1. The UC San Diego Retirement Association continues its active roles, both as a stand-alone organization and in close partnership with the 620 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 has now just shy of 2,600, the largest in the UC system. Dues for annual and life memberships remain at $30 and $300, respectively.

3. The Retirement Association Gazette, the organization’s newsletter, is published nine times each year and is in an 12-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 65% of our members opt to receive the UCSD Retirement Association Gazette electronically. Additionally, the RA distributes information about its events via its Facebook page, and Google Calendar. 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. RA membership is just shy of 2,600 members, and is on track to surpass 2,700 by mid-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. In addition, there are several annual events that members look forward to (summer BBQ, 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 an active Walking Group. Our Healthy Living/Healthy Eating Interest Group continues to include useful seminars on Nutrition and a free quarterly meditation sessions.

9. The amount that the UC Retirement Association regularly contributes to the Chancellors Scholarship fund is $7000 annually and it makes a $1,000 award 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 $1,000 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 80 freshmen and sophomore Chancellor’s Scholars, and 80 upper div scholars.

11. The UC RA Board of Directors serves as advocates for the University among new retirees.

Submitted by: Shem Clow, UCSD Retirement Association Representative to CUCRA