues year. You paid \$3 for local dues for this prorated dues year. As of September 1, local dues will be \$5. In order to belong to the local organization, you must also join the state organization, CSPERA. State dues are currently \$15 but will increase to \$24 on September 1. A simple and convenient way to pay state dues is through an automatic deduction of \$2 per month from

From Your President ... continued

your PERA check. Not only is it easy for you, but it also helps CSPERA with cash flow and other budget issues.

At the May membership meeting, we will unveil our new website – a 21st-century communications vehicle to expand our communication efforts by providing information to both the membership and the public. We have developed a membership brochure to use in recruitment. You will see our new logo, reflecting our new name, on all our communication avenues.

Attacks on PERA continue; and in these lean economic times, they are expected to increase. Even though PERA has seen its assets drop almost \$11 billion, it continues to be sound due to its long-term investments. PERA does not invest in hedge funds or other “risky” instruments. PERA has a diversified portfolio that is typical of most institutional investors. Please see the

Many people are calling for radical changes in PERA, none of which are beneficial to us. They are still after our defined benefit plan and hope to replace it with a defined contribution plan. As the attacks intensify, we need to be more active than ever before to protect what we worked so hard to achieve. I sincerely hope each of you will stay well-informed and become actively involved. One way is to join Friends of PERA, which is an advocacy and lobbying organization for Colorado PERA, its members and retirees. To receive updates and news, please register an e-mail address at <<http://www.friendsofpera.com/>>.

Please call or e-mail me if you have questions or concerns (pattosl@comcast.net or 685-4101 or 499-9437). Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president. It is wonderful to know that there is a great president-elect ready to take the reins in May, Deb Key.

– Sandy Patton

HUMBLE APOLOGIES

When you rush too much, you can make mistakes. We offer our most humble apologies to all who received the letter and dues renewal form with all the errors. Many of you caught those errors and justifiably gave us low grades.

It is nice to know that even when our members have aged, their faculties have not slipped. You are as sharp as ever!

We have learned our lesson. In the future, we will have our work proofed before it is published.

PPSPERA CALENDAR FOR 2009 – 2010

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>FUNCTION</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
April 7 (Mon.)	9:00 a.m.	Board Meeting	Peak Grill
May 7 (Wed.)	11:00 a.m.	General Meeting <i>Luncheon</i>	Tesla
August 4 (Mon.)	9:00 a.m.	Board Meeting	Peak Grill
August 20 (Wed.)	11:00 a.m.	General Meeting <i>Picnic</i>	Bear Creek Park
October 6 (Mon.)	9:00 a.m.	Board Meeting	Peak Grill
October 15 (Wed.)	11:30 a.m.	General Meeting <i>Luncheon</i>	TBA
December 1 (Mon.)	9:00 a.m.	Board Meeting	Peak Grill
January 21 (Wed.)	11:00 a.m.	General Meeting <i>Luncheon</i>	Patty Jewett
February 2 (Mon.)	9:00 a.m.	Board Meeting	Peak Grill
April 6 (Mon.)	9:00 a.m.	Board Meeting	Peak Grill
May 6 (Wed.)	11:30 a.m.	General Meeting	TBA

NOTES ON PERA ... From Peggy Gardner

Yes, folks, they are at it again! Some radical organizations are pressuring our legislators to take emergency action regarding the PERA fiscal position. These organizations are urging that PERA be overhauled by switching from a defined benefit plan to a defined contribution plan. These attacks on our pension security cannot be ignored since they are a threat to current and future PERA recipients!

This is a reminder to register for PERA alerts on the PERA Web site. You will receive the latest e-mail updates about the important issues affecting your retirement plan. These alerts may include news about political and legislative initiatives potentially impacting your retirement. Stay tuned!

By staying updated via the PERA Web site, you will be well-prepared and have the appropriate information with which to contact your legislators, who have influence over our PERA plan. Our legislators have heard us in the past. We must be prepared to support PERA – our retirement plan. Please do your part.

Current PERA Financial Activity

PERA believes it can best address the decline in the investment portfolio and that it is in the interest of both its members and taxpayers to prepare a proposal for legislators in the 2010 session. The following activities are under way:

- (1) A complete audit on the value of all PERA investments, including assets, will be available sometime after May 2009.
- (2) PERA actuaries are currently “pricing” every component of the benefit structure. This involves a comprehensive review of all PERA’s 431,000 members’ currently earned and benefits owed going forward.

These two tools will enable the board of trustees to propose a complete package with accurate calculations for the 2010 legislative session rather than going through several piecemeal approaches.

Note: The above information is a brief summary of information on www.copera.org.

Go to www.copera.org and register to receive alerts.

PPSPERA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-09

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
President	Sandy Patton	30 Kris Lane Manitou Spgs. 80829	pattosl@comcast.net	685-4101 499-9437
President-Elect	Deb Key	7030 Sandtrap 80925	keyind@yahoo.com	382-9304
Past President	Rick Randall	1924 Winston Rd. 80909	rickran@yahoo.com	630-7212
Secretary	Joyce Schmaltz	30 Kris Lane Manitou Springs 80829	schmaltzja@comcast.net	685-4101
Treasurer	John Kerr	2516 Fairmount St. 80909	johndkerr@comcast.net	635-8620
Community Service	Marje Swearingen	1615 Querida Dr. 80909	teacupmejs@aol.com	597-2196
Courtesy	June George	1904 Calle De Seville 80904	junegeorge@ymail.com	632-0078
CSPERA Board Rep.	Peggy Gardner	3742 Blue Merion Ct. 80906	gardpeg32@msn.com	576-0724
Insurance Rep.	David DiCocco	1114 Beglind Rd. 80920	esoomjd@msn.com	548-9570
Historian	Jo Meyers	2615 N. Chelton Rd. 80909	jomeyers@comcast.net	636-1065
Legislative	Peggy Gardner	3742 Blue Merion Ct. 80906	gardpeg32@msn.com	576-0724
Membership	Greg Swinney	720 Point of Pines Dr. 80919	sswin57934@aol.com	598-6228
Newsletter	Rita Banister Alan Rasmussen	2318 N. Chestnut St. 80907	Rockusruby@yahoo.com rasmusa@yahoo.com	632-3650 636-3308
Scholarship	Charlotte Brummer Sherry Ramirez	411 Lakewood Cir. A706 80910 3002 Roche Dr. N. 80918	cbrummer1@mindspring.com sherry.ramirez@gmail.com	637-8405 599-7655
Social	Maxine Glaskin	5015 Diamond Dr. 80918	maxglaskin@aol.com	598-3207
Board Member Emeritus	Judy McCormick	806 Orion Dr. 80906	jmcoorm817@aol.com	632-9416

WE WILL MISS THEM

In the past six months, many friends and comrades have passed on. If you know of anyone who should have been included in our list, please contact June George at 632-0078 or junegeorge@ymail.com. Those who have recently died are: Ruth (Moon) Armstrong, Max L. Black, Elizabeth T. Boyd, Willie Broughton, Edith L. Charles, Terry Ann Dionisio, Marlys Fenner, Nancy Gospill, Patsy Ann Grosdidier, Frederic Handke, Lois A. Johnson, Marian Jones, Jean Elizabeth Knapp, Lucile Olson Lamb, Rose Marie Ormanoski, Douglas Rice, Philip Van Pelt, Ann Wagner, Mina Miller-Weiler, Geraldine (Geri) Whitley, Rhoda Wilcox, and Harriet Winn.

SWINNEY'S NOTES

Scholarship Fund News

This year, we are attempting to raise funds through donations to provide scholarships to two aspiring future teachers. As of the writing of this article, 110 members have contributed \$1,455 by check. In addition, \$119 was collected at the February luncheon; so we have \$1,574 toward our goal of \$2,000. Please keep the donations coming as every dollar helps.

Our "Super" Seniors

We have 10 Super Seniors and hope to add number 11 shortly. This must mean that we are aging – but nicely. Super Seniors are those retirees who have reached that magic age of 90. Several are still active, and two regularly attend our meetings. We do enjoy having them with us. Alyda Powell and Alice Allan were recognized at the February meeting.

New Members

Twenty-nine retirees have joined us this year, either those who retired or those who transitioned from District 11 this past year. We have also gained 24 new members who are not new retirees. All of you are most welcome additions to our local organization, and we hope that you will become involved by attending meetings and volunteering a few hours each year. We do need the support of all members as we work to maintain the PERA benefits we have earned. This past year, new retirees joined and became new leaders on our board; hopefully, we will see some of you there next year.

Membership Report

As of March 12, 2009, PPSPERA has 358 members. Ten are over 90, 29 are new retirees, and 24 aren't new retirees but new members. The rest are renewals. That means that there are 230, or more, of you who have not renewed your membership for this year. This "year" is a short one because we are converting to a September 1–August 31 fiscal year. Beginning in September 2009, we will be sending notices for dues for the new fiscal year. If you are one of the 230 who have not renewed, please fill out that form you received on or about March 5 and mail in your check.

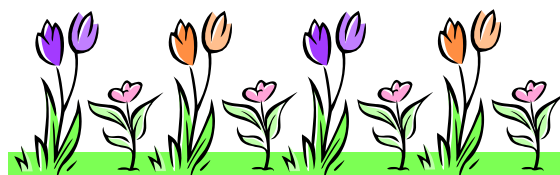
New News: The state is now offering members an opportunity to have their annual dues (\$15) deducted from their PERA allotment at \$1.25 per month. We, at the local level, will still have to bill you for local dues once a year. Time will be provided at the next meeting to allow questions about these changes.

Remember that neither the local nor the state organization has any affiliation with any union. We are retirees who are concerned with education and our retirement.

Have You Moved?

Please let Greg Swinney know if you are moving or change your phone or your e-mail address!

Greg Swinney
720 Point of the Pines Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
598-6228 * sswin57934@aol.com.



May Luncheon

Don't forget – the May Awards luncheon will be Wednesday, May 6, 11:30 a.m. at Tesla Educational Opportunity Center, 2560 International Circle. Come and meet the scholarship winners and enjoy a good meal and program. You have probably already received the flier and reservation form in the mail. If not, please call **Maxine Glaskin** at **598-3207** for information and to make reservations.