

UTLA-Retired News April – May 2016

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May 20, 2016 UTLA-Retired General Assembly Highlights

UTLA AFT Vice President and AFT Local 1021 President Betty Forrester began this meeting of the General Assembly announcing the awarding of the CFT Ben Rust Award to UTLA–Retired President John Perez at this year’s CFT Convention in San Francisco. She also spoke briefly about the new settlement proposal.

The CFT Ben Rust Award, named after former a CFT president, is the most prestigious honor that the Federation bestows upon its members or friends. The award honors an AFT member for his or her commitment and involvement in education, politics, and the trade union movement. The award is presented annually at the CFT Convention.

All recipients have dedicated substantial parts of their lives to excellence in education, to the welfare of those who work in education, to effective union member involvement in the political process, and to the union movement. Read about John’s accomplishments that earned him this award at the CFT site [here](#) and in the attachment [John Perez – CFT Ben Rust Award.pdf](#).

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Ben Rust was a master teacher, a CFT president, a political activist, and a dedicated trade unionist in the Richmond Unified School District. He set a high standard for this award.

UTLA-Retired President John Perez continued the meeting after receiving the praise and acknowledgement of a standing ovation from the General Assembly members present.

Minutes for the January 22 and March 18 meetings were approved. He announced the Steering Committee decision to add one additional meeting to the 2016-17 General Assembly calendar for a total of five. Next year’s meeting are slated for August 26, 2016, October 14, January 20, 2017, March 17 and May 19.

He also highlighted several significant retirees facts: There are currently about 896,00 CalSTRS members including retirees and that 60 % of the pension payments we receive come from the system's investment portfolio. A Economic Policy Institute (EPI) shows that the retirement crisis in America is getting worse not better. The number of defined-benefit retirement plans, like our CalSTRS pensions are shrinking nationwide and as they do, so do, the retirement nest eggs of the average American. The top 20% of the population have 74% of the total retirement savings with nine in ten families of the top 20% income earners have a retirement account versus one in ten of the bottom 20%. This illustrates why Social Security is the most important retirement program in the nation.

John also recommended the book, *Saving Capitalism for the Many, Not the Few* by Dr. Robert Reich. The book explains the history of our current economic circumstances and suggests fixes.

John continued his President's Report discussing the changes that may have been noticed in the drug coverage plan in the Anthem medical plan members following the name change from CVS to SilverScript. There should have been no changes to the plan with the name change of the drug coverage plan. All UTLA-R members who have experiences issues are to contact Tom Morrison, Consultant to the Health Benefits Committee (HBC) [tmorrison@segalco.com](mailto:tmorrison@segalco.com) and UTLA AFT Vice President Betty Forrester, HBC Co-Chair at [bforrester@utla.net](mailto:bforrester@utla.net) . The message should include the details of the noted change/problem and the documentation they have on the situation.

UTLA-Retired Treasure Mike Dreebin reported a current balance of \$30,979 of the initial UTLA-R budget of \$52,000 remains. He also stated that two addition UTLA-R alternates will be funded to attend the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting at the NEA RA in Washington D.C. He also reminded members submit reimbursement forms in a timely manner to pay for their conference attendance expenses. There has been a recent increase of new UTLA-R membership and that it will be reflected in larger allocation from UTLA in next year's budget.

Health Benefits Committee Member Loretta Toggenburger reviewed Health Benefits FAQ from the LAUSD Health Benefits Committee that addressed *Does Your Prescription Need Prior Authorization?* She spoke about the question of the kinds of drugs that required authorization. A PDF-formatted document with additional information is attached to this message. (*Does Your Prescription Need Prior Authorization.pdf*)

UTLA-R Vice President Cecilia Boskin presented the Membership and PACE Report and stated that current UTLA–R membership is more than 4000. She also stated that UTLA–R members have contributed more than \$2000 to UTLA PACE so far this year. Another membership recruitment letter will be sent out to this school year’s new retirees in the near future to allow these members to continue the benefits of membership.

UTLA-R members were also reminded 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 Legislative Chair Mary Rose Ortega presented the Retirement Legislative Update May 2016. Her report is summation of pending legislation in Sacramento and Washington, DC from our state and national affiliates and indicates the position that is taken by them concerning passage. She briefly discussed the impact the proposed legislation would have on the many aspect of retiree life and benefits. A PDF copy of her published report is attached. (Retirement Legislative Update May 2016.pdf)

The November ballot is expected to include a proposition that will extend the provisions of Prop 30 for an additional 12 years and include provisions that are supportive of public education and students and their families. There will be a definite need for UTLA–R members to help with the phone banking efforts during the campaign.

Guest Speakers: Rigo Reyes, Chief, Investigations and Maritza Gutierrez, Investigator/Mediator Program Supervisor from County of Los Angeles, Department of Consumer and Business Affairs presented information from the county department.

The topics covered by Rigo Reyes included: Consumer Scams, Telemarketing Fraud, Elder Financial Abuse, Fraud Investigation, Consumer Contracts, Landlord and Tenant Issues, Real Estate Scams, Crimes of Affinity and Identity Thief. He shared anecdotes to illustrate examples of the impact of the topics.

Maritza Gutierrez spoke about mediation services and the range of volunteer service positions that public can do help members of the community. She also stated that former teachers are suitable candidates for mediators based on their previous classroom experiences and their people skills.

Written questions from the members were answered at the conclusion of their presentation. Contact the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs at 1-800-593-8222 or online at [www.dcba.lacounty.gov](http://www.dcba.lacounty.gov). They also can be reached on Facebook at LACountyDCBA and on Twitter at @LACountyDCBA.

Selected copies of the brochures available at the meeting are attached. See the listing below.

The meeting was adjourned following the drawing for the flowers .

#### Other Resources:

The federal government's National Do Not Call Registry is a free, easy way to reduce the telemarketing calls you get at home. To register your phone number or to get information about the registry, visit [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov), or call 1-888-382-1222 from the phone number you want to register. You can expect to get fewer telemarketing calls within 31 days of registering your number.

Another free service provides consumers a method to stop robocalls and telemarketers is found at the Nomorobo website [www.nomorobo.com](http://www.nomorobo.com). The site's creators were the winner of the Federal Trade Commission's Robocall Challenge. The system allows legal and legitimate calls to get through while blocking robocalls. The system supports a wide range of internet-based telephones from certain cable and DSL companies. Unfortunately, Nomorobo is not available on traditional analog landlines or wireless phones at this time. See the website for specifics that apply to your phone system. View the introduction video for complete details on the requirements and setup.

#### UTLA-R Election Notice:

The UTLA-R will hold elections during the next school year, 2016-17 for:

- UTLA-R Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary)
- UTLA-R House of Representative Members [Ten (10) Seats Currently] and Alternates [Five (5) Seats]
- UTLA-R Steering Committee Members [Five (5) Seats]

Election Rules, Election Timelines and Intent to Run forms will be published in the UNITED TEACHER.

#### Attachments from Members

Friends of Lois Bradford.pdf

#### Attachments from UTLA–R Presenters

John Perez – CFT Ben Rust Award.pdf

Does your prescription need prior authorization.pdf

Retirement Legislative Update May 2016.pdf

#### Attachments from Guest Speakers

Our Services.pdf

Mediation.pdf

What to Do If You've Been Sued.pdf

Collect Your Judgement.pdf

Car Title Loans.pdf

Security Freezes.pdf

Repairing Your Rental Unit.pdf

Signing or Co-Signing a Contract.pdf

How to Sue in Small Claims Court.pdf

Volunteer-Intern Application.pdf

Mediation Certification Course.pdf