



# Retirement Association

## Early History of the Association

It seems like yesterday that the Association came into being. Much of the history of the Association is a shared experience among many of us over twenty wonderful and eventful years.

mer department name for what is now known as the Department of Human Resources). One of the things she pointed out during her interview for the position was that it seemed time for UCSD to

developed much of a relationship even with its Alumni. There were not yet many alumni and most were not yet in a position to become benefactors of their Alma Mater. So, one of the first things Quelda set as a goal when she came to the Personnel Department was her interest in developing a retirement association.

Quelda Wilson graciously gives full credit to Dud Wray who, at the time, was the UCSD Benefits Manager. Dud, too, had the idea of developing such a group. In fact, he sent out an invitation to those retirees he thought might be interested in coming to an exploratory meeting. At that time in the history of the Personnel Department, all personnel records were maintained in a *kardex* on hard-copy cards not easily



Richard C. Atkinson. Chancellor of the University of California, San Diego  
Official Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, May 1985, pictured with Mary Jo Evans

It all started in 1979, when Quelda Wilson was appointed Assistant Vice Chancellor of the Personnel Department (the for-

develop a permanent relationship with its retirees, both faculty and staff. It is noteworthy that at that time UCSD had not yet

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retrieved. The only source for an accurate listing of retirees was the Office of the President. Only a few responded to Dud's invitation. Among those was Hugh Brander, a recently retired faculty member who was very enthusiastic about the idea.

circumstances were more favorable and there would be more emeriti and staff retirees. From the beginning, the idea was to have an organization that would bring together both retired faculty and staff. After all, they had spent their working lives together--thus it

tirement groups that existed on other older UC campuses. The arrangement at UCLA seemed the perfect such model. They had a fulltime person in charge of their retirement association and a building in which to house it. Of course, UCLA had a large and active emeriti and staff retiree group. As one of the youngest UC campuses, UCSD did not yet have many of the traditions, organization and potential members that older campuses had. Nonetheless, the UCLA model became the goal, and Quelda continued to assess when the time would be right to pursue it.

In 1983, the time became right. Thanks to then Vice Chancellor Herm Johnson, Quelda was able to acquire a full-time employee (Maryann Herbenar) and a small budget; along with Herm Johnson's approval to try once again to establish a retirement organization.



**The bungalow pictured above was the first home of the UCSD Retirement Club.**

But that just wasn't enough to build an idea on, so the thought of developing a Retirement Association was tabled. It was not dropped--just deferred until

seemed that they would be together again in retirement.

It then seemed desirable to become educated about the models for re-

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Maryann was committed to the idea from the beginning and used her bound-less energy, enthusiasm, contacts, and organization skills to begin the process of developing a broad interest in such a group. She sent out a survey to all UCSD faculty and staff over the age of 55 to determine whether there was an interest in forming a UCSD retiree center. The results were overwhelmingly positive resulting in the establishment of a 66-member ad hoc planning committee made up of faculty and staff.

In a burst of enthusiasm, interested retirees were invited to an on-campus meeting in Conference Room 111A. And they came -- well over 60 faculty and staff! A 66-member planning committee worked with Maryann to develop the ideas which came out of the meeting: what would be the purpose of the association?; who could belong?; what would the name be?;



what type of constitution and bylaws were needed?; how much should the dues be?; what were the University's requirements of such groups?, etc. After some intense and thought-

ful sessions, it was time to announce the birth of the "UCSD Retirement Club."

At a meeting in the North Dining Room of Muir College, a formal vote was taken to resolve the

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various issues. The late and dear Murray Goodman, formerly Provost of Revelle College and an eminent chemist, gave a strong endorsement of the group at that meeting. It was important that faculty feel welcome as a part of the new organization and Murray emphasized that sentiment. He was always one of the Association's biggest boosters and for that we owe him much gratitude. With the vote on annual dues settled at \$25/year, Quelda Wilson immediately pulled out her

checkbook, wrote out a check, handed it to Maryann Herbenar, and thus became the first dues-paying member.

In October of 1984, the retirement organization was officially chartered by UCSD as the "**UCSD Retirement Club**", a major accomplishment of Assistant Vice Chancellor of Personnel Department, Quelda Wilson. The Club later changed its name to the "UCSD Retirement Association", in April 1988. The birth, development and growth of this organi-

zation is a story of the contributions and hard work of many dedicated people. Moreover, the Association has been fortunate to have had excellent Presidents and Board Members through the years who, as volunteers, have dedicated themselves to making this the vibrant organization it is today.

We also know that the Executive Directors, beginning with Maryann Herbenar, and those succeeding her, have given and continue to give of themselves wholeheartedly toward the task of making this organization a vital and important component of the UCSD esprit.

The UCSD Retirement Association, formerly Retirement Club, continues to flourish with its now 800 members, who find it important to stay connected to this University as life is enjoyed in retirement. We look forward to a long and continuing contribution to UCSD and to our members.



**First home of the UCSD Retirement Club, 1985**