

UC San Diego Retirement Association Report

Highlights of Activities 2011-2012

1. The UC San Diego Retirement Association continues its active roles, both as a stand-alone organization and in close partnership with the 500 plus member UC San Diego Emeriti Association. The two organizations share facilities in the UCSD Retirement Resource Center under the able direction of Suzan Cioffi. This facility provides space for many activities, meetings, and the UC Emeriti Association mentoring program for UCSD's Chancellor's Scholars.
2. Membership of the UC San Diego Retirement Association **now exceeds 1400**, the largest in the UC system. Dues for annual and life memberships remain at \$30 and \$300, respectively.
3. The Retirement Association Gazette, the organization's newsletter, is published nine times each year and is in an 8-page, full-color newsletter format. The Gazette contents include details about upcoming activities, requests for volunteers, a President's Message, and a calendar of events. About 300 of our members opt to receive the UCSD Retirement Association Gazette electronically. Additionally, the RA is now distributing information about its events via its Facebook page, Google Calendar and a regular Twitter feed. In 2012, the RA began publishing a weekly events calendar email "*Next Week at the UCSD Retirement Association*", listing all events for the coming week.
4. The Retirement Association offers three list-serv choices; one for all campus flyers plus RA and benefits news, one for UCSD-RA and benefits news, and the third limited to the electronic distribution of the Gazette.
5. The UC-RA has a large group of active volunteers who contribute in excess of 500 hours to staff over 20 different events on the UCSD campus each year. The volunteer Board and Committee members provide approximately 600 hours of volunteer service time to various meetings throughout the year. The "Gazette Groupies" (10-12 volunteers each month) provide another 300 hours to handle post-production of the Gazette. Total RA volunteer hours exceed 1500 this year. Additionally, numerous UCSD Retirement Association members are actively engaged as volunteers in the Preuss School Mentoring Program, the International Center's Resale Shop, and the Theatre and Dance Ushers Program.
6. The Membership Committee staffs a Membership Outreach table at various events on campus throughout the year and several times each year at both Medical Centers. These outreach efforts have been key to increasing memberships numbers.
7. The Program Committee organizes numerous activities annually that include community tours, a free international film series – with new films presented each month by distinguished professors, campus tours, educational seminars (health and financial topics, bi-annual ethnic-restaurant outreach luncheons, distinguished lecture series, and special events on campus and out in the community. In addition, there are several annual events that members look forward to (summer picnic, holiday party, spring luncheon).
8. A Spanish language conversation group, a creative writing group, a Book Club, Poker Club, a new, large, 10-week Tai Chi class out on the RA front lawn, and an Investments Interest Group each has regular sessions that are enjoyed by small and consistent groups of RA members. New this year is a Retiree Investment Club, where members are investing together, and Winter/Spring has featured our new Chinese calligraphy class.
9. The UC Retirement Association regularly contributes to the Chancellors Scholarship fund with \$3000 annually and now makes a \$1,000 award to an outstanding nurse at one of the UCSD Medical Centers, and provides an additional \$900 sponsorship to the UCSD International Center to support study-abroad programs. The recipients of these funds attend luncheons to accept the awards.
10. The UC-RA Board of Directors serves as advocates for the University among new retirees.

Submitted by: Marguerite Jackson, UCSD RA CUCRA Representative, Spring 2012