

UTLA-Retired News February – March 2016

Bruce A. Lee, Editor

utla-r@roadrunner.com

March 18, 2016 UTLA-Retired General Assembly Highlights

UTLA-R Vice President Cecilia Boskin called the meeting to order and informed the UTLA-Retired General Assembly that President John Perez was unable to chair the meeting because he was away on AFT business. Minutes for the January 22, 2016, General Assembly will be available for review and approval at the May 20, 2016 meeting. She reported an increase of 271 new UTLA-Retired members following the mailing to newly retired UTLA members late last year. She also reported the collection of almost \$700 for UTLA PACE from meeting attendees. UTLA-R members were also informed that their participation in the UTLA political process is still vital and that UTLA-R member PACE contributions may be mailed to her at Cecilia Boskin, 3547 Federal Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90066. Remember that PACE contributions will fund the campaign to elect public education advocates to office and support UTLA pro public education issues and our contract benefits.

UTLA-R Treasurer Mike Dreebin reported that \$44,635 of the budgeted \$52,000 remains. He also reminded UTLA-R members that they must obtain a UTLA-R Reimbursement form from him to have expenses reimbursed if they attend conferences and the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. as official UTLA-R representatives.

Health Benefits Committee Member Loretta Toggenburger reviewed Health Benefits FAQ's from the LAUSD Health Benefits Committee that addressed **Adult Immunizations and Retired and Turning 65? Be prepared to pay Medicare Part B premiums.** PDF-formatted documents with additional information are available in download link *Other Items of Interest.* (*Health Benefits FAQ-Adult Immunizations and Retired and Turning 65.pdf*)

UTLA-R Legislative Chair Mary Rose Ortega presented the *Legislative Update*. She reviewed the January 3, 2016 Updates prepared by CalSTRS Governmental Relations. She highlighted proposed Federal legislation, H.R. 973 (Davis, IL) that dealt with Repeal of the WEP and the GPO provisions of Social Security. Specific focus and information about the specific bills in her report can be found in the PDF-formatted document attached to this message. (*2016 Legislation Affecting CalSTRS.pdf*) She suggested that UTLA-Retired members support the California Faculty Association job action planned for April 13-15 & 18-19, 2016. Issues of the job action are illustrated in file (*CSU Pain – By the Numbers.pdf*) that is attached. As part of her report, she invited **CTA/NEA-Retired District 3 Director & CTA State Representative and CTA/NEA Retiree Advocate Editor Bonnie Shatun** to discuss the Signature Gathering Campaign to place the **Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act** Initiative on the November 2016 General Election ballot. The constitutional amendment initiative would extend by twelve years the temporary state personal tax increases enacted in 2012 on California's top income earners, allocate the major portion of tax revenues to K-12 schools and California Community Colleges, bars the use of educational revenues for administrative costs and allocates up to \$2 billion per year in certain years for healthcare programs.. Additional information can be found at <http://www.cta.org/Campaign2016/CEHCP>.

Initiative petitions were available at the meeting to help with signature gathering campaign that has a first week of April 2016 turn-in deadline. **All UTLA-Retired members are urged support this campaign**

General Assembly Action Items

- **Dr. Sandy Keaton** was elected to serve as **UTLA-Retired Delegate** to the July 2016 AFT Convention in Minneapolis with **Bill Taxerman Alternate #1** and **Pat Stanyo Alternate #2**
- Selected as **UTLA-Retired members to attend the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting & Conference** were: **Francine Goldstein, Renee Wells, Cythia Bellard** and **Nancy Brashears**. Also selected were **Alternates** (in rank order): **Jimmy Jones, Leona Davis, Janette Metcalfe, Grete Brinck, Carolyn Albriton, Rosalie F. Nuanes** and **Janice Hiltunen**.
- All representatives and alternates were reminded to see/contact [Loretta Toggenburger](#) for housing and travel information and attendance guidelines.

Upcoming UTLA-Retired Event

UTLA-Retired Luncheon

Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 1:00 PM at Taix French Restaurant

\$30 per person

(Use the PDF Reservation form attached.)

Guest Speakers:

Los Angeles Fire Department Captain/Paramedic Stacy E. Gerlich of the Fire Prevention & Public Safety Bureau and Community Risk Reduction Unit spoke about the essentials of Emergency Preparation and the importance of individuals having an Emergency Plan in place that includes a organized plan and the necessary tools and supplies for you to make it on your own for a period of time after a natural disaster or emergency. She also highlighted the fact that there has been a significant decrease in the number of deaths in Los Angeles city structure fires in the past year as a result of LAFD outreach and public education efforts.

MySafe:LA Education Director Cameron Barrett; Instructor, Logistics Chris Nevil and Installer, EMT Bryan Vardanian continued the community safety presentation. The significant highlights and information included:

- Older adults are twice as likely to die in a fire based on recent statistics
- On average in Los Angeles there are 21-24 fire fatalities each year
- The most likely causes of structure fires are issues from cooking, smoking and heating in homes.
- “Be Prepared” essentials are (1) Working Smoke Alarms (2) Family Escape Plan and (3) Practicing Fire Smart Behaviors.
- When making a 911 call the most important information you should tell the dispatcher is where you are. (This is especially important with the ever-increasing use mobile devices over landlines.)
- Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarms are required in ALL homes.
- Free smoke alarm checking and installation is available through mysmokealarm.org.

Current programs from MySafe:LA include: *El Niño Safety, FireSmart:LA, QuakeSmart:LA, WaterSmart:LA, Ready, Set, Go!, Older Adult Safety, Burn Prevention, Pet Safety and Auto & Pedestrian Safety*. Click [here](#) to connect to [MySafe:LA](#).

INSTALLING SMOKE ALARMS (THE MYSAFE:LA WAY) – Source [mysafela.org](#)

- 1 Open your web browser.
- 2 Visit: [www.mysmokealarm.org](#)
- 3 Make an online appointment to have FREE smoke alarms installed in your home. The installation is free as well.
- 4 Or, pick up the phone and dial 844.382.5276

A Q & A session with the Guest Speakers followed in response written questions from the General Assembly. Free smoke alarms and “Go” bags were distributed to all who attended. The meeting adjourned following the drawing to distribute the plants and flowers.

Documents Referenced

*(Open the PDF-formatted files in download link **Other Items of Interest.**)*

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Adult Immunizations
Retiring and Turning 65
2016 Legislation Affecting CalSTRS
CSU Faculty Pain
UTLA-Retired April 2016 Luncheon at TAIX Reservation Form

Informational Items Shared by UTLA-R Members

*(Open the PDF-formatted files in download link **Other Items of Interest.**)*

Campaign for a Health California: Q&A The National Medicare for All Debate
Teachers United Shall Never Divided