



UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retiree's Association Berkeley

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to our spring newsletter. Normally, we would be announcing our spring luncheon with a fabulous speaker. Alas, the luncheons continue to be on hold due to the pandemic. As of now, UCRAB has not secured a speaker to offer a webinar in lieu of a spring luncheon speaker. We want to provide a speaker or panel or activity which is unique. It seems that the Retirement Center and the other three retiree associations affiliated with the Retirement Center, as well as other campus organizations, are all offering lectures across a wide spectrum of topics and people are getting "Zoomed" out! We are working on a couple of ideas, so stay tuned for an announcement. In the meantime, if you have a topic or speaker which you think would be of interest to our members, please feel free to reach out to us.

We are still in the midst of this awful pandemic and all the challenges connected to it. The news is getting better as individuals get vaccinated, although many seniors are still having difficulties scheduling an appointment. As more vaccines get distributed and more vaccination sites are opened, I hope that appointments are more readily available to the vulnerable populations. In the meantime, I hope everyone stays healthy by wearing masks and maintain social distancing as we approach the light at the end of the pandemic tunnel. I, like others, am already dreaming about and planning those delayed family trips and travel to foreign shores.

UCRAB leadership continues to participate in and to follow discussions regarding the future of healthcare coverage for retirees. There are a number of reviews and ongoing task forces at the systemwide level which touch upon this topic. You can be assured that Berkeley is an active participant in providing input into these discussions and that we will continue to advocate retaining choices of health providers to meet the needs of all retirees.

Stay safe.

Patti Owen

UCRAB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley (UCRAB) Board of Directors is seeking nominations for **one at-large board position**, a two year term effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

In addition to providing advocacy for staff and non-senate academic appointees at the Office of the President and State of California legislature, UCRAB currently offers virtual events featuring interesting speakers on scholarly, cultural and topical content. We look forward to returning to hosting social events, quarterly luncheons, day trips and overnight travel opportunities.

The Board's objectives are to:

- Provide information about benefits and other issues that are useful to Retirees
- Promote opportunities for interaction and communication among Retirees
- Assist retirees in continuing to be of service to the University

We are seeking an individual who will enrich the board's diversity with their experience and skills. Specifically, knowledge of **communications, newsletter production, event planning** and **fundraising** are desired.

Individuals can nominate themselves or they can nominate others. Nominations should include the following information:

- Name
- Year Retired
- Department/Unit at time of retirement
- Functions of prior position/s, e.g. financial, fundraising, management, etc.

Please submit nominations to **Nancy Horton njhorton0120@gmail.com** no later than **April 15, 2021**.

Questions can be sent to the above email address.



Berkeley campus in 1888

MOVE TO A NON-DUES-PAYING ORGANIZATION

The University of California Retirees' Association (UCRAB) works on behalf of *all* Berkeley staff and non-Senate faculty retirees, offering educational, networking and social opportunities. In addition, UCRAB represents Berkeley at the Council of UC Retiree Associations and advocates on our behalf with the Office of the President, the Regents and California state legislature. We also provide monetary support to the Retirement Center for delivery of programs, such as the biannual conference.

Last year, the UCRAB board met to discuss the twin challenges of expanding access to our programs and being an organization that better reflects its population.

The board looked to the other retiree associations under the umbrella of the UC Berkeley Retirement Center (UCBRC). All three – UC Berkeley Emeriti Association (UCBEA), Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (EX-Ls) and President's and Regents' Retiree Association Advocacy (PARRA) – no longer collect dues payments, and all individuals who fall into an organization's purview are considered members. Instead of dues, these three organizations depend on annual donations to sustain their operations.

UCRAB is the last association to follow suit. By July 1, 2021 the UCRAB Board has recommended that all retired Berkeley staff and non-Senate faculty (and their partners) will be included as members of UCRAB and that it move to a non-dues paying model. The By Laws will be revised to reflect this change.

Questions regarding this proposed change can be directed to UCRAB@berkeley.edu.

PROPOSED UCRAB BYLAW CHANGES

The By Laws of UCRAB are being revised to address a couple of major issues. These issues are:

- Transition to a non-dues paying organization. Several sections have been revised or eliminated to reflect this change. Please see the article above in this newsletter which describes the reasons behind the move to eliminate dues
- The need be able to hold elections in a format other than in person meetings

You can find the By Laws with the proposed changes on the Retirement Center website [here](#). Click on the gold box at the bottom of the page. These proposed revisions will be voted on at the UCRAB General Meeting in June, which will be held via Zoom.

Questions can be sent to UCRAB@berkeley.edu.



The campus will be holding its annual Big Give on Thursday March 11, 2021. This is the time to recognize through monetary gifts those units and programs which are near and dear to our hearts. Of course, our heart is with the UC Berkeley Retirement Center.

UCRAB wishes to do its part in supporting the Retirement Center since it provides significant support to the work and mission of UCRAB and the other affiliated retiree organizations. To this end, UCRAB has pledged \$1500 to be used as a matching gift challenge sometime during the day. If you donate during the challenge period your gift will be matched dollar for dollar!

The Retirement Center will be sending out email blasts throughout the day, so watch your in box so that you can donate during this challenge period. Join us in supporting your Retirement Center and acknowledging all the work it does for UCRAB and on behalf of retirees like yourself!

UCRAB BOARD

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