
PPSPERA IS SUPPORTED BY COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 11

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Editor: Alan Rasmussen

From Your Co-Presidents

Happy Summer! This column is coming to you from your co-presidents, however, the names have changed! This year Gerry Olvey will continue as co-president with LuAnn Long assuming the other co-president position. Meredith Jobe has assumed the role of past president on the PPSPERA Board of Directors. We are looking forward to working together to have a successful PPSPERA year.

We have had one full year of offering our newsletter electronically. There have been a few bumps along the way, but are continuing to work towards refining the process. In order to be successful, we need to be sure that we have your updated, current email address. Please send any changes in your email address to our membership committee (membership@ppspera.org) - be sure to sign your email. If you do not have email access or wish to receive a paper copy of the newsletter via the US mail, please let us know by sending a note with your current address to PPSPERA, P.O. Box 7969, Colorado Springs 80933-7969.

We have also been working to improve our PPSPERA web site. If you have not visited recently, check it out at www.ppspera.org. The web site is a good place to review our newsletters and calendar of events. I think you will find it a good source of information.

As always, this newsletter contains LOTS of information. You will find information about our 2013 scholarship recipient as well as our 2013 community service award recipients. There is also an update on the 2013 Pre-Retirement Meeting, as well as an update on the state CSPERA meetings held in Denver in May. If you have suggestions or ideas concerning our PPSPERA newsletter, please contact Alan Rasmussen, our newsletter editor/chairperson.

It is almost time for our annual August Picnic! This year's picnic will be on **THURSDAY, AUGUST 8 at 11:00 AM** at the Westside Community Center. No reservations are required for the picnic and please feel free to bring a friend or colleague from the public employees sector or the schools. We have been working hard over the past year to encourage membership from all of the eligible membership groups. We think you will enjoy the program at the picnic. Greg Smith, the new Executive Director of PERA, will be a guest speaker. He will provide us the latest update on the state of PERA and issues in the coming year. The picnic is also a great opportunity to meet your 2013-

2014 PPSPERA officers and committee chairpersons. See the picnic information in this newsletter for the details and what to bring. You will receive a reminder closer to the picnic date.

The 2013-2014 PPSPERA membership year starts on September 1 and ends on August 31, 2014. PPSPERA dues are \$12.00 for the year. This year you will be able to pay through the mail by check as usual, but you will also have an option to pay online by credit card. We are excited about this new option, so stay tuned for details!

We are looking forward to another busy and productive year at PPSPERA. We hope to see all of you at our August 8 picnic at the Westside Community Center and at our three general membership meetings throughout the year.

Gerry Olvey and LuAnn Long

SUMMER PICNIC LOCATION

The PPSPERA Annual Picnic will be August 8, 2013 at the Westside Community Center this year. The PPSPERA Board felt that the Center will be a more comfortable setting because it is air conditioned and has excellent audio-visual capabilities. Please refer to the enclosed flyer for directions, parking instructions and other important details. There is no need to RSVP and please invite a friend.



2013 Scholarship News

We received seven applications from five area high schools. All were excellent candidates. Brittney McClain was selected as the 2013 scholarship recipient.

Brittney is the daughter of Jerrold and Nichole McClain. She is ranked 4th in her class of 367 at Fountain-Fort Carson High School. She has taken many honors and AP classes and has a weighted GPA of 4.56. Brittney has received numerous academic honors and awards including Student of the Year in three different years for three different subjects. She participated in the Gifted and Talented Program and in JROTC. Her volunteer service includes Soup Kitchen, school library, Division of Wildlife, and church nursery.

Brittney is a champion athlete, having been a starter on the varsity girls soccer team for three years and team captain the past two years. As starter and captain of the Pride Soccer Club for seven years she led that team to several championships, and was a finalist in the 2012 Texas Shootout.

Brittney plans to pursue studies in early childhood education at CSU-Pueblo where she will also be a member of the soccer team.

We hope Brittney will be able to receive her scholarship certificate at the August picnic. She was unable to attend the May membership meeting due to an AP exam scheduled at the same time, so her scholarship award check was mailed to her.

Our 2012 scholarship recipient, Tiffany Baumann, has not yet responded to our invitation to apply for the second year \$500 scholarship.

Community Service

Volunteer hours for PPSPERA members for the first quarter, January, February, and March of 2013, totaled 2,315 hours. However, there was a carryover of one member of 2,464 volunteer hours from May through December of 2012 that were not turned in until now. Therefore, the total number of volunteer hours sent to the state office on June 7, 2013, was 4,779.

Members who sent volunteer hours for April and May of 2013 will be included in the second quarter report. Please send information on volunteer hours for April, May, and June of 2013 to Roger Loudon, 14065 Gleneagle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80921-3219 or email at rogerlouden340@yahoo.com by July 5, 2013. Thank you for all that you do.

Roger Loudon, Volunteer Hours Coordinator

2013 Golf Classic benefiting the Foundation for School District 11

The 2nd Annual Foundation for District 11 Golf Classic will be held Monday, September 9, 2013 at the prestigious Kissing Camels Golf Course. The participation fee for a foursome is \$400



or \$125 per individual with a reduced price of \$75/person for public servants (including active and retired educators). Proceeds from the event will support programs that inspire creativity, transform lives by investing in the future and recognize excellence in schools and classrooms of Colorado Springs School District 11.

The Foundation is a non-profit organization whose goals are to enrich and expand educational opportunities for children, foster community involvement in our schools and promote innovative ideas that enhance the quality of public education and the performance and achievement of all students.

Event information and registration forms are available at www.foundationforD11.org. For more information, please call 719-209-1974 or send an email to foundationford11@gmail.com.

Pre-retirement Seminar

The annual PPSPERA pre-retirement seminar was a huge success again this year. Over 80 potential retirees from several area school districts and PERA organizations attended the event which was held at CSSD11's Tesla Educational Opportunity Center on April 4, 2013. Attendees received information from Vicki Endsley, D11 Benefits Office, regarding benefits, Dave Parker from D11 HR Department and Sandi Yukman from Colorado Springs Utilities spoke on transitioning from work to retirement. AMBA and PERA representatives spoke concerning financial readiness and everything you need to know about PERA retirement. We are now looking forward to the 2014 Pre-retirement Seminar on April 3, 2014 from 4-6 p.m. at Tesla and hope to have even more attendees from more districts and organizations than this year.

IT'S AUGUST - IT'S PICNIC TIME!

**You are invited to the
Pikes Peak School & Public Employees Retirement
Association Annual August Potluck Picnic
New Retirees are our Special Guests!!!
Bring a fellow Retiree who has not attended in the past**

**When: Thursday, August 8, 2013
Where: Westside Community Center
1628 West Bijou Street**

Directions From I-25, take the Uintah Street Exit #143 and head west for 0.7 miles. Turn left (south) onto 17th Street. The Center will be on your left on the corner of 17th and West Bijou Street. There is a large parking lot available behind the building . Look for the large signs that say "Main Office". **From east or west:** take Colorado Ave to 17th St and turn north. Go three blocks to the Center. Park in the rear.

What: Pot Luck Picnic (See below for what to bring)

**Program: PERA Update on Fiscal and Political Issues
Greg Smith - Executive Director of PERA
Carole Wright - Board of Trustee -**

Chair

Bring: A - G Salad, H - O Main Dish, P - Z Dessert

**Time: 11:00 Networking
11:30 Eating with Program to follow**

Set-ups and Drinks Provided - Dress is Comfortable & Casual

**Donations will be accepted for Westside Community Center
Suggested items needed: soup, tuna, pasta, hamburger helper, hot & cold cereal, and peanut
butter**

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

At the May 9, 2013 General Membership Meeting, two organizations were recognized for their Community Service – the Westside Community Center and Happy Cats Haven

Alan Rasmussen nominated the Westside Community Center and presented Richard Siever, the director, with a beautiful plaque to commemorate this organization's service to the community.

The multi-faceted dimension of the Westside Community Center enjoys the continued support of more than 20 local service organizations. A wide range of age groups are served – from elementary programs to senior citizen programs. Because of their assistance to families in need of food and other staples of family life, the Center is the recipient of PPSPERA's quarterly donations from the General Membership Meeting on May 9, 2013.

The Westside Community Center touches approximately 9000 lives each and every month which includes a spectrum of children, teens, and adults. The Center will also benefit from donations at the next General Membership Meeting. Thank you, Westside Community Center for your valuable service to the Westside Community.

Linda Smith nominated Happy Cats Haven as the second recipient of PPSPERA's Community Service Award. Gerry Olvey presented the awarded plaque to Sara Ferguson, Board President of Happy Cats Haven.

Studies have shown that having canine or feline companionship can extend one's life. HCH helps cat adopters by helping match the family with the right cat. HCH educates the public on how feline adopting can have a positive impact on their lives. Once a month a group of residents from the Memorial Care Unit at the Village at Skyline visits HCH for a therapy session. As Sara Ferguson stated so eloquently, "The human-cat bond is significant in helping people to cope with stress and other medical issues as well as recovering from trauma." Thank you, Happy Cats Haven for your service primarily to Westside neighborhoods, Manitou Springs, Ute Pass area and to anyone in the Pikes Peak Region in need of your help.

The two plaques that our two Community Service recipients received were the creative work of Joe Morin. Thank you, Joe, for your artistic expertise.