

From Your Co-Presidents

Greetings from your co-presidents! We hope this finds all of you happy and healthy. We have gotten off to a busy start with our annual picnic. This year we held the picnic on August 8th at the Westside Community Center, which was a new location for the PPSPERA picnic. The August 2012 picnic was held in a Bear Creek Park pavilion, and the temperature that day reached 87 degrees! The Westside Community Center allowed us to hold the event inside so that heat and rain would not be a factor, not to mention there is ample parking close by. Thanks to Kaiser Permanente for underwriting the Community Center rental fee. Our speakers for the picnic were Greg Smith, Executive Director of PERA, and Carole Wright, president of the PERA board of trustees. Speaking of Greg, we are delighted that he is officially the Executive Director of PERA! Thanks to all of you who attended the picnic and a special thanks to all of you who brought donations for Westside Pantry.

We have our general membership meetings set for the 2013-2014 year. We will be meeting at the Westside Community Center on November 7, 2013, February 13, 2014 and May 8, 2014 at 10:00 AM. Please watch for information about those meetings and plan to attend.

We are looking forward to the CSPERA Board of Directors Meeting on October 9, 2013 and to the CSPERA Legislative Forum, which will be held on October 10, 2013. PPSPERA will be present at both meetings in Denver.

Our local PPSPERA dues are now \$12.00 per year. The new membership brochure, reflecting this change, is included in this newsletter. We feel that the dues continue to be reasonable and a good value for our members, so remember to pay your local dues and encourage new members to join PPSPERA. We are excited to announce the option to pay your dues electronically on the membership page at www.ppspera.org. If you prefer, you can go to the brochure (included in this newsletter and available on the web site) and send a check through the mail. Please encourage your friends to join, too!

Our next General Membership meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2013 at 9:30 AM at the Westside Community Center. Please watch for reservation information. We look forward to seeing all of you on November 7th!

Gerry Olvey and LuAnn Long

2013 -14 Meeting Calendar

General Membership Meetings: 9:30am -11:30am at the Westside Community Center

- November 7, 2013
- February 13, 2014
- May 8, 2014

Board Meetings: 9:00am-11:00am at The Egg and I at Academy and Galley.

- September 19, 2013
- October 17, 2013
- January 16, 2014
- March 20, 2014
- April 17, 2014
- June 19, 2014

Volunteer Hours of PPSPERA

Retire. Relax. Rocking chair. Do nothing. No way. This is not the style of the members of the Pikes Peak Public Employee Retirement Association (PPSPERA). Just since January of this year through June, members of PPSPERA have logged nearly 4000 volunteer hours. And these are the hours that we are aware of. Probably many more go unnoticed. One member did not report 2464 volunteer hours that were done from May of 2012 through December of 2012. As of June of 2013, our members have contributed 6451 volunteer hours to the Colorado Springs community. Good job, members.

Members contribute to the community in a variety of ways. Volunteer hours range from being on school boards to being members of home owners' associations. Our members help in schools, their churches, Humane Society, Happy Cats Haven, hospitals, neighborhood associations, community organizations, etc.

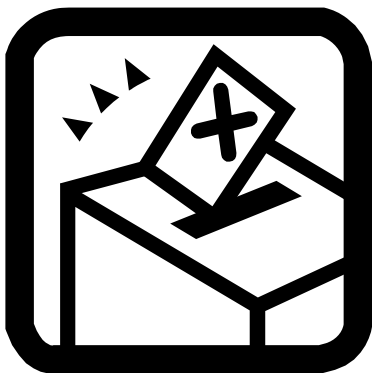
Members of PPSPERA report their hours on a quarterly basis. The next quarter will be July, August, and September. These hours are reported to the State of Colorado in Denver. You are encouraged to report your volunteer hours to Roger Loudon by emailing him at rogerlouden340@yahoo.com or you may mail them to Roger at 14065 Gleneagle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80921-3219.

Membership Renewal

The PPSPERA Board made some membership changes in the last few months. The local dues have been raised to \$12.00 per year. The 2013-14 membership brochure is included in this newsletter. You can renew by sending a check to the post office box printed on the brochure or pay online by going to the PPSPERA website. As a reminder that it is time to renew, any member that has not renewed in the next couple of weeks will be sent an invoice. Please encourage your friends to join. There is strength in numbers.

PPSPERA Officers & Board of Directors

Co-Presidents-	LuAnn Long & Gerry Olvey
Past President-	Meredith Jobe
President Elect-	Elaine Naleski
Secretary-	Joyce Schmaltz
Treasurer-	John Kerr
CSPERA Liaison-	Peggy Gardner
Public Relations-	Elaine Naleski
Community Service-	Roger Louden
Social/Courtesy-	June George
Electronic Comm-	Joe Morin
Historians-	Bud & Naomi Lehmkuhl
Legislative-	Sandy Patton
Membership-	Karen Hart
Newsletter-	Alan Rasmussen
Pre-Retirement-	Terry & Jennifer Alley
Scholarship Program-	Charlotte Brummer & Barbara Watt
Member Emeritus-	Judy McCormick



School Tax Ballot Not Related to PERA

This fall's ballot will include a tax proposal to support Colorado's School Finance Act. Opponents have already begun to say, "Don't vote for the school tax; it will just send more money to the PERA pension for teachers." This will likely be a main message of tax opponents, since it's difficult to oppose educational services for young children.

Voters should be aware that the School Finance Act contains not one word about about any dollars for the PERA pension fund. It makes absolutely no changes to the amount of money that will be paid into PERA.

The legislature controls the amount paid into PERA by employers. That was last adjusted in 2010. The amount of money paid into PERA next year will be exactly the same regardless of whether the tax initiative passes or fails.

To be a bit on the joking side, if the tax passed and a school district didn't know how to use some of its additional dollars, and wanted to donate some to PERA, it would be illegal for PERA to accept the donation. PERA cannot receive any monies more than as specified by the 2010 law.

The School Finance Act specifies that the new money will be directed toward early childhood education, full day kindergarten, services for English Language Learners, Special Education programs, gifted and talented programs, and rural education. No dollars are directed to PERA.

The PERA Board of Trustees has taken "No position" on the tax measure because the tax initiative has no bearing, no impact, on the finances of PERA.

Tax opponents may say that the PERA fund needs the tax dollars because it is not earning enough in its investments. The PERA adjustments of 2010 set out a plan that relies on PERA earning 8% per year on its investments. State Treasurer Stapleton has characterized that investment return as "impossible." However, since 2010, PERA has earned 17%, 14%, 2%, and 12%, for an average return of over 11% per year. And PERA's 30-year average is over 9%. So, the fund has, so far, a comfortable margin over the planned investment income, and there is no emergency need for dollar additions.

Voters should certainly judge their interest in supporting the areas of education specified in the School Finance Act, but they should be confident that the tax proposal contains no language that would send any of its dollars to the PERA pension fund.

(Reprinted with permission from Tom Tonoli from the Fort Collins Chapter)

Community and Distinguished Service Awards

At the General Membership Meeting held in May, the Pikes Peak School and Public Employees Retirement Association (PPSPERA) recognizes two organizations or individuals who have made significant contributions in the field of education and/or public service in Colorado.

Recipients of these prestigious awards may be an individual or an organization. All PPSPERA members are encouraged to nominate their special individual or organization. Nominations must be submitted by the first week of March each year and sent to Roger Louden, 14065 Gleneagle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80921. The nomination form contains guidelines for either an individual or an organization.

Our two 2013 award winners, the Westside Community Center and Happy Cats Haven, are good examples of worthy recipients of our Community and Distinguished Service awards.

Several other stipulations not included on the nomination form are the following:

- Awardees must be residents of the state of Colorado.
- They must have made significant contribution to the field of education or public service.
- Teams of people will be considered as one unit.
- Nominators should submit a letter of nomination that must include a biographical sketch and any other documentation which defines the achievements of the nominee(s).
- The Awardees will be notified in April of their selection and are invited to be our guests at the May meeting. For this Awards Program to continue successfully, YOUR input is vital. Please, give careful consideration to those YOU could nominate.

Other organizations nominated in recent years are the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Auxiliary, the Children's Grief Support Program at Pikes Peak Hospice, Care and Share, Women's Resource Agency, and the Dream Foundation, the Salvation Army after School and Summer Camp Program.

Roger W. Louden

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, November 7, 2013 – 9:30 a.m.

**PPSPERA FALL Membership Meeting and
Breakfast/Brunch - \$12.00 Cost**

**Westside Community Center
1628 West Bijou Street
Colorado Springs, CO**

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



Pikes Peak School & Public Employees Retirement Association

P.O. Box 7969

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