




UCRAB

University of California
Retirees' Association at
Berkeley 

Fall 2024

2024 UCRAB Board Election

The UCRAB Board of Directors held their election in June 2024. **Elise Woods** was elected as President and will also continue to serve as Treasurer. **Marty Takimoto** was reelected as Vice President for a second term. **Patti Owen** was elected as Secretary and will serve for one year. **Sue Gettinger** and **Kurt Libby** agreed to continue to serve as Directors-at-Large. We are in the process of filling two at-large board positions.

Board members normally serve two-year terms effective July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026, and, as with many other associations, it is challenging to find retirees willing to serve in leadership positions. We hope that you might be willing to step up and serve your fellow retirees as a board member. Questions can be directed to Elise Woods ewoods@berkeley.edu.

Benefits of UCRAB Membership

UCRAB and its volunteer Board of Directors, is an officially recognized University of California retiree association for staff and non-senate academic retirees of UC Berkeley. Our mission is to foster engagement, advocacy, and community on behalf of retirees. We publish quarterly newsletters and information related to retiree interests via the UC Berkeley Retirement Center's electronic newsletter, [CenterExpress](#).

The Board serves as an advocate for retiree interests, monitoring trends, as they may relate to benefits such as health insurance. Together with several UC retiree associations (UC Berkeley Emeriti Association [UCBEA] and the Council of University of California Retiree Associations [CUCRA]), we provide a unified advocacy voice to the Office of the President when policy deliberations and possible service changes might impact retirees.

While advocacy and information-sharing are important roles, we also focus on providing community opportunities for engagement, learning, and social events. We do this through volunteer opportunities on campus, as well as social events. We also provide support to the Berkeley Retirement Center and its many activities.



Since we are no longer a dues-paying organization, we rely on voluntary support from our members. We hope you will take the time to

provide a nominal donation at this time so that we can continue our activities. Donate [here](#)

Fall Happy Hour

UCRAB and the EX-L's (Lawrence Berkeley Lab retirees) are co-hosting a Happy Hour event for retirees on **Thursday, November 7 from 3-5pm** at the Bear's Lair Pub in the Student Union Building at Bancroft Way & Telegraph Ave.

Come meet old friends and make new ones as we gather to celebrate the fall season. Drinks are on-your-own but your hosts will provide the first round of appetizers for guests! The Bear's Lair features a full bar, an assortment of craft beers, and a pub menu. Questions? Contact Marty Takimoto <takimoto@berkeley.edu>. See you there!

Cruising the Bay

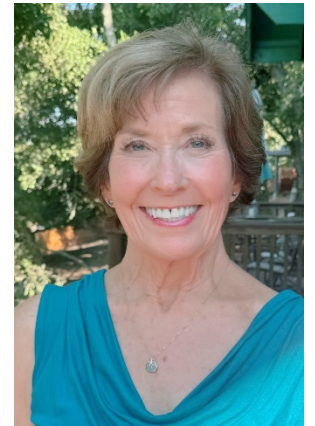
On Saturday, October 19th, 45 members of UCRAB, the Ex-Ls (LBNL retirees) and PARRA (retirees from UCOP) took a fabulous 2-hour trip around the San Francisco Bay aboard the USS Potomac. The weather was perfect, the music (provided by Charlie Wade and the Papa Day Blues Band) was great, and the refreshments were a plus! We will be doing this again, probably in the Spring.



Let us know if you have activities that you think would be a good fit for our group. We are always looking for ideas.

President's Message

What an exciting year we have ahead of us! A new Chancellor for the campus, Rich Lyons, a presidential election next month and my first term as President of UCRAB. I retired in 2018 and failed retirement initially, coming back to campus in a different role for several recall appointments with a great division. Now, in my new volunteer roles as President and Treasurer of UCRAB, I also represent UC Berkeley at the CUCRA conferences and am a newly minted UC retiree travel escort. People say they are busier in retirement than they were when working, and it's absolutely true!



As you can see from the articles in this newsletter, UCRAB is starting to ramp up activities for its members. We look forward to returning to hosting social events and day trips. In May, we held a happy hour at a local venue that was well-attended and have plans for another happy hour on November 7, 2024. UCRAB has been partnering with PARRA and the EX-Ls on events: the annual Renegade Retirees' Picnic held in July at Tilden Park in Berkeley, happy hours and a bay cruise. This year, there were about 75 attendees at the picnic from the associations, and all enjoyed the BBQ potluck and raffle.

On October 19, 2024, we hosted a Music on the Bay cruise on the USS Potomac with 45 people attending, enjoying the jazz and dancing while cruising on the San Francisco Bay.

In July, UCRAB, PARRA, and the ExL's hosted the staff retiree associations and retirement center directors from Northern California campuses. CUCRA (Council of UC Retiree Associations) meetings have been held via Zoom since the beginning of the pandemic and members felt that it was important to meet in person. To keep travel costs down, as done in the previous year, it was decided to hold SoCal and NorCal meetings. It was nice to meet face to face and the discussions were a bit livelier. The Retirement Administration Service Center (RASC) was, as always, the main topic of

conversation. We learned that things are improving, including responsiveness and the hiring of campus retirement counselors has been successful in assisting employees with planning and answering questions about retirement. This has relieved the Retirement Centers of inquiries that should be going to RASC or to counselors.

We are again participating in the **CUCRA retiree survey** and are pleased with the Berkeley turnout to date. Thank you to those of you who have completed the survey! If you haven't, please do it before the survey closes on **November 1, 2024**. Your voice is critical in meeting the survey goals which are to: Enable CUCRA, its member retiree associations, and retiree centers to advocate more effectively on behalf of UC retirees. Help the UC President's Office and campus and laboratory administrators better understand the contributions made by retirees to UC and the broader community. Assist UC retiree associations and retiree centers to create and improve upon programs for retirees. Provide retirees with comprehensive information about their collective contributions and achievements.

On September 24th, the UC Berkeley Retirement Center held an open house at their new permanent home in the Banway building including a ribbon-cutting ceremony. About 150 people attended enjoying snacks, touring the new space and visiting the various tables staffed by Retiree associations, campus departments and representatives from Fidelity. The new space will allow them to host retirees for various events, including small social gatherings and larger lectures. We've already set the date for the annual UCRA Retiree Holiday party in the new space! We hope to see you there – stay tuned for the announcement. Looking forward to connecting with many of you this year!

--Elise Woods

Travel Update

See the flyer attached to this newsletter.



In Memoriam

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



Robert Allen	Adjunct Professor
George Anderson	Principal Analyst I
John Andrews	Staff Research Associate III
Patricia Bergman	Library Assistant II
Alfred Carlson	Digital Prepress Technician
Henry Chapot	Physical Plant Gardener
Ling Chu Chiu	Staff Research Associate II
Marilyn Cook	*
William Cooper	Staff Research Associate IV
Charles Dale	Principal Lab Mechanician
Dian Duryea	*
Daniel Draa	*
Charlotte Earle	_____ Assistant I
Kathleen Gage	Benefits Analyst 2
Susan Gardner	Library Bookbinder
Gertrude Halpern	_____ Assistant II
Willaim Hight	*
Lois Huusko	*
Robert Jacobs	Director
Charles Kennon	Senior Electronics Tech
Hannah Kerner	Editor
Marianne Tomita McDonald	Library Supervisor 2
June McKay	Academic Coordinator III
C. Jean Morton	*
Thomas Piazza	*
Joan Pulsipher	Assistant Admin Analyst
Alan Samson	Associate Specialist
Celia Shryne	EH&S Specialist 3
Sheila Slavin	Digital Comm Spec 3
Gary Stetson	Mail Processor
Mark Takaro	Library Assistant V
Michiko Takata	Principal Admin Analyst I
Genevieve Anne Thiebault	_____ Assistant III-Supervisor
David Waring	Student Affairs Officer V
Barbara Webb	Program Promotion Mgr I
Bertha Williams	Counseling Psychologist 2
Dorothy Williams	Custodian
Julia Wong	_____ Assistant III-Supervisor

*Title at time of retirement is not available

Keep in Touch!

UCRAB

Email UCRAB@berkeley.edu

[www retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab](http://www.retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab)

Facebook [UCRAB - University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley](#)

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