

UC SANTA CRUZ RETIREES ASSOCIATION Fall 2011 Report to CUCRA

Connecting with Emeriti/Open Enrollment Workshops. UCSCRA has made a concerted effort this past six months to reach out to and connect with the Emeriti Association. We will be co-sponsoring two open enrollment forums this November with the Emeriti group and our Health Care Facilitator. These events will focus on UC retiree health insurance rates, and more specifically on enrollment in Medicare and on Graduated Eligibility, which has not been clearly addressed in recent Open Enrollment information from UCOP. We hope that the workshops will make it easier for retirees to understand their choices and the cost of their premiums.

In addition, last spring, we had two events to which emeriti were specifically invited. The first was Bruce Lyon, current Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, who spoke on his current research on wintering behavior of Golden-crowned Sparrows. Bruce's research site happens to be at the UCSC Arboretum where we have many of our social events. For the second program, we had a local author and UCSC alumnus, Geoff Dunn, come to speak on his recently released book, *The Lies of Sarah Palin*. Because these programs were well attended and emeriti came to each, we agreed to have at least one event a year that would be of interest to emeriti.

Campus Presence. UCSCRA does not have a campus center or staff, but we are actively working on finding a space on campus where we can conduct Association business, interface with our members and with emeriti and current campus staff, plan and implement programs, and store our supplies and equipment. In the meantime, we continue to have each Board member serve as a liaison to a specific campus office. This has proved to be a very effective way to get work done and raise the visibility of our group.

Increasing Membership. The Association board has voted to give all new retirees a free membership for one year, starting July 1, 2012. We see this as a way to let newly retired folks see the benefits of belonging to the Association and hope that they will renew their membership at the end of the year. We believe that increased membership numbers will be very helpful in our bid for space on campus.

Newsletter. Our quarterly newsletter, the Silver Slug, continues to be the primary communication link with our membership and we supplement this with periodic e-blasts to provide timely, relevant information between newsletters. We have a new editor this year and are encouraging members to get their copies electronically since it saves on paper and postage. More are choosing this option, and the other advantage is that the on-line newsletter is in full color! We are implementing a few new columns to try to connect with members who expressed specific interests and are hoping that the "Travel Advisories" column will take off. The Silver Slug is posted on our website, which is accessible through CUCRA's website. Check it out: <http://retirees.ucsc.edu/>.

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