



## Summer 2023

### President's Message

Graduation season has come and gone and summer is here—where has the year gone? It seems like yesterday we were looking forward to the holidays and complaining about the cold and the rain. My travel plans are firming up, as I hope yours are, too. COVID is still around, so be safe out there.

Since the last newsletter, UCRAB has had two successful events which will be detailed elsewhere in this newsletter. First was a successful outing to Rincon Annex to see the murals painted during the New Deal, followed by a dim sum lunch. The second was Cal Day where a number of retirees volunteered.

As I have stated in past messages, UCRAB continues to monitor issues related to benefits and to advocate on your behalf where necessary. The Retirement Administration Service Center (RASC) continues to experience delays when processing retirement applications and survivor benefits. As to the latter, they have recently created a unique phone number and a specially trained team to handle survivor benefit issues. Anecdotal reports indicate things are better. We have been told 2023 retirement applications are being processed quickly due to the increased confidence in the computer application. The Council of UC Retiree Associations (of which UCRAB is a member) and the Council of UC Emeriti Associations continue to press UCOP to bring back individualized retirement counseling to the campuses. There appears to be

movement in this regard. In addition, Cheryl Lloyd, Associate Vice President of Human Resources at UCOP, has agreed to appoint a standing committee of retirees to advise her and her staff on issues raised by retirees, including health and retirement benefits.

*Patti Owen*

UCRAB President



### Elections

UCRAB is required to hold an annual election for its Board. Each year, five individuals are nominated and voted on by the membership. All members of UCRAB are eligible to vote. Members include all retired staff and non-Senate academic employees. [Click here to vote](#). The deadline for voting is July 12, 2023. Results will be announced at the annual picnic on July 13.

Four members, **Marian Gade, Elise Woods, Alma Valencia Gross** and **Sue Gettinger**, are nominated for a new term. Board members in current terms are **Patti Owen, Marty Takimoto, David Duer, Kurt Libby**, and **Valerie Ventre-Hutton**.

The nomination committee proposes the following slate of candidates for election to two-year terms from July 2023 through June 2025:

**Secretary: None**

**Treasurer: Elise Woods:** Elise is a grad of UC Davis. She worked for UC for a total of 36 years in finance and business operations, beginning at UC Santa Barbara, moving to the Bay Area and a job at Continuing Education of the Bar (UCOP), and ending at UC Berkeley. At the time of her retirement in 2018, she was the Chief Administrative Officer of the UCB Libraries. She joined UCRAB as Treasurer in 2018.

**At-large Director--Marian Gade:** Marian is a Cal Alum and worked at Berkeley and UCOP over a period of 35 years as a research associate to both Clark Kerr and David Gardner. Although she retired in 1993, she continued to work until 2004. She has been a UCRAB member for over 17 years and most recently served as Secretary. In addition to her UCRAB service, Marian served as Chair of the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA) for 5 years.

**At-large Director--Sue Gettinger:** Sue worked at Berkeley for 11 years in the College of Chemistry after spending 32 years in the laboratory glassware field, and retired in 2014. After retiring, she joined UCRAB and in 2019 assumed the task of organizing and coordinating the UCRAB luncheons, trips and special events. She would love to hear from our members for even more day trip ideas and destinations!

**At-large Director--Alma Valencia Gross:** Alma is a Cal Alum. After starting in the private sector, she returned to UC Berkeley and a 42-year career at the campus. She retired in 2017 as the Senior Associate Director for Environment, Health & Safety and also joined UCRAB. Prior to EH&S, she held various analyst roles at Campus HR (14 yrs) and was a project director (3 yrs) for the Chancellor's Office on a major campus biosciences reorganization project. She is currently on the board.

Please [complete the ballot](#) and return no later than July 12.

Thank you.

Patti Owen, President

Marty Takimoto, Vice President

## It's Back! Seventh Annual Renegade Retirees' Picnic

Come join us at our annual picnic where we can greet "old" friends and former colleagues and meet retirees from all of the retiree associations affiliated with the Retirement Center: PARRA (UC Office of the President and Regents), UCRAB (Berkeley staff and non-Senate retirees), UCBEA (Berkeley emeriti), and ExLs (Lawrence Berkeley Lab).

All retirees, family, and friends are welcome. The grill will be busy with burgers and sausages (including vegetarian). Beverages (soft and non-soft) will be provided, along with plates, cups and utensils. We ask that you bring something to share—salad, side or a specialty dessert (cupcakes are being donated).

**Date: July 13**

**Time: 11:30 – 2:00ish**

**Where: Tilden Park—Mineral Springs (Site has plenty of parking and is accessible)**

**Donation: \$10.00 per person**

**\$20.00 for 2 or more**

In order to ensure we don't exceed the limit for the site and to guarantee we have enough food and drink, we are asking that you to RSVP. Questions can be directed to Patti Owen at [plowen@berkeley.edu](mailto:plowen@berkeley.edu).

It's always a fun day. We hope to see you there!

[REGISTER NOW](#)



## UCRAB – Out and About

As mentioned earlier, UCRAB had two successful events since the last newsletter.

The first was a trip to **Rincon Annex** (the old post office in San Francisco.) 25 retirees and guests arrived in downtown San Francisco via BART or ferry. We met up with **Dr. Gray Brechin**, a graduate of Berkeley and the Director of the Living New Deal Project. He first described the exterior of the building which was built in the 1940s. Inside, the 27 murals painted by **Anton Refregier** detail the history of California and were extremely controversial when they were painted for a variety of reasons. They have survived multiple attempts to remove them over the years. We encourage others to take a peek at them when you are in downtown San Francisco or do a Google search to find out more about them. After the tour, about half of the group had lunch at Yank Sin, a dim sum restaurant in the annex. It was interesting ordering dim sum with people we did not know, and although there was disappointment by some that they didn't get their favorite dishes, it was all delicious and fun to meet fellow retirees.



The second event was **Cal Day**, held on April 22. About 25 retirees joined the Cal student ambassadors in welcoming new admits and their families to the campus. Some helped with seating at Memorial Stadium early in the morning for the Chancellor's welcome. Others manned information booths at various locations around campus. And still others helped out at the Campanile, monitoring the lines, answering questions up on the Observation

Deck, or checking bulky bags and backpacks. The retirees reported they had a great time interacting with the students and sharing campus information with the visitors. Hopefully, we can do it again next year. Here are a few pictures of the retirees with their student partners.



## CUCRA-CUCEA Update

Twice a year, the **Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA)** and the **Council of UC Emeriti Associations (CUCEA)** meet to hear about what is happening at Office of the President relating to retirees; to get updates on current and future retiree benefits; and to share information and experiences at the campuses and the National Labs. In April, the Zoom meeting was hosted by the Santa Barbara campus.

On the first morning, both organizations met and were welcomed by **Chancellor Yang**. This was followed by a Q & A with Vice President of Human Resources, **Cheryl Lloyd**; Associate Vice President of Total Rewards, **Jay Henderson**; and Executive Director of RASC (Retirement Administration

Service Center), **Bernadette Green**. They answered questions regarding their organizations, especially the challenges with RASC. Many of these challenges go back to the implementation of a new computer application which did not work as promised and has taken several years to achieve some of the functionality that was promised. There are still a number of issues to address regarding customer service and delays. There will most likely be no changes to health plans next year and modest price increases.

An important report each meeting is the one from the Joint Benefits Committee, which can be found [here](#). The intent of this report is to outline important issues/concerns that need to be addressed by the Office of the President. In the latest report, 4 major areas were addressed: RASC, VIA Benefits (which provides health insurance to retirees living out of state), Delta Dental Issues, and an Advisory Committee to address concerns of retirees. There was a lively discussion surrounding these issues.

The last item at the joint meeting was a report on the Retiree Travel Program, which sponsors about 12 trips per year. The program earns money based on the number of travelers on the trips; in 2022 it brought in over \$30,000. The funds will help defray the costs of the biannual meetings and offset the CUCRA dues paid by the campus associations.

CUCRA met the following day. In addition to discussing issues affecting CUCRA members which were raised at the joint meeting, the Treasurer reported on the finances, the recent audit, and the completion of recent successful applications to the IRS and the State Franchise Tax Board for tax exempt status. The rest of the meeting was devoted to a conversation with representatives on how CUCRA can better engage with campus associations.

The October meeting will be hosted by UC Davis, and as an experiment, it will be a hybrid meeting, i.e. in person and via Zoom.

## In Memoriam

Following are those staff and non-Senate academic employees of the Berkeley campus who have passed away since our last newsletter.

Alan Brown	Accountant II
Sally Elliott	Administrative Analyst
Melvin Gagnon	*
Elaine Halliday	*
Jon Gaylord Moore	Programmer Analyst III
Sinh Ton Ngo	Custodian
William Weigel	Lecturer

\*Title at time of retirement is not available

