

## **UC SANTA CRUZ RETIREES ASSOCIATION**

### **Spring 2011 Report to CUCRA**

**Staying Connected.** UCSCRA does not have a campus center or staff, but we have been working hard at having a campus presence. Each of our fifteen board members has a responsibility to assume a leadership role for at least one activity to keep the organization going. In addition to our officers, we have specific liaisons to campus offices through our committee work. These include: Chancellor's Office, Emeriti Association, University Relations, Benefits Office, Health Facilitator's Office, Services for Transfer and Reentry Students, Financial Aid, Wellness Office and Staff Advisory Board. Having one person representing the association over time with each of these offices has proved to be a very effective way to get work done and raise the visibility of our group.

**On-line/Credit Card Option for Paying Dues.** The board investigated the possibility of paying membership dues on-line using credit cards. We contacted appropriate campus offices as well as all CUCRA representatives. We heard from six of the other UC retirement associations, and they all agreed that the administrative cost and time involved for credit card processing was not worth the benefit considering the small number of payments. This process also creates security issues and delays in getting timely information. These findings concurred with our own investigations on campus and we tabled the issue.

**Scholarships for Veterans.** Six scholarships of \$500 were presented to re-entry veterans at our spring meeting. This has been a very successful aspect of our association's work, and we are investigating new ways to fund raise to continue these scholarships.

**Engaging/Recruiting Members.** The board has been reaching out individually to members who did not renew, as well as to recent retirees. Given feedback we received from a survey of members, we embarked on disseminating travel information through the newsletter and forming a travel group as a way to try to attract and keep folks involved. These efforts resulted in a continuing increase in membership.

**Staying Healthy.** In an effort to keep good health as a priority in retirement UCSCRA has developed a strong connection with the Wellness Coordinator on campus. Lizzi Yasser comes to our events and leads fitness exercises, and she writes a column for our newsletter that includes everything from the latest on healthy eating to chair exercises to resting well.

**AROHE.** Lee Duffus gave a detailed report on his attendance at the fall AROHE meeting. The board decided that membership in this national organization would benefit our work and we will join at the beginning of the new membership year.

**Newsletter.** Our quarterly newsletter, the Silver Slug, continues to be the primary effective communication link with our membership. It is posted on our website, which is accessible by other associations through CUCRA's new website.

Jenny Anderson, April 2011

