
PPSPERA IS SUPPORTED BY COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 11

welcome to Pikes Peak School and Public Employees Association (PPSPERA)



President's
NOTE

Welcome to our second PPSPERA newsletter of the year. It's hard to believe that it's the middle of fall and we are already experience snow and winter weather. I hope you are staying warm.

If you missed our August Soup and Salad luncheon, you really missed a treat. We enjoyed some great soups, provided by John and Sharon Kerr, and all kinds of salads prepared by our PPSPERA board members. It was really a treat. Then we

all went to Alan Rasmussen's house, just a few blocks away, for some delicious cookies and ice cream in his beautiful back yard. Thank you so much to both of them for hosting us, and thank you to the board for furnishing the salads. One thing I was excited about was meeting some members I have not met before. I hope you all come back to our meetings in the future.

Please join us for our next meeting, November 21 at 11:30 am at Valley Hi Golf Course, 610 S. Chelton. Our speaker will be Stephanie Sierra from KRDO Channel 13, who will talk to us about Scam Busters. I think this is a topic of interest to all of us. You should be receiving a registration form in the mail very soon, so please fill it out and mail it to John Kerr at 2516 Fairmount St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909, along with a check for \$15.00. If, for some reason, you do not get the form, just put a check in the mail to John and a note that you are coming. I hope to see you there.

Remember, if you have any questions about our organization, please feel free to contact me at lu55long@gmail.com.

LuAnn Long
President



SCHOLARSHIPS

At this time of year we again prepare our budget for our scholarship awards. We have budgeted for two \$2,000 first year scholarships and two \$1,000 second year scholarships. Of course, we would love to offer a third or fourth but it all depends on funds raised.

If each PPSPERA member would donate just \$13, we would cover our original request for two of each. If members would donate \$21, we could increase our number of scholarships. Would you consider making a donation to the scholarship fund?

There are two ways to donate—

1. Write a check to PPSPERA and send it to John Kerr, Treasurer at 2516 Fairmount Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80909 or
2. Go to the PPSPERA website listed below and make your donation through Pay Pal.



INFORMATION UPDATE REMINDER:

The Board is requesting any changes in member emails or addresses.

The Board would also like know of any deaths as well as those members turning 90.

Please send any updated information to Karen Hart at hartsdale2026@q.com
or to PPSPERA, PO Box 7969, COS, 80933-7969.

ANNUAL MEETING AND ISSUES FORUM RECAP:

Our members who attended the Annual Meeting and first annual Issues Forum in Denver in September reported that it was extremely beneficial and enjoyable. Our PPSPERA unit is a “Unit in Food Standing,” and we, along with the Southern Region units, worked to determine the future direction of CSPERA. We labeled puzzle pieces with concerns, positive things happening, and solutions to our challenges. These pieces were joined with other regions; you can find a picture of the entire puzzle in your CSPERA October newsletter.

The Issues Forum was very informative. Tara May, PERA Chief Communications Officer, gave us a PERA update, and Bridget Early, Executive Director of the National Public Pension Coalition, gave a national perspective of public pensions. A handout is also included in the CSPERA newsletter. Chris Stiffler, the senior economist from the Colorado Fiscal Institute, reviewed the state budget, and Greg Glischinski, AARP’s West Region Volunteer Director, gave a review of bills that AARP’s lobbyists would support or oppose. Finally, Reeves Brown, from Building a Better Colorado, led the group in voting (using clickers) on several timely issues for Colorado and discussing the issues and results of the voting. He has done this information gathering around the state.

The next Annual Meeting and Issues Forum will be in September of 2020, an election year. So, start making your plans to attend!

Attendees: Sandy Patton plus Elaine Naleski, Lu Ann Long, and Jan King



NEEDED - YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS



PPSPERA members reported a grand total of 1198 volunteer hours for the first three quarters of 2019. While that's a good number for the few who reported, just think how many hours we could report if ALL of our members reported their hours. We use our local number to let our local politicians and the public know how PERA recipients are contributing to the community. YOU CAN HELP! Please send your volunteer hours to: rogerlouden340@yahoo.com or Roger.Louden@d11.org. Or, mail them to Roger at 12611 Pensador Drive, 80921.

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 inform Roger Louden. PPSPERA Board and Committee meetings (multiple members), HOA Landscape Committee and Board meetings, Radio Station KCMJ, Salem Lutheran Church and School, 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, and visiting a nursing home.

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

Thank you for all you do,
Roger Louden - Volunteer Chair



**BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR YOUR
GENERAL MEETING RESERVATION**

Guest Speaker, Stephanie Sierra, anchor with KRDO, Channel 13, is a native of San Francisco who graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in Broadcast and Investigative Journalism. She started her career at KOMU (the NBC affiliate in Columbia, Missouri) as a Multi-media Journalist, Digital Producer, and Weekend Evening Anchor. While there, Stephanie was nominated for the Hearst Broadcast Award for her investigative journalism. Stephanie now investigates and reports on many stories for KRDO regarding fraud and scams, as well as other controversial issues. She also anchors several newscasts.



Your generous contributions to the scholarship fund make these scholarships possible. If each PPSPERA member will contribute just \$13 or \$21 to the scholarship fund each year we will be able to continue this very valuable service to our community. Thank you!

Birnadine Mack Scholarship Fund

The Birnadine Mack Scholarship fund is supported by CSPERA and is awarded to all people working in public education. One scholarship is awarded to each of the four divisions in the state. The PPSPERA board voted to contribute \$1.00 for each PPSPERA member to support the Birnadine Mack Scholarship. Several other units around the state have already made similar contributions. The scholarships are all funded by donations for one year



Four scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded next year. Treasurer John Kerr will amend the budget accordingly. If you would like to make a donation individually, send a check to the PPSPERA post office box with a note on the bottom that it is for the “Birnadine Mack scholarship.”

Update on SecurePERA



Emma Donahue, Program Manager for SecurePERA, has vacated the position as of a few days ago. A replacement is being sought as soon as possible. However, Bridget Early, Executive Director of the National Public Pension Coalition, is stepping during the vacancy as well as members of the SecurePera Board of Directors. The website is being maintained and continues to provide timely information.

In September, 2019 SecurePERA reintroduced PERA bucks. They show impact of PERA annuities on the economy of Colorado. Critical information such as - in 2016, each dollar paid out in benefits created \$1.51 in total economic activity and created 51,663 jobs that paid nearly \$2.5 billion in income. For more information, visit ProtectPensions.org/bucks.



NEWS

NOTICE- Over the next few months, the CSPERA office may be closed temporarily because of renovations at the Aurora building. If you call and do not receive an answer, just leave a message, and someone will get back to you ASAP. If you have a critical need, email President, Nancy Carlson, at cspera.2020@gmail.com.



BYLAWS

If you read your CSPERA October newsletter, you noticed that they now have new By-laws. Because of that, our local PPSPERA unit will need to make revisions to our own By-laws. If you are interested in serving on the By-laws revision committee, please contact Lu Ann Long at lu55long@gmail.com. A copy of the new CSPERA by-laws is included in the CSPERA newsletter.

Asked to write a composition entitled, “What I’m thankful for on Thanksgiving,” little Timothy wrote, “I am thankful that I’m not a turkey.”



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DATES TO REMEMBER

PPSPERA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Valley Hi Golf Course
610 S. Chelton at 11:30 a.m.

- 11/21/2019
- 2/20/2020
- 4/16/2020
- 6/18/2020

PPSPERA BOARD MEETINGS

Location TBD
at 9:00 a.m.

- 1/16/2020
- 3/19/2020
- 5/21/2020
- 7/16/2020



If you have questions on PPSPERA or CSPERA, feel free to contact any of the following:

LuAnn Long, PPSPERA President, lu55long@gmail.com
Karen Hart, PPSPERA Membership, hartsdale202@q.com
Sandy Patton, CSPERA Board Rep., pattosl@comcast.net