

UC San Diego Retirement Association Report Highlights of Activities 2015

1. The UC San Diego Retirement Association continues its active roles, both as a stand-alone organization and in close partnership with the 550 plus member UC San Diego Emeriti Association. The two organizations share facilities in the UCSD Retirement Resource Center under the able direction of Suzan Cioffi. This facility provides space for many activities, meetings, and the UC Emeriti Association mentoring program for UCSD's Chancellor's Scholars.
2. Membership of the UC San Diego Retirement Association **hit a high on June 30th of 1900**, the largest in the UC system. Dues for annual and life memberships remain at \$30 and \$300, respectively. **We are now climbing to 2,000!**
3. The Retirement Association Gazette, the organization's newsletter, is published nine times each year and is in an 8-page, full-color newsletter format, often with 1 or 2 page double-sided, year-long program pull-out sections. The Gazette contents include details about upcoming activities, requests for volunteers, a President's Message, and a calendar of events. Now, about half of our members opt to receive the UCSD Retirement Association Gazette electronically. Additionally, the RA distributes information about its events via its Facebook page, Google Calendar and a regular Twitter feed. The RA publishes a weekly events calendar email "*Next Week at the UCSD Retirement Association*", listing all events for the coming week, with relevant time/place/cost/RSVP details included, with a link to the E-Gazette and various seminar series at the bottom of the message. This is a VERY popular service.
4. The Retirement Association offers three list-serv choices; one for all campus flyers plus RA and benefits news, one for UCSD-RA and benefits news, and the third limited to the electronic distribution of the Gazette.
5. The UC-RA has a large group of active volunteers who contribute in excess of 1,000 hours to staff over 20 different events on the UCSD campus each year. The volunteer Board and Committee members provide approximately 700 hours of volunteer service time to various meetings throughout the year. The "Gazette Groupies" (12 volunteers each month) provide another 500 hours to handle post-production of the Gazette. Total RA volunteer hours exceed 5,000 this year. Additionally, numerous UCSD Retirement Association members are actively engaged as volunteers in the Preuss School Mentoring Program, the International Center's Resale Shop, and the Theatre and Dance Ushers Program, and in various off campus programs, bringing RA Volunteering totals to over 10,000 hours!
6. The Membership Committee staffs a Membership Outreach table at various events on campus throughout the year and several times each year at both Medical Centers. These outreach efforts have been key to increasing memberships numbers. We will climb toward 2,000 by June!
7. The Program Committee organizes numerous activities annually that include community tours, a free international film series – with new films presented each month by distinguished professors, campus tours, educational seminars (health and financial topics, monthly ethnic restaurant luncheons, distinguished lecture series, and special events on campus and out in the community. Our biannual Art & Music Soirées, with presentations by each artist, a music terrace, and delicious refreshments, have become quite popular, drawing 150+ guests. In addition, there are several annual events that members look forward to (summer picnic, festive holiday party, spring volunteer appreciation luncheon). **Program offerings range from 15 to 30 each month!** An online RSVP system debuted last year, which generates a confirmation email to each registrant, and a roster of event attendees for check in. It has greatly streamlined our event administration.
8. Regular weekly or monthly Interest Groups/classes include the following: Spanish language conversation group, a creative writing group, a Fiction Book Club, a Healthy Living/Healthy Eating Interest Group, an Investments Interest Group, and the Triton Investments Club. Our Healthy Living/Healthy Eating Interest Group now includes seminars on Meditation, the Importance of Exercise and Graceful Aging,
9. The amount that the UC Retirement Association regularly contributes to the Chancellors Scholarship fund has been raised to \$5000 annually and it makes a \$1,000 awards to Nursing / Health Sciences, and an additional \$900 sponsorship to the UCSD International Center to support study-abroad scholarships. The recipients of these funds attend luncheons to accept the awards. Additionally, the Retirement Association set up a Chancellor's Scholars individual donor fund, to which an additional \$2,000 was donated last year.
10. A number of UCSD RA members are also actively involved as mentors with the Emeriti Mentor Program. That program provides mentoring to some 70 freshmen and sophomore Chancellor's Scholars. RA also members help to carry out the spring Chancellor's Scholarship Donor Recognition Dinner, a formal 5-course dinner served at the RRC.
11. The UC RA Board of Directors serves as advocates for the University among new retirees.

Submitted by: Rich Belmontez, UCSD Retirement Association President, October 2015