

## **UCLA Retirees' Association Spring 2012 Report to CUCRA**

Didn't we just attend the October 2011 CUCRA conference in UC Davis? Time goes so fast, and there is so little time to accomplish what we want to do. The UCLA Retirees' Association encounters this same predicament. However, looking back over the last six months, we have continued to make headway with the many initiatives set before us.

There is always the goal of increasing membership, and we have done this surpassing last year's membership number. This year membership came in at 645 retired members at the time of the CUCRA reporting. It's probably safe to say this number will grow again because of another large wave of staff who will retire on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

We held our annual Arts & Crafts Show in November 2011. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> year. A person can just marvel at the talent of our retirees, their unique hobbies, and their delight in showing their work.

Our various committees are extremely busy. Volunteerism is humming at UCLA. We are partnering with many departments to provide help and assistance in their events and needs. This includes the Medical Center, Volunteer Center, Travel Department, External Affairs, etc. We are actively recruiting for volunteers, and it's working. Our interest groups, book clubs, Scrabble, and Mah-Jongg are well attended, and in fact, we are adding another book club. Lectures and presentations have increased to offset a decrease in local excursions due to timing and transportation logistics. We have been privileged to have the Emeriti ask us to join them in some of their lunch-time presentations. And, our Yosemite excursion hasn't been mentioned yet. Almost 40 members are preparing for the three day event. If this isn't enough, the Campus and Community Relations Committee is diligently working toward positioning UCLARA to the campus and community by discussing how to market the talents of our members. There is so much we feel we can offer to UCLA; and we are only beginning to identify our skills, matching what we can do to university needs, etc. The sky is the limit!

Our initiative to put in place a Board succession plan has come to fruition. We have updated the bylaws reflecting roles and language. We have worked hard in encouraging members to get involved, and because of this, the Nominations Committee had a really good slate of candidates for next year. Five new members will be coming on board. That's almost a 1/3 change. Excitement and anticipation is definitely an understatement.

We held a special, four hour meeting just before the holidays to discuss only membership. We discussed what membership means, what our expectations are, how do we market ourselves better, and finally what are strategies to pursue in the next months.

Lastly, the Board has discussed starting regional groups outside the immediate Los Angeles area. Fortunately for us, a member approached us wanting to do just that. So, we will be using this enthusiasm to model what a regional group looks like. More about this will be said next time.

Submitted by John Dahl, 2011-12 President of the UCLA Retirees' Association