

## 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.

Please remember that our fiscal year changed on September 1, 2009. We must, therefore, change our dues year. You paid \$3 for local dues for this **pro-rated dues year**. As of September 1, local dues changed to \$5 per person. In order to belong to the local organization, you must also join the state organization, CSPERA, and annual state dues are now \$24 per person as of September 1. A simple and convenient way to pay state dues is through an automatic deduction of \$2 per month from your PERA check. Not only is it easy for you, but it also helps CSPERA with cash flow and other budget issues.

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.

Many people are calling for radical changes in PERA, none of which is 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 (keyjnd@yahoo.com, or 382-9304). Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president.

~Deb Key

## SWINNEY'S NOTES

### WE WILL MISS THEM

This article is again lengthy since many of our friends and fellow workers have died since the last newsletter. If you know of anyone that we missed, please contact June George, 632-0078. Those we know about at this time are: Carrie Lee Allen, Martha Elayne Allen, John Bearzi, Mary Blevins, Alice Coakley, Meredith McComb Dalebout, Ann Downey, Noel Eggers, Diana Ehrman, Kari Fogle, William Gallegos, Janet Ginder-Myers, Flo Goggin, Elsie Hane Hauser, Jerry Hughes, Lois Johnson, Rudi Jones, Barbara May Long, June Nancy Marsh, Lovina Nace, Janet Norman, Patrick W. Parker, Julia Ann Patrick, Jean Ann Peterson, Jo Peterson, Faye Lucille Ricker, and Laura Walker.

### MEMBERSHIP

We began a new fiscal year September 1, 2009, and dues notices were sent out. As of January 1, 2010, 363 members will have paid dues. We know that there are many more of you who have not yet sent in dues. We need you as members to help support our efforts to maintain our PERA benefits. This will be a trying year on our legislature as cuts are discussed and voted upon that will directly affect us.

Local annual dues are only \$5 per person and state annual dues are only \$24 per person. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please fill out the forms included in this newsletter and mail them with your checks to PPSPERA and CSPERA.

We always like to have new members, so join with us and make this a bigger, better organization. We welcomed 18 new members this year; but 27 members passed away. If you know a PERA retiree who is not a member, show them this newsletter and encourage them to join. Together, we can all make this a better year.

If you have moved, or have address, phone number or e-mail address changes, please let Greg Swinney know: 598-6226, or [sswin57934@aol.com](mailto:sswin57934@aol.com).

**SWINNEY'S NOTES, CON'T.**

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Last year, 142 members contributed \$1,616 and we received \$1,000 in special memorial contributions to the Wayne Bricker Scholarship Fund. A very special *thank you* to each of you who made a contribution, so that two local students, Jessie Black and Cassandra Penchoff, were scholarship recipients. They are in college now and both **plan to become teachers.**

Since September 1, 2009, we have already received contributions totaling \$1,739. Let's keep them coming to continue providing an education for the future.

**SUPER SENIORS**

As of this writing, we have the honor of having 12 members over the age of 90 or older. If you will be turning 90 this year, let Greg Swinney know because you are eligible for special benefits.

**CSEA-R**

David DiCocco has shared information that CSEA-R is a fledgling group who are currently doing all their communication by e-mail. If you would like to participate, contact David at [esoomjd@msn.com](mailto:esoomjd@msn.com).

**PPSPERA CALENDAR FOR 2009 – 2010**

	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>FUNCTION</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Tuesday	December 1	9:00 a.m.	Board Meeting	Maggie Mae's
Tuesday	February 2	9:00 a.m.	Board Meeting	Maggie Mae's
Wednesday	February 15	11:00 a.m.	General Meeting <i>Luncheon</i>	TBA
Tuesday	April 6	9:00 a.m.	Board Meeting	Maggie Mae's
Wednesday	May 12*	11:00 a.m.	General Meeting	TBA
Wednesday	August 18*	11:30 a.m.	General Meeting Picnic	Bear Creek

\*These future dates may change based on availability of location(s). Be sure to watch the website and mailings.

**2010 Scholarships**

Starting with the 2010 scholarship cycle, two scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded to high school seniors pursuing career education, or other areas of public service. Scholarship winners will be asked to provide an update on their progress in the spring of their freshman year of college. There will be an opportunity for the two 2009 scholarship winners to apply to renew their scholarship for \$500 each for their second year of study.

Meredith Jobe and Charlotte Brummer, co-chairmen of the Scholarship Committee will be sending application information to high schools soon to begin the application and selection process for 2010-2011.

Please continue to support the PPSPERA scholarship fund!

## PPSPERA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009-2010

POSITION	NAME	ADDRESS	E-MAIL	PHONE
President	Deb Key	7030 Sandtrap 80925	<a href="mailto:keyjnd@yahoo.com">keyjnd@yahoo.com</a>	382-9304
President-Elect	Sandy Patton	30 Kris Ln Manitou Springs 80829	<a href="mailto:pattosl@comcast.net">pattosl@comcast.net</a>	685-4101 499-9437 (cell)
Past-President	Sandy Patton	30 Kris Ln Manitou Springs 80829	<a href="mailto:pattosl@comcast.net">pattosl@comcast.net</a>	685-4101 499-9437 (cell)
Secretary	Joyce Schmaltz	30 Kris Ln Manitou Springs 80829	<a href="mailto:schmaltzja@comcast.net">schmaltzja@comcast.net</a>	685-4101
Treasurer	John Kerr	2516 Fairmount St. 80909	<a href="mailto:johndkerr@comcast.net">johndkerr@comcast.net</a>	635-8620
Community Service	Marje Erickson	1615 Querida Dr. 80909	<a href="mailto:teacupmejs@aol.com">teacupmejs@aol.com</a>	597-2196
Courtesy	June George	1904 Calle DeSeville 80904	<a href="mailto:junegeorge@gmail.com">junegeorge@gmail.com</a>	632-0078
PPSPERA Board Rep	Peggy Gardner	3742 Blue Merion Ct 80906	<a href="mailto:Gardpeg32@msn.com">Gardpeg32@msn.com</a>	576-0724
Electronic/Website Communication	Deb Key	7030 Sandtrap 80925	<a href="mailto:keyjnd@yahoo.com">keyjnd@yahoo.com</a>	382-9304
Insurance Rep.	David DiCocco	1114 Berglind Rd 80920	<a href="mailto:esoomjd@msn.com">esoomjd@msn.com</a>	548-9570
Historian	Shirley Swinney	720 Point of Pines Dr 80919	<a href="mailto:Sswin57934@aol.com">Sswin57934@aol.com</a>	598-6228
Legislative Rep	Peggy Gardner	3742 Blue Merion Ct 80906	<a href="mailto:Gardpeg32@msn.com">Gardpeg32@msn.com</a>	576-0724
Membership	Greg Swinney	720 Point of Pines Dr 80919	<a href="mailto:Sswin57934@aol.com">Sswin57934@aol.com</a>	598-6228
Newsletter	Rita Banister	2318 N. Chestnut St 80907	<a href="mailto:rockusruby@yahoo.com">rockusruby@yahoo.com</a>	358-7444
Pre-Retirement	David DiCocco	1114 Berglind Rd 80920	<a href="mailto:esoomjd@msn.com">esoomjd@msn.com</a>	548-9570
Scholarship	Meredith Jobe	1918 N. Tejon St. 80907	<a href="mailto:majcsc@aol.com">majcsc@aol.com</a>	635-0946
Social	Judy McCormick	806 Orion Dr. 80906	<a href="mailto:Jmcoorm817@aol.com">Jmcoorm817@aol.com</a>	632-9416
Board Member Emeritus	Maxine Glaskin	5015 Diamond Dr. 80918	<a href="mailto:maxglaskin@aol.com">maxglaskin@aol.com</a>	598-3207

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITITES

### GrandFriends are Always in Demand

GrandFriends is a School District 11 program that matches senior citizens and retirees with volunteer opportunities in all District 11 schools. The mission of the GrandFriends Program is to unite two very important sectors of our community--our elders and our youth—in order to improve the academic achievement of our students.

There are many District 11 students in need of some additional help, which is often difficult for classroom teachers to manage. The specialty of GrandFriends is to give much-needed academic assistance and *listening time* to students who most likely do not have grandparents in their lives. It is also important for children to learn that older people have much to offer and lead very vital lives. Teachers appreciate the extra help in meeting the individual needs of students, the schools benefit when academic achievement improves, and our community also benefits because of students who are better educated.

Not only is this a very fun and rewarding opportunity, but it is also a very flexible volunteer program. You may choose to volunteer when it fits your schedule and choose the school where you would like to help. Volunteers often want to be in their neighborhood schools, or as close as possible to their homes. GrandFriends volunteer in all grade levels and in almost every school in the district. In addition to being in the classroom, volunteers also help in libraries, or in science classes.

If you are interested in GrandFriends, please call Mary Beth Williams, 520-2311, or e-mail her at [willimb@d11.org](mailto:willimb@d11.org). Come give it a try! Just an hour or two a week can make a huge difference in a child's life.

**Southern Regional Coordinator for COPERA** is retiring, so that position is open. Please contact [www.copera.org](http://www.copera.org) if you are interested in volunteering