

NewsLetter

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From Your Co-Presidents

Happy New Year! As we start the New Year, let's first take a quick look back to November and December, 2012.

We were pleased to see many of you at the Fall PPSPERA Meeting. Greg Smith, the Interim Executive Director of Colorado PERA, presented an informative program regarding the state of PERA and implications for the upcoming Colorado legislative session. Speaking just a couple of days after the general election, Greg shared that the Colorado elections were favorable to PERA interests. Greg also answered questions from PPSPERA members regarding the Memorial Hospital issue and the possible impacts of Obamacare on PeraCare.

We want to congratulate Greg Smith for his selection as the Executive Director of PERA. The PERA Board of Trustees selected him following a seven-month nationwide search. For more information, consult the PERA web site (copera.org).

On December 3, the PPSPERA Board was treated to a tour of the Kaiser Permanente Senior Clinic. Kaiser Permanente graciously agreed to provide the program, Laughter as Wellness, for our Winter General Membership Meeting on Thursday, February 7, 2013. There will also be updates on PERA and the legislative session as well as information on the nomination process for the 2013 PPSPERA community and distinguished service awards. We hope to see many of you at Valley Hi for this meeting.

On **Wednesday, January 23, 2013**, PPSPERA is pleased to host a **meeting of the Colorado Coalition for Retirement Security**. This Coalition Meeting is one of several meetings the Coalition is holding throughout Colorado. Please see the article in this newsletter for all of the details and plan to join us at the East Library at 6:00 PM. This is an opportunity for you to include your family, friends, and neighbors who are involved in the PERA system via any public employee group! We are hoping to have a diverse audience from any and all of the public employee groups attend this Coalition Meeting. PPSPERA will also have membership information available at this meeting.

2013 looks to be another busy and active year for PPSPERA. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming activities.

Meredith Jobe and Gerry Olvey

Thinking about Retiring???

We can help!! We are bringing together the experts to share the information you need if you are planning to retire in the next few years at a PPSPERA Pre-Retirement Seminar. The seminar will provide presentations on:

- PERA retirement process
- Financial planning issues to consider
- Health insurance coverage, Medicare, and other related issues
- Answers from the experts on your specific questions or concerns

Join us on April 4th from 4-6 p.m. at the Tesla Educational Opportunity Center, 2560 International Circle. If you need additional information, please email Lu Ann Long at lu55long@gmail.com. We hope to see you there.

Community and Distinguished Service Award Nominations

The PPSPERA Board of Directors presents awards annually to citizens or organizations that have done notable Public Service activities in our community. Included in this issue of the PPSPERA Newsletter is a form that will be used to nominate individuals or organizations for our annual **Community and Distinguished Service Awards**. We will use this form in its present state for our nominations this year. However, we are still open for any improvements and suggestions to help make the form even better. The deadline for receipt of nominations is March 1, 2013. The recipients of the 2013 PPSPERA Community and Distinguished Service Awards will be announced at the May 9, 2013 General Membership Meeting. Thank you in advance for taking the time to nominate people or organizations for this prestigious honor.

Roger W. Loudon, Community Service Chair

Learn More about PERA and the \$350 Million Annually PERA Puts Directly Into El Paso County's Economy

The Colorado Coalition for Retirement Security will be holding an informational town hall meeting about retirement security and PERA benefit on January 23rd at 6pm at the East Library, 5550 N. Union Blvd. Light snacks will be served. We will discuss why PERA is important to El Paso County, and what individuals can do to help make sure PERA remains fiscally secure.

PERA serves as the qualified retirement plan for public employees across Colorado, including all State of Colorado employees, public educators, judges as well as some local and county employees. Currently, PERA provides over \$3 billion annually in retirement benefits to more than 90,000 PERA retirees across Colorado. In El Paso County, PERA provides a retirement to nearly 10,000 people totaling nearly \$350 million into the El Paso County economy every year. PERA also serves an additional 29,000 active employees in El Paso County.

The Colorado Coalition for Retirement Security started a project in 2009 called Secure PERA. The Coalition represents PERA employees and retirees in working to ensure that PERA remains fiscally secure and continues to provide benefits to future generations. On January 23rd the Coalition will be talking about the work they have done to date with the State Legislature, as well as the work they have coming up. They will also walk through their interactive tools, so individuals can help advocate for a secure PERA and help protect this important element of El Paso County's economy.

Please visit our website at www.SecurePERA.org or call (720) 432-9148 to RSVP for this event and to learn more about the Colorado Coalition for Retirement Security as well as about past legislation the Coalition has worked on to help keep PERA Secure.

PERA AMBASSADORS AT WORK

The PERA Ambassadors have been hard at work attempting to meet with the legislators of their specific districts. The purpose of the meetings is to educate them about PERA and to point out the importance of PERA to their district. We have been successful in some instances and not in others. We do recognize that their schedules are full at times and just have to hope they will be willing to meet with us at their convenience. Perhaps the Ambassadors can clarify certain aspects of the legislator's understanding of PERA.

I am pleased to report that five of us in Representative Bob Gardner's district were scheduled to meet with him on Monday, December 17 at his office. He responded to our request immediately and we are grateful that he is willing to hear us and discuss his perspective regarding PERA.

PILLAR 2.0: The Next Generation of Life-Long Learning

Support the PILLAR Institute for Lifelong Learning, our PPSPERA partner
Join PILLAR at the Associate Membership Rate (one of the benefits for PPSPERA members)

- Check out the **NEW classes, schedules, locations and program starting in 2013**
- For details, contact PILLAR at 633-4991 or www.visitpillar.org

PPSPERA CALENDAR 2013

General Membership Meetings

(All general membership meetings are scheduled at 9:30 AM at Valley Hi Golf Club)

Thursday, February 7, 2013

Thursday, May 9, 2013

Board of Director Meetings

(All Board Meetings are scheduled at 9:00 AM at Peak Grill)

Thursday, January 10, 2013

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Thursday, March 14, 2013

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Pre-Retirement Meeting

Thursday, April 4, 2013 4-6:00 PM Tesla

CSPERA State Meetings

May 15 & 16, 2013 Denver

PPSPERA October Membership Meeting

