

Report of the August 11, 2017 General Assembly Meeting

By Mignon Jackson, UTLA-R Secretary

UTLA-R President John Perez called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

President's Report: President John Perez urged everyone to join PACE. If all of our 4,300 members were to sign up for PACE, UTLA-R by itself would be contributing, \$860,000 to PACE every 2 year school board election cycle. UTLA Elementary Vice President Juan Ramirez addressed the meeting and thanked the retirees for everything they have done and will be doing this school year. Cecily Myart-Cruz, UTLA-NEA Vice President also extended greetings from the UTLA Officers. The following people were chosen to attend the CARA conference in Sacramento, September 26-27, 2017 Rene Wells and Judith Klingbeil and alternates in case either of the two cannot attend are: Dan Henderson and Georgina Ametu.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Dreebin's proposed budget for the 2017-2018 year of \$55,900 was approved. He reminded everyone that much of the budget is allocated to allow UTLA-Retired members to participate in conferences and meetings on issues affecting retirees.

Health Benefits Report: Loretta Toggenburger reviewed Health Benefits FAQ from the LAUSD Health Benefits Committee that addressed the issue "BEWARE OF FAKE HEALTH INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET." She then spoke about RECIPIENT DESIGNATION-Information, which is distributed by CalSTRS. If you have any questions or concerns Loretta Toggenburger's email address is ltogg@att.net or cell phone number 818 516-8602.

PACE Report: Cecelia Boskin gave the PACE Report. She announced that 66 UTLA-Retired members signed up for PACE today. She also stated that UTLA-Retired members should continue with their participation in the UTLA political process either by working and/or donating. UTLA-R member PACE contributions may be mailed to Cecelia Boskin, 3547 Federal Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90066.

Legislative Report: Mary Rose Ortega our legislative reporter introduced Jennifer Baker, CTA lobbyist dealing with retirement issues.

Guest Speaker: Jennifer Baker our guest speaker, spoke about current legislation and the impacts it has on retirement security and all its complexity. The political climate being shaped by a world without institutional knowledge, and continued pension reform efforts and how the table is being set to combat those efforts. We have to make sure CalSTRS is protected from unintentional attacks from the left and intentional attacks from the right. Pension reformers continue to push and a new pension reform initiative IS brewing.

A special THANK YOU to Tomas Junge and his group for preparing the wonderful brunch at our General Assembly meetings. Virginia Pratt, Lupe Vallery, Bill Miller, Frances Williams and Eva Giese.

REMINDER: Our next UTLA-Retired General Assembly meeting will be Friday, October 13, 2017

Adjournment: Following the drawing for plants and flowers, the meeting adjourned at 12.43pm. (Thank you to Emily Ettinger for selecting and bringing the plants and flowers.)