

Retirement Administrators Committee (RAC) Report

By Don Davis

The Region 7 Retiree Group meets as a sub-group of the larger statewide ACSA Retired Administrators Council. Our statewide theme this year is "Keeping the Spirit Alive". Our council's mission statement in part reads, "...continued participation, service, and inclusion in all aspects of ACSA governance and activities to provide institutional memory and expertise...". Retired administrators are often sought to fill interim roles and to offer advice and counsel to fellow administrators tasked with important work such as opening and closing schools, and navigating difficult fiscal and human resources challenges.

Currently the retired administrators are collaborating with elected officials and lobbyists to pass HR 82 a repeal of the IRS's Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision which reduces or eliminates social security spousal benefits for members or their spouses. You may not be aware that STRS and PERS beneficiaries lose social security benefits when a spouse passes. Some retiree's report that they cannot afford to stay retired after their spouse passed away.

A CalSTRS representative shared with the retiree council in September that retirement system has various annual reports published online each October and November, and encouraged members, both active and retired to review the reports to gain better understanding of the fiscal condition of their retirement system.