

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

By the time you get this newsletter, it will be March and almost spring. Spring means election of officers for PPSPERA. If you missed our winter general membership meeting, you really missed an excellent program about the new testing program for our school districts. The saga goes on as the legislature and the state board of education keep hearing from school districts around the state. Our program was presented by Dr. Nicholas Gledich, superintendent of Colorado Springs School District 11 and Jason Ter Horst, assistant superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Student Services. Moving to the Olive Garden seems to have been a good move. They have been such great hosts and continue to accommodate our every need.

Spring is also the time for our scholarship presentations, and details regarding the scholarships can be found in this newsletter. Our scholarship recipients will be invited to the spring general membership meeting on April 30th. I hope you will be there to show your support for these young adults.

Another spring presentation will be the winner(s) of our Distinguished Service award. The deadline for nominations will have passed by the time you get our newsletter, so hopefully we have several. Forms were available in our last newsletter.

As you probably noticed, we changed the topic of the February meeting because of the urgency with certain legislation regarding PERA. At this time we have around 45 members who have said they are attending. Our presenter is Glenn Gustafson, deputy superintendent and chief financial officer for D11, and we will write more about his presentation on Senate Bill 10-001 and the possibility of PERA pension obligation bonds in the next newsletter.

The annual pre-retirement meeting will be held at the Tesla Center on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 4:30 pm. Terry's article will explain the details. Please share this information with any active employees you know who are even thinking about retirement in the next few years. We had such positive feedback about the meeting last year from all who attended.

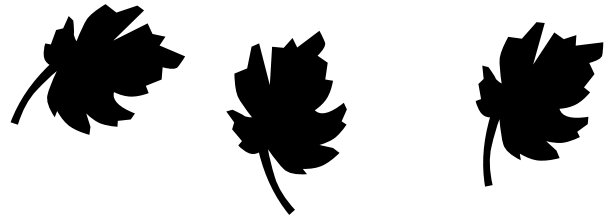
Our spring general membership program will be April 30th at the Olive Garden, where we will have our scholarship presentations, Distinguished Service Award presentations, election and installation of officers, and a program on protecting yourself from identity theft. Our program presenter will be a representative from Aventa Credit Union. As you can tell, this will be a very important meeting, so I hope you will make plans to be there.

The Colorado School and Public Employees annual meeting will be held in Colorado Springs on May 21, 2015 at the Doubletree Hotel. Please see Sandy's article for details.

Remember to send your volunteer hours in to Roger Loudon on the form is enclosed in this newsletter.

Please remember, you are always welcome to attend any of our board meetings, and we really hope to see you all in April. By then maybe it will feel like spring in The Springs.

Lu Ann and Elaine



SAVE THE DATE!!

CSPERA Board of Directors Meeting

May 20, 2015

Colorado Springs Doubletree Hotel

CSPERA 2015 Annual Conference

May 21, 2015

Colorado Springs Doubletree Hotel

Keynote Speakers:

Greg Smith, Executive Director of CoPERA

Carol Hedges, Executive Director of Colorado Fiscal Institute

Registration Information Coming Soon

Important Legislative Update

SB 80 Expansion of Defined Contribution Plan Option, Sen. Owen Hill (R–Colorado Springs) and Rep. Paul Lundeen (R–Monument)

The PERA Board voted to **oppose** SB 80 due to its negative impact on PERA’s funding status and because it undermines the progress and sustainable path we are on as a result of the reforms established by SB 1. The bill gained final approval on an 18-17 party line vote in the Senate on Friday, February 13. It was introduced in the House and is assigned to the House State, Veterans, & Military Affairs and House Finance Committees. It will be heard first in House State Affairs, and it will need approval there before it can be heard in House Finance. There are no El Paso County legislators on the House State Affairs committee so we are not asking you at this time to contact legislators. However, should the bill be recommended by State Affairs to House Finance we will be asking for your help! PLEASE watch and listen to see what action may be taken.

SB 97 Eligibility of a Supplemental Needs Trust to Receive Certain PERA Benefits, Sen. Irene Aguilar (D–Denver) and Rep. Lois Landgraf (R–Fountain)

The PERA Board voted to **support** SB 97 because it provides financial protection for certain disabled dependents of PERA members. It gained final approval from the full Senate on a unanimous 34-0 vote (with one senator excused) on Friday, February 20. The bill was introduced in the House and assigned to House Finance. SB 97 is not yet on the House calendar as of this update.

SB 133 Compensation Report Prepared by the State Personnel Director, Sen. Kent Lambert (R-Colorado Springs) and Rep. Bob Rankin (R-Carbondale)

The PERA Board voted to **oppose** SB 133 because it is the PERA Board’s duty to recommend retirement contribution rates, not the State Personnel Director (a politically appointed position and whose office does not have the expertise or knowledge to assess the appropriate rates on a biennial basis – and only oversees approximately half of the State Division’s active membership). The bill gained initial approval from the Senate Finance committee on a 4-1 vote, despite testimony against the legislation from PERA Executive Director, Greg Smith. It will now be heard in Senate Appropriations, though no hearing date is scheduled yet.

CSPERA CALENDAR

Board Meetings:

9:00 a.m. at the Egg and I at Academy and Galley

March 19, 2015

April 16, 2015

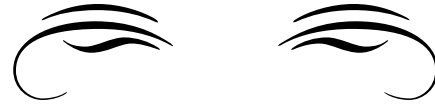
June 18, 2015

General Membership Meeting:

April 30, 2015 at 11:30

Olive Garden Restaurant

513 N. Academy Blvd.



2015 Scholarships

- Scholarship applications and information were mailed February 11 to local public high schools.
- Applications are due no later than March 31. If you know a worthy student graduating from a public high school in El Paso or Teller County who plans to enter an education or public service field, please encourage them to visit our website at PPSPERA.org for more information and an application form.
- There are two scholarships of \$1,500 each, honoring distinguished local educators Bill Brandenburg and Wayne Bricker.
- Last year’s recipients may apply for a second year award of \$500. They will be notified of the requirements and deadline at the end of the school year.
- Your generous contributions to the scholarship fund help make these scholarships possible. Thank you!
- Charlotte Brummer and Barbara Watt

Volunteer Hours of PPSPERA

My instincts tell me that members of PPSPERA are so busy volunteering that they have no time to call or email their hours to me!! In 2013, the total number of volunteer hours was 8658. This number included a carryover of 2464 volunteer hours from 2012 that were not reported in a timely fashion. In 2013, the number of PPSPERA members reporting their volunteer hours was 20. Furthermore, our total number of volunteer hours in 2013 was nearly 10 per cent of CSPERA's total number of volunteer hours.

The statistics for 2014 are not as glowing as those of 2013. Only 10 PPSPERA members reported their volunteer hours to me. The total number of volunteer hours was 4347 – this is virtually half the total of 2013. This total also included 380 hours carried over from 2013. Those same instincts tell me that there will be many unreported volunteer hours from 2014 that will now be reported in 2015 – *nicht wahr!!*

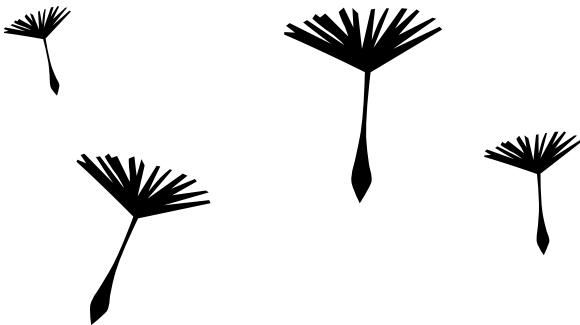
As a brief reminder, if you volunteer at your church, or for a community organization (e.g. a hospital, school board, pet shelter, Home Owners Association)

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 and service that our members provide to the citizens of Colorado.

In the next issue of the *PPSPERA NewsLetter*, I would like to list all of the sites of our volunteer hours. What is your opinion of this idea?

Finally, please, report your volunteer hours at the end of each quarter to Roger at rogerlouden340@yahoo.com or call me at 488-2545.

Roger W. Louden



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 2014 award winner, Colleen F. Weis is a volunteer who has been teaching line dancing for senior citizens at the Colorado Springs Senior Center for more than twelve years, is a good example of a worthy recipient 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



Pikes Peak School & Public Employees Retirement Association

P.O. Box 7969

Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7969

PPSPERA Opportunity

Would you like to be more involved in the PPSPERA organization? Are you interested in a leadership opportunity that will help keep the PERA pension system strong? PPSPERA is looking for a member to serve as president-elect during the 2015-2016 year. PPSPERA uses a co-president model, so the president-elect would then serve with a partner in a co-president role for 2 years (2016 – 2018). After those two years, the co-president serves as past president for one year. The PPSPERA board meets once a month, ten times a year for two hours at each meeting.

Serving on the PPSPERA board provides a great opportunity to network and collaborate with other PERA retirees. If you are interested in being considered, or have any questions about the PPSPERA board, or about the office of president-elect, please contact Gerry Olvey at skoego@aol.com.