

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Spring is here! It is time to enjoy our wonderful Colorado weather and to recognize why we want a strong local organization. Why does PPSPERA exist? Our primary goal is to keep our organization strong to protect our retirement benefits. Retirement security is important to all of us. It will take all of us working together to maintain those benefits. Our quality of life depends on each of us taking on that responsibility. Thanks to all of you that hold an office and/or volunteer to be on a committees. Thanks to all that write letters, emails, and make phone calls to your legislators to hold them accountable. This year the State Legislature had six bills that would have potentially changed our PERA Benefits. So far four of them have been killed. You do make a difference.

Another reason we exist is that most of us volunteer some of our time and/money to organizations in our community. This allows us to continue to be active in our communities and lets others know that we care and are still are contributing. Did you know that across the state of Colorado, CSPERA reported that members turned in 33,258.5 volunteer hours as of December 2016! Remember to turn in your hours to Roger Loudon.

PPSPERA raises funds to give two (2) student scholarships each year. We will have those students and their parents at our April General Membership April 13th meeting to receive their scholarships. We also recognize an individual and/or an organization each year for outstanding contributions to the community. We will do this at our next General Membership Meeting on June 8, 2017.

We need to expand our membership and bring new people into our organization. With that in mind, the next General Membership Meeting in April we will have Karen Magnuson speak to us about the importance of growing our membership. Karen is the Executive Director for CSPERA and this will be a chance to meet her and listen to her ideas.

Also as a current member, if you bring an individual that would like to become a member, PPSPERA will buy your lunch for that meeting. If more than one member brings someone, your name will be put into a hat and a name will be drawn for the free lunch. If you bring a guest/s make sure that John Kerr is notified so that he can turn in an accurate lunch count to Vi Hi Golf Club.

PPSPERA /AMBA will be sponsoring a pre-retirement seminar at District 11 Tesla Education Center for all potential area PERA retirees, April 13th at 4:30p.m. If you know someone that is planning on retiring encourage them to attend.

Don't forget as a PPSPERA and a CSPERA member you have access to many AMBA Benefits. These benefits include insurance plans for long term care, vision and dental plans and discounts for car rentals, travel, computers, etc.

These are some of the goals and advantages of belonging to PPSPERA. Please consider volunteering for a committee or maybe being Co-President or President Elect.

Thank You,

Co-Presidents

Rose Enyeart and Jan King

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CSPERA AT A CRITICAL CROSSROADS WITH VERY IMPORTANT VOTES AT MAY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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The CSPERA Board of Directors, composed of one designated representative from each local unit with fewer than 200 members and 2 designated representatives from local units with 200 or more members, elected officers, standing committee chairs and division directors, as well as past presidents of CSPERA, will meet for the Spring Board meeting on May 10, 2017 at the Pueblo Convention Center in Pueblo, CO. It is VERY IMPORTANT that all designated board members are PRESENT at the meeting. Travel, food and hotel expenses for all designated board members will be paid by CSPERA. Registration materials are available on the website, in this newsletter and the office staff are always happy to send materials to you. Please make sure your unit is represented.

Executive Board of Directors Make Important Recommendations to Board

Adopt Unified Membership Including Unified Dues

CSPERA Executive Board approved the recommendations of the CSPERA Unified Membership Task Force (UMTF) at the January CSPERA Executive Board meeting. **The recommendation is that CSPERA adopt a unified membership structure including unified dues.**

Further action was to recommend to the CSPERA Board of Directors **an increase of CSPERA dues from \$24 to \$48 or \$4 per month, effective with the 2017/18-membership year** or with the new membership year beginning in September 2017. CSPERA has not increased dues in about 10 years. Operational costs have increased significantly during the last 10 years. Just making sure our PERA is secure by supporting the coalition who lobbies for us is quite expensive. Your dues to our organization keep it alive and functioning for the benefit of all our retirees.

Further action by the CSPERA Executive Board was to approve the **recommendation of the UMTF to establish \$10 as of the \$48 dues amount to be returned to the local unit for each member of CSPERA.** In other words of the \$48 of CSPERA dues, \$38 would remain to support the activities of CSPERA to protect your pension and to work toward retirement security for all members, to support the other operational costs of CSPERA, and all other expenses. Local units would receive \$10 per member to support the local unit activities. A quarterly payment schedule to the locals was approved. This means that when you join CSPERA, you will automatically be a member of your local unit. One payment, either dues deduct or check, will mean no renewal hassles for the local units, and they will have a dependable budget amount to begin each budget year.

Members currently not belonging to a local unit will have the opportunity to join the nearest local and add your support there, as well as at the state level. If no local unit is available in the region, you will have all the benefits of full membership and receive support through social media.

The Finance Committee is recommending that one dues structure be approved for all members of CSPERA in the amount of \$48. That means the organization will no longer offer \$12 membership to active employees who currently have limited membership privileges or reduced memberships for spouses and those not enrolled in PERA.

All of these recommendations will be voted on at the May 10th Board of Directors meeting at the Pueblo Convention Center.

This is why it is so important that each eligible voting member attends the board meeting.

PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR ON APRIL 13TH

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The annual Pre-Retirement Seminar sponsored by PPSPERA will be held on April 13th. It will be held at the Tesla Center from 4:30 until 6:30 PM. Speakers this year will be Elaine Naleski representing CSPERA, Carol Wright COPERA board member, Jake Henderson of AMBA and Ami Taylor COPERA Field Representative.

Break-out sessions will be held at the end of the general session. During this time, participants will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from the business office at their place of employment.



Pikes Peak School & Public Employees Retirement Association

P.O. Box 7969

Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7969

SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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The PPSPERA Spring Luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 13 at 11:30 at Valley Hi Golf Club.

Karen Magnuson, Executive Director of CSPERA is the speaker.

Come, join us! Meet your fellow PPSPERA members and get up-to-date information you need to know to protect your retirement!

SAVE THE DATE

2017 PPSPERA CALENDAR

**BOARD MEETINGS
EGG & I RESTAURANT
9:00 AM**

**May 18, 2017
July 20, 2017**

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

**VALLEY HI GOLF COURSE
CLUBHOUSE
11:30 AM**

**April 13, 2017
June 8, 2017
August 10, 2017**