

# NewsLetter

PPSPERA IS SUPPORTED BY COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 11

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Editor: Alan Rasmussen

## From Your President



Thank you for the opportunity to once again serve as your president. I know it is going to be an exciting and productive year. One never works in isolation and I have a great group of people on the board of directors who are always willing to do whatever is needed and without complaint – most of the time.

Your board of directors met in June to work on plans/goals for the year. The most exciting change for this year is we are moving our general membership meeting time. We will now meet for brunch at 9:30 and be finished by noon. All of our meetings will be at Valley Hi Golf Course. Factors that helped us select Valley Hi from the six sites considered were cost, accessibility, menu, and parking. I hope you find this time frame compatible with your calendar. It also allows us to stay within the cost parameters you have given us. With a new time and a permanent location we anticipate increased participation at all our meetings.

The first general membership meeting of the year will be on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 am at Valley Hi Golf Course. We are working on an interesting program dealing with the new components of our group. Mark this on your calendars now. The flyer for the November meeting will be part of the early October newsletter. We plan to utilize the newsletter to publicize the meetings and eliminate the need for a separate flyer.

To meet our goal of increased communications and better membership services, we have pledged to have five newsletters this year. Alan Rasmussen is leading this effort as the new editor. Kathy New from District 11 is helping us with layout and Elaine Naleski and the District 11's Public Relations office continue to support us with printing and distribution of the newsletter.

The website is now populated and is yet another communication vehicle to help us support current members, recruit new members and educate the public as to who and what we are. The URL for the website is <http://ppspera.org/>. Go take a look. Lisa Sarter is doing a great job with the website. We welcome suggestions and materials for both the website and the newsletter.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!** It is time for PPSPERA to take advantage of the electronic age to provide more timely and cost efficient communication with all members. Please update your email address when you renew your membership this year if you did not give it to us at the picnic. Please be assured that we will only use your email address to communicate with you and will not share it with other groups.

Another goal for the year is to continue the battle to protect our PERA pensions. With the passage of Senate Bill 1, most of us took a deep sigh of relief after being stressed with the thought of our future pension checks being in jeopardy. Senate Bill 1, although distasteful, created a scenario that lets us assume that the money to pay our future pension checks will be available. History has shown us that the attacks by conservative groups will continue. I attended a luncheon recently in Colorado Springs where the topic was how public employees are destroying the Constitution and bankrupting the budget. The audience was strongly encouraged to continue the fight for defined contributions and eliminate defined benefits for both future and current retirees. This suggestion met with enthusiastic approval of the group.

Everyone must be involved to protect our benefits. Not to do so is irresponsible. If you enjoy your retirement and the freedom to make the choices you do, then you must get involved at some level. Be ready when your help is needed.

Please remember that we changed our fiscal year now beginning September 1 and ending August 31. Therefore, you recently received your membership renewal notice from Greg Swinney, our hardworking membership chair. Local dues are \$5. Please mail your dues to PPSPERA, Greg Swinney, Membership Chair, P.O. Box 7969, Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7969. In order to belong to the local organization you must also join the state organization, CSPERA. State dues are currently \$24. A simple and convenient way to pay state dues is through an automatic deduction of \$2 per month from you PERA check. Hopefully someday we will have that option for local dues as well. CSPERA provides an impressive list of membership benefits. Check it out at <http://www.crsea.org/> and take advantage of them.

Please call or e-mail me if you have questions or concerns ([pattosl@comcast.net](mailto:pattosl@comcast.net) or 685-4101 or 499-9437). Again it is a pleasure to serve as your president.

– Sandy Patton

# PPSPERA MEETING CALENDAR 2010-11

## 2010

Sept. 21 at 9 am	Board Meeting	Maggie Mae's
October 13 & 14	CSPERA Board Meeting & State Legislative Wkshop	Denver
October 27 at 9 am	Board Meeting	Maggie Mae's
November 3 at 9:30 am	General Membership <i>Brunch &amp; Program</i>	Valley Hi Golf Course

## 2011

January 25 at 9 am	Board Meeting	Maggie Mae's
February 4 at 9:30 am	General Membership Brunch & Program	Valley Hi Golf Course
April 5 at 9 am	Board Meeting	Maggie Mae's
April 6 – 6:15-9 pm	Pre-Retirement Seminar	Tesla
May 11 at 9:30 am	General Membership Brunch & Program	Valley Hi Golf Course

### We Will Miss Them

Below is list of friends and fellow workers who have passed away in the recent months:

Robert Alford, John Arndt, Kathleen Barbee-Herzog, John Baxter, Ruth Jane Covington, Genevieve Emily Dooley, Mary Hesselberg, Billie Hinkle, Mildred Humphrey, Flora Kruse, Gerome "Pete" Leonard, Joyce Elizabeth Marlow, Rosa Marie Ramos-Diaz, Steven Reddick, David Schenkel, Patrick Signoreili, Isabelle Squarrell, Leda Varney and Bob Young.

If you know someone we missed, please contact Greg at 598-6228.

### New Members

We wish to welcome all of our new members. Most are recent retirees and we want you to get involved with out activities and functions. Several have already joined the board of directors and that is greatly appreciated. If you have just retired, or retired a while ago but never joined, now is the time.

### Scholarship Funds

PPSPERA is planning to award two scholarships this year to graduating seniors in the Pikes Peak Region. This can only be done with your help. Please add a donation to the scholarship funds this year when you send in your dues. Many thanks to those 150+ supporters who donated last year. A few dollars, or a lot of dollars if you're so inclined, will be a big help in meeting the goal this year. Thank you in advance for continuing to care about our young.

### 2010 PPSPERA Scholarship Recipients

Fourteen high school seniors from seven high schools in El Paso and Teller Counties applied for the two 2010 PPSPERA scholarships. This year the amount of each scholarship was increased to \$1500 and the scholarship recipients will have the opportunity to apply to renew the scholarships for a second year of study for \$500 each. Those of you who attended the May general membership meeting have already been introduced to the 2010 scholarship recipients, Lido Abel Martinez and Katharine Lindquist.



The PPSPERA scholarship honoring Wayne Bricker was presented to Lido Abel Martinez, who graduated this spring from Sierra High School. Abel, as he prefers to be called, is headed to Colorado State University in Fort Collins where he will pursue studies in business and pre-med. Abel hopes to use his education to work with children and adults in poverty in rural settings.

Katherine Lindquist, ranked as the number one student in her senior class at Woodland Park High School, received PPSPERA's scholarship honoring Bill Brandenburg. Katy spent time in Uganda this summer helping to construct a primary school. She will be attending Colby College in Maine this fall to pursue a degree in international studies with emphasis in education and social justice.

Thank you to the PPSPERA members who generously support our two scholarships!

## Volunteer Community and Distinguished Awards

At a delightful and delicious spring luncheon held at the Sons of Norway Club May 12, 2010, PPSPEARA awarded **Roberta De Witt** and **Mary Mashburn** with the organization's Volunteer Community and Distinguished Service awards for their outstanding and dedicated contributions to children and adults in our community.

*"Great lives are the culmination of great thoughts followed by great actions," said Peter Sinclair.*

**Mary Mashburn** has been sprinkling her bit of magical charm over Colorado Springs since she came to town in 1980. Volunteer is her middle name.

Mary's infectious enthusiasm and determined personality are keys to the success of the *Imagination Celebration*. She would do anything to achieve her goal of bringing art to all the children of the region. If there's a job to be done, she does it with finesse and skill, and the Kennedy Center Imagination Center (IC) bears testimony to that. Mary organized a city-wide Association of Volunteers for the Arts, bringing together all the women's organizations in town to more efficiently staff the community's chronically short-handed arts organizations with volunteers. Her efforts resulted in Colorado Springs' designation as a Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration site, one of only six in the country. In 2000 the IC achieved its own non-profit status.

Mary worked in partnerships with 43 schools from ten El Paso County school districts, one private school, and two schools from outside Colorado Springs to bring performances and thousands of children together. To Mary, IC is about providing access to the arts for the region's children, but it is about far more than that. "We have the unique opportunity," she says, "to show parents, teachers and administrators how important the arts are, how they can change a kid's life. IC is also about making dreams come true," And that enriches all of our lives.

We are honored to recognize Mary with our Distinguished Volunteer Service Award, as she has honored all of us in this community with her service.

*Einstein said, "Talk is cheap, Service is priceless."*

**Roberta DeWitt** is a quiet servant who uses her talent and time to make life more pleasant for everyone with whom she comes in contact. Roberta found she needed to reach out and share her life with others, after the death of her husband. She was introduced to Christmas Unlimited when she delivered school supplies that her church had collected to the distribution point for

Christmas Unlimited. She asked, "Do you need any help?" The answer was a resounding "Yes!"

She was immediately put to work. That was 12 years ago, and her zest and enthusiasm for the organization and its work has not diminished. Shortly after beginning her volunteer job, she offered to be the volunteer coordinator, a position she still holds today. In that position, she enjoys working with the more than 500 volunteers, who range in age from 10 years to 80. She takes great pride in the fact that 60% of volunteers are 18 years and younger. In 2009 the volunteers gave over 14,000 hours of service to provide 12,225 children with \$35.-\$40 worth of gifts and 4,300 children with school supplies.

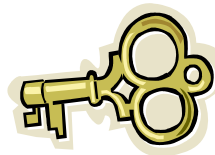
Roberta's love for children is the moving force for her volunteer work with Christmas Unlimited. She knows that when children's lives are enriched, so too, is our community. We were proud to honor **Roberta De Witt** with our Community Volunteer Service Award for 2010.

*Albert Schweitzer said, "The only ones among you who will be truly happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."*

**Mary Mashburn** and **Roberta DeWitt** have found the secret to being truly happy. Each of us has the same opportunity to serve in our own special way. What gifts do you give? Someone you know makes a difference in our hometown. Please make them known to members of the board of PPSPERA, so we may continue to pay honor to those who go the "second mile."

## The key to finding out information you want to know ...

is our new web site ! Find newsletters, minutes of meetings, what's up with the legislature and much more! We still have additions to make but the basics are there, but we need your help.



Please visit the website at: <http://ppspera.org/home.htm> and let us know of any ideas or additions you would like to see. It is important that we provide information for all of our present and future members.

You will find a link for suggestions on the homepage of the site. Don't forget to bookmark the site and keep checking in to see what has been added.

Deb Key  
Lisa Sarter  
Electronics and Website Committee

# Scholarship and Award Dinner



Katherine Lindquist,  
Scholarship Award Winner



Mary Mashburn and  
Roberta DeWitt  
Volunteer Community and  
Distinguished Service Award  
Winners



Abel Martinez, Scholarship  
Award Winner

