

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

We have had a wonderful summer so far! Many of you have been on great adventures and some are going to be on their way! Your board members and others attended the CSPERA annual meeting in May. We learned some things at the meeting about what the discussion around our PERA Benefits. Here is some of that discussion. Please keep tuned in either by going on line, signing up for conference calls or attending a meeting in our area.

CHANGES ARE COMING TO PERA

PERA works for all of us! It gives individuals, retired members, a quality, reliable income for our years of service. Employers have the advantage of being able to offer retirement benefits when hiring new employees. This helps employers attract and retain more qualified workers. It benefits all of Colorado because those dollars are returned to local economies when retirees spend their income for food, clothing, utilities, and entertainment.

PERA puts \$ 6.1 billion dollars back into the Colorado economy. Benefits are paid out to 550,000 Coloradans, 90% live in Colorado and sustains 32,807 jobs. This means that all of us, members, retirees, and taxpayers have a stake in making sure PERA is secure and provides a quality income for those people that keep us safe, snowplow drivers, State troopers, and those who teach our students.

PERA is one of the most stable retirement plans in the country. It is not in a crisis as we were in 2009. We do need to look to the future because of changing conditions, (a) members are living longer, (b) geopolitical nature of the financial markets, (c) investments not generating

the returns they once were. PERA staff traveled around the state having conversations, collecting ideas, and giving information about actions that might be taken to decrease the unfunded liability to make PERA even more efficient. Listen and watch this fall, PERA will be putting some of those ideas together. We must protect PERA as it is a major economic driver across the state of Colorado. It works for retired Colorado employees, those that will retire in the future, employers, and the citizens of Colorado.

Members of PPSPERA/CSPERA are our own advocates for our retirement if we do not show up and let our voices be heard we might see changes that we do not like. If you did not get to listen to Greg Smith on the Conference Call, April 27th, or get to attend the PERA tour at the Marriot you can go to the website www.PERAtour.org and get more information.

CO- Presidents

Rose Enyeart

Jan King

Rose Enyeart and Jan King

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COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

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LuAnn Long introduced the two people who received the Community Service Award.

Carley Crowder started volunteering when she was in second grade and continued to volunteer through all her school years including the university where she handed out food to the homeless and volunteered with help lines sponsored by the university. This lists only a few of the many activities Carley has initiated or helped with in her many years of volunteering. Presently she conducts a service for homeless women. She in connection with Westside Cares makes a container to hold feminine and grooming products and distributes them to homeless women in our community.

Rosa Calhoun conducts a food ministry to help the homeless each Saturday from September through April at Antler's Park. She has provided 108,870 burritos over 13 years. She truly deserves the Community Service Award.

LuAnn thanked each woman for her service and presented each with a plaque.

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PPSPERA SCHOLARSHIPS ARE JEOPARDY!

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The fund for our scholarships is very low. Donations have not been received to keep up with the scholarships given each year. We need to raise additional funds so that we can give back to our community. Did you know that if every member gave \$20.00 a year we could cover the cost of our scholarships! Please consider giving to the Scholarship Fund. We need to be visible in our community. You can send donations to PPSPERA, P.O. Box 7969, Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7969. You can also go to the www.PPSPERA.org to give.

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NEEDED: YOU'RE VOLUNTEER HOURS

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PPSPERA members reported a grand total of 4977 volunteer hours for the year 2016. Good job, members. These hours have been reported to the CSPERA Volunteer Office. Send your volunteer hours for 2017 Quarters One and Two to Roger Louden at either rogerlouden340@yahoo.com or mail them to 12611 Pensador Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80921-2308.

The volunteer sites of PPSPERA volunteer hours touch a wide spectrum of locations and organizations. The following is the list that we have so. If your site is not listed, please let me know: PPSPERA Board and Committee meetings, HOA Landscape Committee and Board meetings, Radio Station KCMJ, Salem Lutheran Church, New Horizon Band, Colorado Digital Learning, School District 11, School District 49, Artemis, Colorado Springs Science Center, Girls' STEM, CSPERA (multiple members), School District 11 Board of Education, Democratic Party Office, Pillar Institute, American Association of University Women, Palmer High School Alumni Association, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Sons of Norway Lodge, Catholic Diocese of Colorado Springs, Holy Apostles' Catholic Church, Sub City West & Sewing and Ceramic Clubs (both in AZ), Happy Cats Haven, First United Methodist Church, Colorado High School Activities Association, Silver Key, American Cancer Society, Divine Redeemer Church, Villa Sierra Condominiums, Memorial Hospital Central, PERA Ambassador & Training Activities, Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care, Howbert Elementary School, Pleasant Valley Association, Pleasant Street – 300 Block, Jim's Garden, Pleasant Valley Entrance – 31st Street, assisting a blind neighbor and her two sons, assisting a 93 year-old former teacher with meals and shopping, visiting a nursing home.

As you can see, your volunteer hours benefit many organizations, friends, and neighbors. Your volunteer time is much appreciated. You help make our community the good one that it is. Thank you for all that you do.

Roger Louden – Volunteer Chair

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IMPORTANT ACTION BY CSPERA BOARD OF DIRECTORS!!!!

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Dues Increase

At the Spring Board of Directors Meeting held in Pueblo on May 10, 2017, the CSPERA Board of Directors voted to increase CSPERA dues from \$24 to \$36 effective with the new membership year beginning in September 2017. This increase translates to \$3 per month, which is an even dollar amount for those on dues deduction. Dues deduct members will not need to take any action as PERA will automatically increase the monthly amount from \$2 to \$3. Pay by check members will see the increase on the 2017-18 invoices.

Justification for the dues increase was skyrocketing cost of operation and the fact that dues CSPERA dues had not increased in well over ten years. For example, the costs of the Secure PERA Coalition, which lobbies for us, have at least doubled. The organization also plans to expand areas of service, increase recruitment and training activities for members and local units and increase social media.

Only one dues structure of \$36 was approved for CSPERA. That means the organization will no longer offer associate membership to active employees who currently have limited membership privileges or reduced memberships for spouses and those not enrolled in PERA.

Unified Membership/Unified Dues

The CSPERA Board of Directors approved the implementation of Unified Membership/Unified Dues beginning September 2018; with dues set at \$48 per year of which \$10 per CSPERA member will be returned to the local units in good standing. In other words, of the \$48 of CSPERA dues \$38 will 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 will receive \$10 per member to support the local unit activities. Details are still being worked out.

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 local units 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.

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PPSPERA ELECTION

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Election and installation of Officers was done at the June 8th General Membership meeting. Lynn Whitacre was elected President-Elect of PPSPERA. Rose Enyeart and Jan King will stay on as co-Presidents for 2017-2018 year. The following year, 2018-2019, Lynn will serve as co-President with Rose. In 2019-20, Lynn will serve as co-president with another individual.

PPSPERA is in need of participation from membership to fill board opportunities. We have had two individuals wanting to move on to other things. They have served faithfully for several years. Alan Rasmussen is leaving as editor of the newsletter and Pam Berry is leaving as historian. We need individuals to come forward and volunteer for those positions. It is a great way to become familiar with the inner workings of our organization.

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COMMUNITY AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

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LuAnn Long and Elaine Naleski nominated two worthy individuals for the Community and Distinguished Service Awards for 2017. They are Rosa Calhoun and Carley Crowder.

Rosa Calhoun is the current kitchen manager at Russell Middle School. She is also the Employee Support Personnel Ambassador for all of Food and Nutrition Services in District 11. Her contribution to the community is feeding the homeless and representing the school district as an outstanding citizen.

Rosa arrived in Colorado Springs approximately 15 years ago and was herself homeless. It was at that point that she decided that when she could, she would do something to help others. It started out small as she and her husband used their own funds to purchase food items and assemble burritos.

Rosa has been doing this ministry for the homeless every Saturday morning from September through April at Antler's Park and several other locations. Over the last 13 years, her program has provided over 108,870 burritos to our community's homeless.

Marilyn Eggleston, the current president of District 11's ESP Council, also has written a glowing account of Rosa's positive impact on our community. Rosa has a heart for those who struggle, be it on the street or in one of our school kitchens. She is so kind and compassionate and is a blessing to all who come in contact with her. She deserves any recognition that might come her way.

Marilyn, LuAnn, and Elaine feel that Rosa is most deserving of our Community and Distinguished Service Award for 2017.

Our next recipient also nominated by LuAnn Long and Elaine Naleski is Carley Crowder. Carley is a product of three District 11 schools: Madison Elementary School, Irving Middle School, and Mitchell High School. After high school, she attended Pikes Peak Community College.

Carley started volunteering in the second grade at the Mark Twain Elementary School Toy Drive, and she continued to help with that drive through fifth grade. In the fifth grade at Madison Elementary School, she organized a "Keep the Pledge of Allegiance" assembly, which turned into a full-blown production. She is a life-long volunteer who keeps on giving.

When Carley was a cadet in her Girl Scout Troop, she organized and led their service project. When completed, they had raised funds for six bomb-sniffing dogs deployed to Iraq to receive FLAK jackets that had cooling and heating capabilities.

While attending Metro State University in women's studies, she handed out food to homeless folks in her neighborhood. Carley continues to give to our entire community. Since returning to Colorado Springs, she makes Ziploc bags with hand warmers inside. She gives these to family and friends who hand them out to people who need them. She also added bags of dog food for those on the street that have dogs.

Just Us Girls (JUGS) is a community service project that has had positive responses. Carley put the word out that she needed more plastic jugs and the supplies to put in them. She has now picked up hundreds of jugs and a multitude of supplies.

Colorado 2018 Gubernatorial Candidate Worksheet

Created by Karen D. Magnuson, CSPERA Executive Director

Profile Criteria					
Name of Candidate	Profession	Native of Colorado Y or N	Voting Records for PERA Good or Bad	Support Public Education Y or N	
Democratic Primary					
DECLARED					
Noel Ginsburg	Businessman				
Mike Johnston	Former State Senator				
Cary Kennedy	Former CO State Treasurer, former CFO and Deputy Mayor of Denver				
Jared Polis	U.S. Representative				
Erik Underwood	Businessman, Republican Candidate for GA-10 in 2007 and U.S. Senate 2016				
WITHDRAWN					
Ed Perlmutter	U.S. Representative				
POTENTIAL					
Joe Garcia	President, Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education and former Lieutenant Governor				
Donna Lynne	Lieutenant Governor				

Republican Primary					
DECLARED					
Steve Barlock	Denver Co-Chair 2016 Trump Campaign				
George Brauchler	Arapahoe County District Attorney				
Lew Gaiter	Larimer County Commissioner				
Greg Lopez	Former Mayor of Parker, Candidate for U.S. Senate 2016				
Victor Mitchell	Former State Representative				
Doug Robinson	Businessman				
JoAnne Silva	Retired Banker				
POTENTIAL					
J. Paul Brown	Former State Representative				
Cynthia Coffman	Colorado Attorney General				
Barry Farah	Businessman				
Jack Graham	Businessman				
Tim Neville	State Senator				
Ray Scott	State Senator				
Justin Smith	Larimer County Sheriff				
Walker Stapleton	State Treasurer				
John Suthers	Mayor of Colorado Springs and former Colorado Attorney General				
Kent Thirty	Businessman				
Brian Watson	Businessman, Candidate for State House 2012				
Wayne Williams	Secretary of State of Colorado				

Third Party and Independent Candidates					
DECLARED					
Bill Hammons	Insurance Agent, Chairman and Founder of the Unity Party of American				





SAVE THE DATE

PPSPERA Calendar – 2107-2018

PPSPERA General Membership 2017/2018

November 9, 2017

February 8, 2018

April 12, 2018

June 14, 2018

August 9, 2018

September 13 -14, 2017

CSPERA Board Meeting – Legislative Forum

May – 2018

CSPERA Board Meeting – Annual Meeting

PPSPERA BOARD MEETINGS 2017/2018

Sept. 21, 2017

October 19, 2017

January 11, 2018

March 8, 2018

May 17, 2018

July 19, 2018

Pre-Retirement Meeting

April 19, 2018