



# NewsLetter

PPSPERA IS SUPPORTED BY COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 11

July 2014

Editor: Alan Rasmussen

## FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Greetings to you all from your new co-presidents. It hardly seems possible that another year has come and gone, but it is indeed the time for new officers. Just as a reminder, Lu Ann Long will continue as co-president with Elaine Naleski assuming the other co-president position. Gerry Olvey will now be the past president. We really hope to have a great year this year with an emphasis on membership and providing for the desires and needs of our current members. This is your organization, and we want you to be involved in every way possible.

Your new officers are:

- Co- presidents: Lu Ann Long and Elaine Naleski
- Past president: Gerry Olvey
- President-elect: Jan King
- Secretary: Joyce Schmaltz
- Treasurer: John Kerr

Your committee chairs are as follows:

- Community Service: Roger Louden
- Social/Courtesy: June George
- CSPERA Board Rep: Peggy Gardner
- Electronic Communications: Joe Morin
- Historians: Bud and Naomi Lehmkuhl
- Legislative: Sandy Patton
- Membership: Karen Hart
- Membership recruitment: Carole Carlsen
- Newsletter: Alan Rasmussen
- Pre-retirement: Terry and Jennifer Alley
- Scholarship: Charlotte Brummer and Barbara Watt
- Program: Terri Stevens
- Board member Emeritus: Judy McCormick

Because we want PPSPERA to best suit the needs and desires of our members, we will be conducting a survey with questions regarding when and where we meet and what we do at those meetings. We also want to know how you want to be informed as to what is going on with your organization. Please be looking

for the survey and take a little time to help us all make PPSPERA a better association for you. We hope you will all like the changes we make.

So in order to be successful, we need your current email address. Please send any changes in your email address to our membership committee at [www.membership@ppspera.org](mailto:membership@ppspera.org). Be sure to sign your email. If you do not have email access or wish to receive PPSPERA communications mailed to you, please let us know that, too, by sending a note with your current address to PPSPERA, P. O. Box 7969, Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7969.

We appreciate your membership in PPSPERA, and encourage you to invite your retired friends and colleagues who are not members to join and support our initiatives. We can't wait to see you at the August picnic.

Lu Ann Long and Elaine Naleski

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**Thursday,**  
**August 21, 2014 – 11:00 a.m.**

*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*

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

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## 2014 Community and Distinguished Service Award

The prestigious *2014 Community and Distinguished Service Award* presented by the Pikes Peak School and Public Employees Retirement Association was awarded to Colleen F. Weis at the May 8, 2014 general membership meeting at the Westside Community Center. Colleen was nominated by PPSPERA member, Barbara Watt.

In her nomination letter, Barbara adeptly stated, “Colleen is a volunteer who has been teaching line dancing for senior citizens at the Colorado Springs Senior Center for more than eleven years. She began in 2002 when a previous instructor unexpectedly quit and senior citizens asked her to tech the class. Over the years, she has also taught senior line dancing classes at the Westside Center and the Hillside Community Center.”

Our award winner teaches three weekly one-and-a-half-hour classes. There is a beginner class, a beginner two class, and an intermediate class. Since 2007, it has become a family affair, when husband Ray retired and began to assume responsibilities for the music equipment and CDs needed for the classes.

Colleen came to Colorado from Washington state when she just three-years old. Her family always had a love for dancing and this propelled Colleen to share her expertise with fun-loving seniors. She was nominated for Senior Volunteer of the Year Award two years ago. Barbara ends her nomination letter with a look to the future, “She and Ray plan to carry on until 2020 providing their health and music equipment hold up”. Colleen, PPSPERA members wish you and Ray the very best as you serve our community – *ad multos annos*.

Congratulations, Colleen, for meriting this award from PPSPERA. You are a credit to your family for serving our community. Joe Morin and Production Printing created a beautiful plaque that was presented to Colleen at the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Thank you, Joe and Production Printing for your unique expertise.

Roger W. Loudon  
Community and Distinguished Service Awards  
Chairman

## We Still Need Your Volunteer Hours

There were the Tennessee Volunteers of yesteryear, and there are the thousands of volunteer fire fighters today. Volunteers have done, and continue to do, a great service to thousands of communities across our country. The volunteering that members of PPSPERA do may not be as intense and dramatic as the ones just mentioned, but they are equally praiseworthy, laudable, and appreciated by those who benefit from them.

The 20 members of PPSPERA who turned in their volunteer hours for the year 2013 combined for a total of 6,194 hours. All of you have done a great job, and many people have benefitted from your service. You might recall from the January 2014 issue of *The PPSPERA Newsletter* that our organization accounted for nearly 10 per cent of the State’s total number of volunteer hours for the year 2013.

However, I still have the feeling that many members do volunteer work and simply are unaware that what they are doing falls under the umbrella of volunteer hours, or they simply forget to turn in their hours. The writer of this article is a good example of the former. For the past three years I have served as vice president of my homeowners’ association (GCA). Besides driving twelve miles at least once a week (many times twice a week) to get the association’s mail and helping out with many functions and attending one or two meetings each month, I did not report these volunteer hours for nearly two years. Maybe some of the members of PPSPERA are doing something similar and are not reporting their volunteer hours.

As a brief review, if you volunteer at your church, or for a community organization (e.g. a hospital, school board, or pet shelter), or volunteer at a school, these hours should be reported to PPSPERA so that they can be sent to CSPERA. CSPERA then sends these volunteer hours to the Governor’s Office to demonstrate the value that our members provide to the citizens of Colorado.

Report your volunteer hours at the end of each quarter to Roger Loudon at [rogerlouden340@yahoo.com](mailto:rogerlouden340@yahoo.com).



## LEADERSHIP D-11

Are you a parent or citizen who would like to learn more about District 11, meet a wide variety of district officials, share information with your school community, and get to know parents from schools across the District? Then a new opportunity starting in the 2014-15 school year may interest you. It's called Leadership D11.

- Attend a quarterly class
- Obtain a foundation in district operations and governance
- Learn more about Board of Education duties, school instruction/curriculum, district administration duties, etc.

There will be four sessions held during the 2014-15 school year covering a variety of subject in addition to those mentioned above. For more information, contact the District 11 Office of Communications and Community Relations at 719 520-2162.

## PPSPERA Calendar

### Board Meetings:

September 25, 2014

October 16, 2014

January 15, 2015

March 29, 2015

April 16, 2015

June 18, 2015

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## Spread the Word: ALL Coloradans Benefit From PERA

### Investigate [www.wearepera.org](http://www.wearepera.org)

Help spread the word. PERA is of benefit to ALL Coloradans.

A recent survey revealed that many Coloradans have no idea what "PERA" is. A campaign is under way to acquaint all citizens with the pension plan that serves our snow plow drivers, judges, department of transportation workers, teachers, state troopers, corrections officers, and other public employees.

And that campaign aims to educate folks about how ALL citizens benefit from PERA. Here's how...

Our state economy, much like the nation's, relies on strong consumer spending. PERA supports that economic engine by distributing, each year, over \$3 billion dollars to retirees, most of whom live and spend in the state. Those payments support businesses and sustain over 24,000 jobs across Colorado.

More locally, Pueblo County, with over 5,000 PERA retirees, receives an economic benefit of over \$207 million annually. That's a significant positive impact. And because that comes from a reliable Defined Benefit plan, its boosting impact of consumer spending at local businesses, and its support for jobs, happens even in "down" economic times, when it's most needed.

Add in neighboring El Paso County, and there's another \$393 million of PERA support for the economy in our region, with consumer spending from over 10,000 public employee retirees. Add Fremont County... another \$59 million of economic stimulus each year.

A web site has been created to help all Coloradans know about PERA. Investigate yourself the information at [www.wearepera.org](http://www.wearepera.org). See how to spread an awareness of PERA's economic benefit to all via "PERA Bucks" and other conversations.

Keep in mind that PERA, created by legislative action, can be changed by legislative action. Future years might produce ballot measures asking all citizens to vote on matters that affect PERA. Help build a PERA-aware citizenry with a knowledge base that includes PERA's strong economic benefits to all.



*Pikes Peak School & Public Employees Retirement Association*

P.O. Box 7969

Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7969

## Pre-Retirement Meeting

The Pre-Retirement Meeting sponsored by PPSPERA was held on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Tesla Center. Employees nearing retirement from School District 11, Colorado Springs Utilities and the City of Colorado Springs were invited to attend. Following a welcome from PSPERA Co-Presidents Gerry Olvey and Luann Long, the participants heard presentations from CSPERA, SecurePERA, AMBA and COPERA. Participants then went to break-out sessions with members of the finance department of their place of employment to review the retirement process. Plans are underway for the next Pre-Retirement meeting to be held in April 2015.