

UCSD Retirement Club opens officially for business

May 13, 1985

UCSD RETIREMENT CLUB OPENS

The Retirement Club of the University of California, San Diego-will be officially open for business on Tuesday, May 21, at 3 p.m. when Chancellor Richard Atkinson cuts the ribbon at the club's headquarters in Building 507 on the Warren College campus.

"The club is a way for the university to reach out to and serve retired faculty and staff and, at the same time, reap the benefits of their continued presence on campus," according to Maryann Herbenar, club coordinator and a special assistant in staff personnel.

The new "club house," consists of a tiny office and a meeting room members will share with the university staff personnel department. It also houses the Rice Resource Center, named for Madora Rice, former head nurse of the Student Health Center who died in February.

Rice, who retired several years ago, was "the backbone in getting this group started," Herbenar said. "She was there to help me with whatever needed to be done, even washing the windows. I couldn't have done this without her."

Soon after Herbenar was handed the job of forming a retirement club last year, she conducted a random survey of campus retirees to learn whether there was indeed an interest in such an organization.

The response was positive, with 66 former UCSD employees agreeing to serve on a planning committee. After several brainstorming sessions, they agreed that what was most needed by retired faculty and staff was a gathering place that provided social activities, support services, retirement planning assistance and an information exchange.

The master design also included the formation of a talent pool to serve as a source of volunteers on campus and the development of a sourcebook on benefits, discounts and special travel opportunities for retirees.

When the club was chartered by the university administration in October, it received start-up funds from Assistant Vice Chancellor Quelda Wilson's staff personnel department. Today the club is nearly 260 strong and entirely self-supporting.

Its calendar of events includes a travel slide show on Alaska and China on Friday, May 17, at 7 p.m. in Conference Room 111A in the Administrative Complex and a summer trip to the Laguna Art Festival. Trips to the Hearst Castle, the desert and other places of interest are also being planned. A club newsletter keeps members posted on what is going on.

"We're a big corporation here," Herbenar said, referring to UCSD. The club is a "soft side of the place. It shows that the campus is behind taking care of its senior citizens."

Bill Soderstrom, a semi-retired staff officer for the Deep Sea Drilling Project, is chairman, and Mary Jo Evans, a housekeeper at the UCSD Medical Center, is co-chair.

(May 13, 1985) For more information contact: Susan Pollock, 452-3120