



REPORTER

Publication of the California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

EARTHQUAKE WHAMMIES CSU-ERFA

The January 17 Northridge earthquake whammied CSU-ERFA; the new office, acquired May 1 with great fanfare, is no more, and CSU-ERFA personnel may never get into the building where the office was located to move out the computers, office furniture, fax machine, brand new copier, and so forth (even if the quake did not ruin them).

The office was located in the CSU Northridge building known as the South Library, a building that almost got condemned in the 1971 Sylmar quake. The office was shared with the CSU Northridge Association of Retired Faculty; this facility was called The Retiree Center.

A sad feature of the disaster is that CSU-ERFA cannot obtain a current mailing list of members. Executive Director Jack Byrom and Office Manager Byrd Ehlman are attempting to reconstruct the list from materials previously sent to various officers for one purpose or another; also, PERS will provide a list of those using payroll deduction. All members who pay their dues by check are asked to send their name, address, mailing address, and date of last payment to CSU-ERFA. If any member knows of a member colleague who does not get this issue of *CSU-ERFA Reporter*, s/he is asked to inform the office.

The campus mailing address has not changed, even though CSU-ERFA now has a temporary office at 9231 Reseda Blvd. in Northridge (only one block from the collapsed apartment building where sixteen persons were killed). The phone number is 818-993-6465 (answered by Four Seasons Realty) and the fax number is 818-993-1781.

CSU-ERFA RELIEF FUND

When the retiree association at CSU Long Beach learned that CSU-ERFA lost all of its office equipment in the January 17 earthquake, it voted to contribute \$500 to help CSU-ERFA begin replacing the equipment. The CSU-ERFA executive committee at its recent February 5 meeting voted a unanimous expression of appreciation to Long Beach. And because replacement of the entire office will require several thousand dollars—computers, printers, copier, fax machine, desks, filing cabinets, etc.—the CSU-ERFA executive committee also voted to ask local retiree associations and individual members to send whatever donations they can to help CSU-ERFA with this recovery. Checks to CSU-ERFA Earthquake Fund should be sent to CSU-ERFA, the Retiree Center, CSUN, Northridge, CA 91330-8339.

PERS HEALTH PLANS THREATENED

According to a recent story in the *Los Angeles Times* California officials fear that the health care reforms under consideration in the Congress may wipe out the often hailed health benefits plan for California public employees. The active and retired California public employees, numbering about 926,000, along with their families, might no longer be enrolled in a single system, but divided among several regional health alliances.

"One of the most efficient programs in the country would be eliminated," according to Assemblyman Sal Cannella (D-Modesto). He has recently been in Washington to lobby Congress to preserve the state system; he was joined by William Crist, elected PERS board member. So far the Administration has refused to compromise on this feature, despite the pleas of California officials who want an exemption for PERS.

Crist reports that the PERS health program "cuts across the whole state, with a large group of people neatly tied together," spending \$1.6 billion a year in premiums. California law makes the board members legally responsible for the health program. "If somebody gets cheated or harmed by the system, we can be sued; we are all personally liable," Crist says.

CSU-ERFA suggests members write their Congressional representatives and urge them to support the preservation of the PERS health program as an independent unit.

RETIREES AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

The CSU-ERFA constitution directs the organization to help those faculty who want to continue their professional academic activities (teaching, research, etc.).

To help realize this goal, CSU-ERFA asked the CSU Academic Senate to help overturn the rules of the provisions that prevent even part-time employment of faculty who retired under this program. Unfortunately, CSU-ERFA did not get majority support from the Senate.

However, CSU-ERFA has now received many requests from retirees from several campuses who want to continue teaching and who ask that CSU-ERFA obtain changes in the rules. Additionally, the CSU-ERFA State Council at its meeting of December 11, 1993, adopted a resolution from the CSU Dominguez Hills Emeritus Faculty Association that

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HONOR TO KREBS

On January 21 the emeriti of CSU Fullerton honored Wilma Krebs (Sac), CSU-ERFA legislative advocate, "in recognition and appreciation of her exemplary achievements as Professor of Economics, faculty leader, and legislative advocate for all California State University retirees. . . . Her dedication and accomplishments merit our heartfelt recognition and commendation." The tribute refers to Krebs' work as President of the California Seniors Coalition, her fight against the Medicare Catastrophic Health Coverage Act, and her leadership in the passing of the California Pension Protection Act.

TEACHING PAST 70

As reported in October 1993 *CSU-ERFA Reporter* the CSU Trustees repealed the Title V provision requiring "certification" of faculty who choose to serve beyond age 70. This action became effective January 1, 1994.

The CSU has also agreed with the contention of CFA and CSU-ERFA that FERPers who reach 70 will still have the right to additional service, within the terms of Article 29 of the Memorandum of Understanding, and not be forced to retire at 70.

This interpretation is verified by a letter of Samuel Strafaci (CSU Director of Employee Relations) to Gail Holmes (CFA Director of Field Operations).—M. Dobkin

CSU-ERFA FOUNDATION FUND

CSU-ERFA members are advised that the organization has a FOUNDATION FUND within the CSU Foundation.

Donors may contribute to the fund by check or through bequests from wills, trusts, or annuities; these donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Donations may be designated as memorial gifts or as honors for specific individuals.

CSU-ERFA needs donations to help it develop educational programs and scholarships like those recommended in the long-range plan adopted December 1993 by the state council. CSU-ERFA's limited funds from dues cannot support such activities; on the other hand, contributions to the foundation can not be used to support CSU-ERFA operating expenses.

CSU-ERFA members are urged to include contributions to the foundation fund among their annual tax-deductible contributions.

CLIP

CLIP

DONATION TO FOUNDATION

To: CSU-ERFA Foundation Fund, The Retiree Center, CSUN, Northridge, CA 91339-8339

My/our tax deductible contribution to the CSU-ERFA Foundation Fund for \$ _____ is enclosed in our check made payable to the CSU-ERFA Foundation Fund.

Name _____ Address _____

City and State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

POSSIBLE INSURANCE SAVINGS

Recently, CSU-ERFA learned that CSU retirees are eligible for casualty insurance (automobile, fire, household) from California Casualty.

Several attendees at the December 11, 1993, CSU-ERFA State Council meeting advised that they had received good service from this company, both for favorable premiums and for claims.

Vice President Dobkin was directed to proceed with conversations with a California Casualty representative to discover whether or not any benefit would accrue to CSU-ERFA if it endorsed the carrier. Discussions did occur but did not effect any agreement to continue,

Meantime, any CSU retirees who wish to inquire about coverage from California Casualty should call one of the following numbers and identify themselves as CSU retirees: Orange County (Orange)—714-937-0130; Los Angeles (Glendale)—818-956-1960; Northern California (San Mateo)—415-574-2000.—M. Dobkin

If you received two copies of CSU-ERFA Reporter in this mailing, please clip the address label from each copy and return to CSU-ERFA. If you learn of this mailing and did not receive your copy, please inform the office.

FERPERS AT CSULA GRIEVANCE

CSU-ERFA and CFA continue to work together on behalf of the post-1987 FERPers at CSULA who were laid off despite tenure, seniority, and contracts while work and funds were still available. Although the CFA and CSU-ERFA, as a consequence of the arbitration victory at San Diego, received assurances from CSU that the problems at CSULA would be resolved, CFA and CSU-ERFA keep getting "interruptions" to the "closing" of this "disgraceful" CSULA episode.

Fifteen of those laid off who also signed the grievance against CSULA have been restored to their former positions, but others who did not sign it remain in limbo. Additionally, CFA is still seeking restoration of FERP years lost by two faculty members who took leaves under threat of layoff. When will this mess be over?—M. Dobkin

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT EMMETT LONG

The CSU-ERFA State Council had one of its most successful meetings on December 11, 1993, in San Jose. The thirty-five delegates from thirteen CSU campuses moved through a full agenda and took many significant actions.

The report of the Long Range Planning Committee, consisting of nine recommendations, was approved. In brief summary, they are:

1. Continue to represent, as advocates, our members to the legislature and PERS.
2. Continue to represent, as advocates, our members to the university system and the campuses.
3. Intensify efforts to recruit new members.
4. Develop a skills bank of our members as a resource of expertise to benefit the CSU, the state, the members, and others.
5. Seek support for the CSU-ERFA foundation account to underwrite projects for which dues provide insufficient support.

PERS TIP: If you need help from PERS, call 800-352-2238 during the latter part of the month, 0800-0830 and 1600-1700

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directs CSU-ERFA to work with the legislature to remove current restrictions on the employment of retired faculty and to establish the principle that such faculty should be permitted (1) to teach occasional classes in the regular academic program or in self-support programs, such as extension, and (2) to serve as paid consultants to any CSU campus.

CSU-ERFA will seek support of this resolution from the CFA Committee on Retired Faculty (chaired by CSU-ERFA member Henry Peterson of Chico) and the CFA Pac-Leg Committee Chair Bill Crist, who is also president of the Board of Administration of PERS.

CSU-ERFA may need the help of the membership in obtaining appropriate legislative action. Stay tuned!—M. Dobkin.

6. Provide services in retirement planning.
7. Develop activities for our members in continuing learning.
8. Help campus organizations of retirees in providing greater involvement of their members in the continuing life of the CSU system and their campuses.
9. Set up representation with related organizations to work jointly on issues of mutual concern.

As part of the actions on the long range report, the council decided to encourage all CSU-ERFA members to support the foundation account (see recommendation 5). As CSU-ERFA moves into its second decade as an organization, CSU-ERFA plans to be involved in many activities to benefit the members. Most of the work is accomplished by an unpaid staff, but many activities must be supported by additional funds if they are to be realized.

Membership Chair Kenneth Doane reported on the campaign to recruit new members (see recommendation 3). We anticipate that the steady growth of CSU-ERFA (2457 members as of January 12) will accelerate during this year. Any increase in membership benefits the operating expense budget. We shall need to consider funding additional non-volunteer staff in the near future as out programs expand.

Vice President Milt Dobkin reported that most remaining issues resulting from the arbitration decisions regarding FERPer were being rapidly resolved. Most pre-1987 cases have been successfully handled and there are a few post-1987 cases still to be concluded. One of the major accomplishments of CSU-ERFA: supporting our members when a statewide approach is needed to resolve problems.

Continuing review of the Long Term Health Care plans of PERS was received from Don Moore and Wilma Krebs. CSU-ERFA continues to be an active player in the development of this PERS program.—Emmett Long

JOIN CSU-ERFA



(Please Print)

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
EMERITUS AND RETIRED FACULTY ASSOCIATION
Membership Form



Last Name _____ First Name _____ Initial _____ Social Security Number _____

Home Address — Number and Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Date Retired _____ CSU Campus _____ Department _____ Home Phone _____

Please enroll me as a retired ERFA member. I hereby authorize deductions to be made from my retirement warrants by Public Employees' Retirement System for the payment of dues to the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association. I further agree that ERFA act as my agent in payroll deduction agreements and transactions between myself, ERFA, and the Public Employees' Retirement System. This authorization will continue in effect until I submit a timely written notice of cancellation to the ERFA office.

Monthly Retirement Payment:	Recommended Dues	Check One
\$1599 and under.....	\$2.00 per month	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1600 to \$2299	\$3.00 per month	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$2300 and more	\$4.00 per month	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contributing Member.....	\$5.00 & up per mo.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Amount \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

I understand that CSU-ERFA and CFA have negotiated a pilot program which offers complimentary CFA retiree membership to CSU-ERFA members who desire it.
 I accept complimentary membership in CFA
 I do not accept such membership

Signature _____ Date _____

CSU-ERFA POLICY ON HEALTH CARE

The CSU-ERFA executive committee on February 5 adopted the following policy statement to enable it better to judge and help formulate state/federal health reform proposals:

A. Support—

1. universal coverage, basic benefit package, within three years
2. inclusion of long-term care (all ages and types of disability), with emphasis on care in the least restrictive setting possible, e.g., home and community care.
3. long-term care insurance reform, e.g., consumer protection, inflation protection.
4. progressive financing of subsidies for the poor, e.g., income tax, possibly a value-added tax with low-income credit or exemption of necessities.
5. portability (change of or loss of job should not mean loss of coverage).
6. cost containment, e.g., voluntary alliances or purchasing cooperatives, modest affordable co-payments or deductibles, monitoring drug prices.
7. emphasis on prevention.
8. promotion of good managed care, with preservation of right to consumer choice.
9. tax incentives (deductibility) for purchase of long-term care insurance and deductibility for employers who

offer this as an employee benefit.

10. incentives to reduce Medi-Cal expenditures for long-term care, e.g., asset protection for those who buy long-term care insurance.
11. malpractice insurance reform.
12. in principle a single payer plan, provided it protects the integrity of the health benefits system of public employee retirement programs.

B. Oppose.

1. compulsory health alliances
2. substantial cutbacks or elimination of Medicare
3. means-testing of Medicare beneficiaries.
4. federal or state measures or plans which would result in unfair losses for public employees or retirees who should be able to rely on the social compact or collective bargaining contract whereby they traded salary for future health benefits. (This is especially important for those already retired or close to retirement—not fair to change the rules in

ENROLLMENT DROPS

The *Los Angeles Times* reports enrollment in the California public colleges and universities decreased eight per cent, i.e., 160,000 students, during the past year; the CSU lost 22,000. The belief is that student fee increases, fewer class offerings, and budget cuts are responsible. The number of high school students taking college eligibility courses has also declined, despite the increase in the high school population.

IN MEMORIAM

The following colleagues from CSULA have recently died: Manuel R. DeOrtega, Edward J. Neale, Robert M. Oldham, Ross D. F. Thompson, and Kenneth Zimmer.

Correction: In the previous issue of *CSU-ERFA Reporter* the following deceased were incorrectly reported as being from CSULA; the correct campus is Fullerton: Louis Brockman, Hazel Croy, E. Ray Nichols.

The CSU-ERFA Reporter is a publication of the CSU Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association. President: Emmett Long. Executive Director: Jack Byrom. Office Manager: Byrd Ehlman. Mailing address: The Retiree Center, California State University Northridge, Northridge, CA 91330-8339. Telephone 818-993-6465. Editor: Fred McMahon, 716 S. Catalina No. 1, Redondo Beach, CA 90277; Telephone: 310-540-1111. All Rights Reserved.

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
EMERITUS AND RETIRED FACULTY ASSOCIATION
THE RETIREE CENTER, CSUN, 18111 NORDHOFF STREET
NORTHRIDGE, CA 91330-8339**

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**HAVE YOU MOVED? IF SO, PLEASE
COMPLETE AND RETURN TO CSU-ERFA.**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____