



# UCRAB Newsletter

University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

## ***UC BERKELEY RETIREES' ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO JOIN US ANNUAL ELECTIONS AND SUMMER LUNCHEON***

**June 15, 2017**

**HS LORDSHIPS RESTAURANT**

**11:00AM No Host Bar and Social • 12 Noon Lunch**

### ***Financing Higher Education in California Jane Wellman***



Jane Wellman, who earned her B.A. and M.A. degrees at Cal, is a nationally recognized policy analyst specializing in postsecondary education in the U.S. The Chronicle of Higher Education has reported that, "With sophisticated analyses and an often-sardonic delivery, Ms. Wellman has been a pull-no-punches critic of fiscal policies that starve the institutions educating the biggest proportion of students."

Ms. Wellman started her career as a budget analyst in the UC President's Office. She has served as Staff Director for the California Assembly Ways and Means Committee, Deputy Director of the California Postsecondary Education Commission, and as Senior Fellow with the Institute for Higher Education Policy in Washington, D.C. In 2007, she founded the Delta Cost Project, focusing on improving measurement and analysis of higher education costs.

Since 2013, Ms. Wellman has been a public member of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (the regional accrediting commission). In January 2015, she was appointed Senior Advisor to the College Futures Foundation, helping develop strategies for increasing the number of low-income and under-represented students in California earning bachelor's degrees.

Ms. Wellman will discuss the recommendations she is presenting in a forthcoming paper about future funding of public higher education in California.

The luncheon is \$25; the deadline for registration is June 8, 2017. Registrations can be made on-line at [www.retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab\\_events](http://www.retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab_events) or by calling (510) 642-5461. (If no one answers, please leave a voice-mail with your name, e-mail address, name of the event, and number of reservations.) Checks should be made payable to UCRAB and mailed to UCRAB, 101 University Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-1550.

### ***Get great discounts and access to services with your retiree ID!***

To take advantage of special Cal Connections (access, discounts and perks) arranged by the UCB Retirement Center, you must use your retiree ID. Don't have one? Contact the Retirement Center and request yours today. You can call or email and we will mail it to your home. Be sure to confirm your address in your message. Or, stop by the Retirement Center. We are open most Mondays-Fridays, between 1 - 4 pm.

Some of our campus discounts: BAMPFA, Cal Athletics Season Tickets, Cal Performances, Cal Student Store, Botanical Garden at Berkeley, much more! To see the full list visit: [http://retirement.berkeley.edu/id\\_card](http://retirement.berkeley.edu/id_card)

## ***UCRAB Board of Directors Election***

You recently received an announcement of UCRAB's annual election and business meeting. According to UCRAB's bylaws, five members of the Board of Directors—including two officers—are elected at the June luncheon every year. Below is the slate of Officers and atlarge Directors recommended for election by the Board. Candidates may also be nominated from the floor.

Please join us at the luncheon on June 15 so you can participate in the election and enjoy a very entertaining talk by Jane Wellman.

### **For election for two-year terms, until June 2019:**

Secretary: Marian Gade

Treasurer: Kathleen Demerdjian

At-large Directors: Patti Owen, William Roberts, and Antonia Sweet

### **Continuing board members, not up for election in 2017:**

President: Lynn Bailiff

Vice President: Lola Harris

At-large Directors: Lynn Baranco, Patricia Hardy, and Isabelle Revoir

## ***THE ADVOCACY WORK OF CUCRA AND ITS JOINT BENEFITS COMMITTEE***

A major component of CUCRA's work is that of the Joint Benefits Committee, made up of representatives from CUCRA and CUCEA (including their chairs) and other knowledgeable members selected by them. The JBC's task is to review the needs and problems of retirees—financial, health, administrative, etc.—and make recommendations for solutions and actions that CUCRA and CUCEA then adopt and take to the University's administrators for consideration.

Your membership in UCRAB helps us, through our Association, CUCRA, and the JBC, speak for all retirees regarding state and University policies relating to retirees. The advocacy function of our organizations is central to our mission.

The JBC's recommendations have benefited all UC retirees in many ways, including (1) provision of accurate mailing lists for each Association from OP, based on the New Dimensions database, including UC annuitants in PERS, have been supplied through existing Centers. Efforts continue to provide information to those units without Centers; (2) maintenance of purchasing power for all annuitants—no less than 75% and up to 85% achieved; (3) the conception of the Health Care Facilitator Program, proposed by JBC member Julian Feldman, and now funded by OP for each campus location; (4) University re-confirmation that health insurance coverage will continue to be provided to surviving spouses of deceased annuitants; (5) establishing a process that allows all those required to withdraw minimum required distributions (MRDs) to know the deadline to customize all details of their payments.

For a more complete listing of JBC recommendations that have been adopted and put in place, see: <http://cucra.ucsd.edu/records/documents/JBCSUCCESSFULRECOMMENDATIONS10-23-2014update.pdf>. For a recent article on CUCRA/CUCEA see New Dimensions, Feb. 2017, [http://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/retirees/new-dimensions/pdf/nd\\_34\\_1.pdf](http://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/retirees/new-dimensions/pdf/nd_34_1.pdf)

## **UCRAB Board of Directors**

### **Officers**

*Lynn Bailiff*

*President*

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*Lola Harris*

*Vice-President*

*lhh843@aol.com*

*Marian Gade*

*Secretary*

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*Kathleen Demerdjian*

*Treasurer*

*arkdem@aol.com*

### **Directors at Large**

*Lynn Baranco*

*Speaker Coordinator*

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*Patricia Hardy*

*Chair, Scholarship Committee*

*hardypatricia@gmail.com*

*Iola James*

*Past President,*

*Event/Trip Director*

*510-632-7264*

*Iolaj@comcast.net*

*Patti Owen*

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*Isabelle Revoir*

*Membership Coordinator*

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*William Roberts*

*Newsletter Editor*

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*Antonia Sweet*

*CUCRA & UCRS Liaison*

*and Luncheon Coordinator*

*510-848-6079*

*Marian Gade*

## ***CUCRA/CUCEA MEETING, April 26-27, 2017 at UCI***

A preliminary report on the results of the Survey of Staff Retirees' Activities during 2013-16 was presented. Surveys were sent to 17,000 retirees in October. Nearly 4,500 retirees responded (27%), about the same response as the emeriti had to their survey. There are 75,000 living UC retirees, 60,000 are in the pension database. Retirees who took lump sum payments are not retained in the pension database; about 20% each year's retirees opt for the lump sum payment. As an example of an individual campus response, Berkeley had 16% respondents. In the overall group 12% came back to UC to work after retirement. 83% didn't return, but of these 20% volunteered at UC while 62% did community volunteer work. 37% under the age of 85 cared for another person. Of those 85 and older 28% cared for spouse or family member. 46% serve as consultants, 37% serve on Boards of Directors. 15% wrote for publication. In the next six months the Survey Committee will distribute campus reports plus a final general report.

The joint meeting of the Council of UC Retirees Associations and the Council of UC Emeriti Associations took place the following morning. The guest speakers from the Office of the President announced that the retirement system is 81% funded this year. UC contributes 14% of an employee's salary and the employee contribution is 7-9%. As a result the retirement fund is very healthy. Personal Retirement Profile packets distributed in 2016 were 1,100; to date in 2017 there have been approximately 1,300.

UCPATH (Payroll, Academic personnel, Timekeeping, Human resources) is up and running only at the Office of the President. By December 2017 UCLA, Merced and Riverside will be added.

There are no anticipated changes for retiree health plans for 2018. However, they will be looking at the issue of the Hearing Aid benefit and the viability of adding Costco to the provider network. In 2019 the plans will be assessed by UCOP. The cost of drugs is increasing rapidly and the status quo is not an option. There is no plan to do away with Campus Health Care Facilitators. UCRAYS, UC Retirement At Your Service is a new portal for data.

The next CUCRA/CUCEA meeting will be October 25 and 26, 2017. Both UCSF and UCOP will host the meeting.

*Toni Sweet*

*CUCRA/UCRS Liaison*

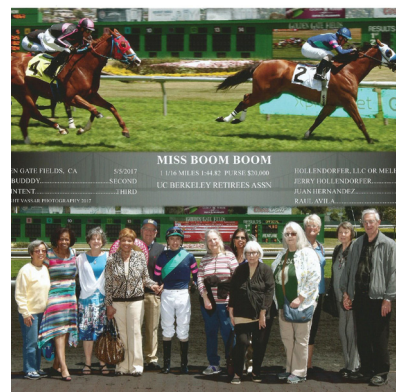
## ***Not Receiving the Center Express by e-mail?***

If you've given the Retirement Center your e-mail address but aren't receiving the Center Express by e-mail, feel free to contact Kris Thornton, Program Manager at the Retirement Center, for assistance. Her e-mail address is [krishthornton@berkeley.edu](mailto:krishthornton@berkeley.edu). You can also find current and past issues of the Center Express at [retirement.berkeley.edu/newsletters](http://retirement.berkeley.edu/newsletters) and click on News Archive.

## ***Annual UCRAB Day at the Races***

On May 5, 2017 a beautiful sunny day, the annual UCRAB Day at the Race took place. Over 30 retirees and guests enjoyed the view from the elegant Golden Gate Turf Club, a plentiful buffet luncheon and, of course, the pounding of hooves on the turf ground below. I quote the words of one attendee, "I want to thank you for a most enjoyable and interesting time. The food was good, the company was good and the ambience exceptional. It was the first time I have been to Golden Gate Fields. What fun!" Similar sentiments were expressed by others in attendance. Some attendees took the time to pose for a photo with the winning jockey of the UCRAB designated race. I'm sure you can immediately spot the jockey in the featured photo (smile). As in the past, UCRAB will donate a portion of the proceeds of tickets to our scholarship program to assist low income graduates of Oakland attending a UC campus.

*Iola James, Event/Trip Director*



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### *Renegade Retirees Picnic*

SAVE THE DATE!! July 20th is the Second Annual Renegade Retirees Picnic at Tilden Park's Island Picnic Area. All retirees and friends welcome. The cost is \$10 payable at the event and includes things for the grill as well as beverages (soft and not so soft). Plates, cups and "silver"ware also are included. The rest of the picnic is potluck with goodies from all of us. Music and singing will follow the feast, thanks to Marian Gade and Jerry Michaels. We start at 11:30 and go until filled with food and exhausted from frivolity. More details in June. Questions now and to RSVP contact Caroline Kane, [cmkane49@gmail.com](mailto:cmkane49@gmail.com)

