

UCDRA Winter Meeting Update

Good morning and welcome to the 2014-15 winter meeting of the UC Davis Retiree Association. Before Bob Halferty introduces our guest speaker, I want to report to you briefly on the highlights of the association year thus far.

We began the year with the annual Retiree Fall Fest on September 20 at the Alumni Visitor Center. On October 30, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of both the retiree and emeriti associations with a luncheon in the Alumni Visitor Center with Chancellor Emeritus Larry Vanderhoef as our honored speaker. This was followed by the annual association fall meeting in the Conference Center featuring Chancellor Linda Katehi and Joe Lewis from the Office of the President. At this event we announced the kick of our campaign to establish an endowment to fund an annual staff scholarship. To date we have raised \$25,566 and will continue fund raising efforts in hopes of increasing scholarship awards.

Representatives from the UCDRA Executive Board and the Retiree Center attended the CUCRA CUCUA meetings in the fall on the Berkeley campus. These groups provide networking opportunities for all campus retiree groups and the opportunity for input into retiree benefits planning being conducted at the Office of the President. The fall meeting in October 2015 will be hosted by the Davis campus.

We hosted a holiday luncheon for the membership at the Alumni Visitor Center in December which had to be rescheduled due to the first heavy winter storm in our recent experience.

An Executive Board task force currently works with Retiree Center staff to reconfigure, redesign and update the association's web page for consistency with campus web design requirements and to improve its usefulness to our membership. This process was completed for the Emeriti Association last year. As part of this process we are looking at more effective ways to communicate with our membership and to provide more useful information through our web site. The results of a questionnaire distributed early this winter also informs this process. And we are using the survey results and input from our membership to identify ways to increase our advocacy for UCD retirees by providing detailed information on community resources available to us.

On the days that our two executive boards meeting we jointly host what we call brain food talks over the noon hour between meetings. These are open to everyone with special communication efforts made to invite our membership. Our speaker today is part of that series. These talks will continue through June and you are urged to attend.

Retirees continue active participation in campus life through membership on such groups as the Campus Community Council, Staff Assembly Board and its Scholarship Committee and the Campus Disabilities Advisory Committee.

Your input and participation is always welcome.