

CUCRA – UCI meeting April 2012
Campus report – LLNL

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Retiree Association has about 600 members. 75-90 members typically gather once a month for luncheon meetings with a speaker and once during the summer for a picnic. A travel club also meets to discuss and share photos of interesting trips.

The Retiree Association is organized under the Livermore Laboratory Employee Services Association (LLESA) but that may change. In the past, LLESA offered a number of administrative services including copying and mailing services, but no longer. It does still provide umbrella non-profit status and liability insurance, saving the Retiree Association several hundred dollars per year. However, it also prohibits the Retiree Association from activities that it considers controversial or activist such as evaluating health plans, advising retiree members about health care issues, and communicating with Laboratory management. LLESA bylaws allow it to expel the Retiree Association and seize its assets (including its bank account) if it violates these rules, and it has threatened in writing to do so.

The Retiree Association recently conducted a survey in which more than 80 percent of members expressed a willingness to break away from LLESA in order to allow activities that could be helpful with regard to health insurance and health coverage. Health coverage is provided today through ExtendHealth and Hewitt, which retirees find less reliable and more expensive than coverage formerly offered by UC. As a result, the Retiree Association is taking steps to make it possible to operate independently. For example, it is incorporating as a non-profit organization and is spending down its bank account so that LLESA would not be able to seize more than a few dollars.

A second retiree organization, independent and not connected with CUCRA, continues its legal action against the University, seeking to have all Livermore Lab retirees restored to UC health plans based on claims of an implied contract. Resolution is not expected this year.