

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENTS Sharon Blattel/

Happy New Year Everyone!



Hopefully warm weather is near, as Spring is approaching. I live in Dublin, and will be enjoying our city’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Festival. We always start with the “Green Pancakes” breakfast put on by our local Fire Department. It is an annual event we always look forward to. Glad it is back!! Hopefully, we will all be looking forward to participating in the return of many of our local favorite events and activities.

The Olympics have come and gone. Summer will be here soon and you may be thinking of vacation plans, visiting family, and getting back to many pleasures that have been enjoyed in past summers.

Hoping that our April luncheon will be a time for a happy get together with all of you, whom we have all missed.

Take Care
Sharon Blattel
Sharon Yool

Our Core Purpose

To enhance and protect the benefits of retired educators.



California Retired Teachers Association



OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS - Division 91

Co-President: Sharon Blattel
Co-President: Sharon Yool
Secretary: Florence Griffin
Reservations: Janie Caldwell
Member Contact: A. King and Sybil Hoffman
Communications: Mary Kay Henderson
Publicity: Open
Legislation: Stella Torres
Events: Carolyn Zeljak
Activities: Open
Area IV Co-Director: Mary Kay Henderson
Book Sales: Lyneil Lansing Wasser
Financial Secretary: Judy Molander
Newsletter Editors: Maureen Addiego and Jerry Sabo

Mini-Grants: Florence Griffin
Resource Services: Sharon Yool
Treasurer: Gene Amaral
Membership: Muriel Rodrigues
Insurance: Yvonne Brown
Cheer & Sympathy: JoAnn Houk
Web Master: Jerry Sabo
Web Editor: Jerry Sabo
Ducks for Bucks: Florence Griffin
Parliamentarian: Stevie Moody
Area IV Membership: Sharon Yool
Circulation: Carolyn Zeljak
Historian: Dawn Scott

Members-At-Large have no duties. These people just attend board meetings and contribute to discussions.

We need your wisdom and direction as a participant. Please consider attending a board meeting and joining our team.

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Donations to the mini grant fund

Please use the form below to send gifts:

Donor's name: _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

where acknowledgment is to be sent

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to CalRTA Division #91

Mail to Scholarship, CalRT #91, POBox 643, Fremont, CA 94537-0643

Please return this form with your gift.

Donations to the grant fund

These are the memorial donations to the grant fund since the Winter 2022 edition of Fun Times:

By Judy Molander, Financial Secretary

IN MEMORY OF:

Mary Strack by Nancy Miramide
Mary Strack by Rosemarie Holcombe
Joanne Rauscher by Judy Molander
Chuck McIntire by Division 91
Frank Thomas by Division 91
Joanne Rauscher by Maureen Addiego

Mini Grant Awards Presented Last Year (Continued from January Issue)

Right: Glankler principal Angela Morariu presents the CalRTA grant check to **Anne Marie McHugh** who plans to purchase task boxes to instruct & challenge her preschoolers (age 3-5) who need intensive support, most with Autism Spectrum Disorder.



Left: Rose Marie Ramirez is going to purchase Boardmaker Professional subscription to create a more accessible means for students to communicate with her grant money. This will help students who can't communicate verbally.



Right: Camille Michaud - preschool - is buying very basic preschool toys to improve their fine motor skills.



Left: Paul Oliphant of Glankler Early Learning Center will be opening an office/speech therapy room in a second campus.



Right: Mingxia Sheng is buying sensory materials for her pre-K at Glankler Blacow with her grant money.



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Cheer and Sympathy

by Joann Houk

A condolence card was sent to the family of Frank Thomas for his passing. Cards were also sent to Wanda Homen for the loss of her son, Marilyn Mack-innon for the loss of her husband, and Jeanette Rauscher for the passing of her mother.

CalRTA

Focus on Success



CalRTA Annual Convention

Mark Your Calendar!

You Won't Want To Miss This!

WHAT: CalRTA 2022 Convention and Delegate Assembly

WHO: Open to all CalRTA members

WHEN: May 13-15, 2022

WHERE: Hyatt Regency Sacramento

www.calrta.org

Treasurer's Report

As of February 13, 2022 the balance in division checking account was \$26,133.64

The grants account had a balance of \$777.21 on that same date.

Gene Amaral



"Leave the cell phone . . . if it rings, people will see you don't know how to answer it."

Have you heard?

Compiled by Dolores Wright

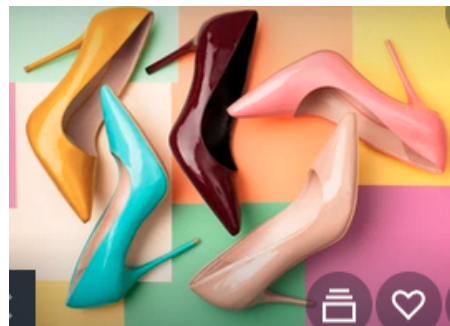
Barbara Horn had a very interesting, teachable, painful, time-consuming experience this summer. Hopefully, you will learn, open your eyes wide, sympathize, and laugh as you read about it. Here, in her own words, is Barbara's tale.



Those of you who know me know that I love to take trips - driving across the United States, touring Europe with the choir, etc. But this is one trip you do not want to take. On Sunday morning, May 30, I tripped over my shoes in my bedroom. (No comments about how graceful I am, please!) Fortunately, living at Baywood, there was a handy cord which I could pull, and help came quickly. Riding in an ambulance has never been on my bucket list, but it can now be included with my travel experiences.

After being diagnosed with two breaks in my pelvis and a broken wrist (no break in my hip!), I took the ambulance a second time to Baywood, but went to the Health Center. (The Health Center is one wing of the Baywood complex.) The sightseeing for the next month consisted of bed, wheelchair, and physical therapy. Who knew physical therapy could be so pleasurable (?) a break in the routine? My physical therapists were patient, persistent, and laughed at my corny jokes. (Hey! Corny jokes are better than tears!)

Finally, on June 25, I went back to my apartment using a cane. Three weeks later I did not need the cane anymore. What a blessing! Meanwhile, the wrist was vegetating in the splint the emergency personnel had put on me. I did not get to begin occupational therapy on my wrist until mid-August. So, if you see me playing with my fingers or making funny hand motions, you will know I am not learning a new sign language, but working on gaining back the full use of my left hand.



This experience has taught me several things. 1). Don't take your shoes out of the closet until you want to put them on. 2). When you pray for patience, you may get a painful answer. 3). Even in difficult times, there are always blessings to be thankful for.

Older, but wiser, Barbara Horn

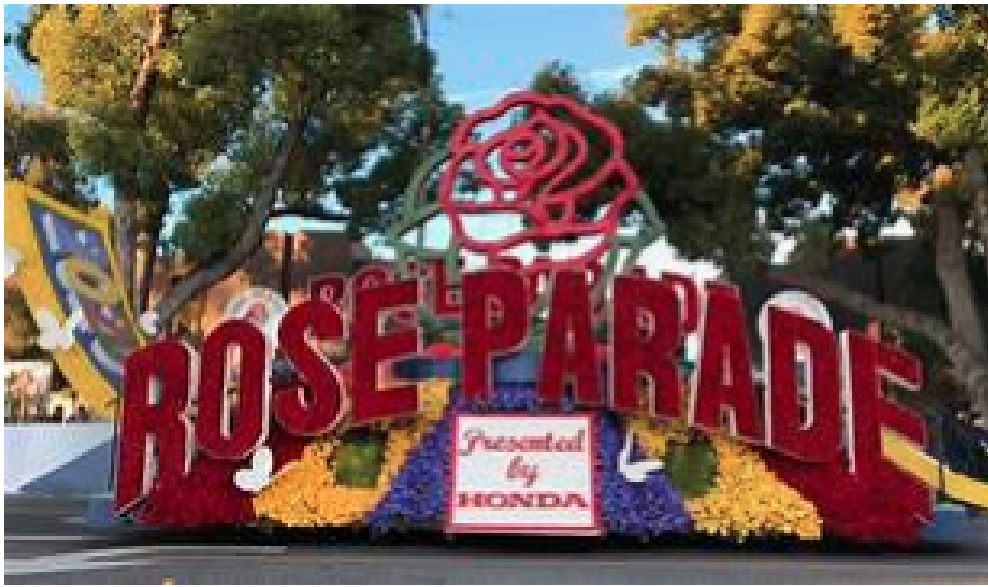
DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE

The 75th Annual Rose Bowl Parade
Compiled by Dolores Wright



Do you watch The Rose Bowl Parade each year? Do you have any idea of what goes on behind the scenes with decorating the floats? The following is Dawn Scott's "dream come true" of being behind the scenes when and where the decorating is done.

Happy New Year! I hope you all are well and eager to see what 2022 holds in store for us. For many years, I started off the New Year by watching the beautiful Tournament of Roses Bowl Parade. Since 1895, Pasadena has held this event. After the parade was cancelled last year due to Covid, I was happy to see that the parade was coming back! 2022 would be the 133rd parade!



Have you ever wondered how the floats are created? This year, I finally got a firsthand look at what goes on to produce these gorgeous floats! I signed up for a group tour and to volunteer to decorate floats. Three days before New Year's Day, on an unusually cold, stormy day, we arrived in LA. Early each morning we rode our bus

to a huge warehouse about 30 miles from Pasadena.

Huge crates of plants filled the parking lot and interior of the building. Inside the building, we could see about 15 floats had already been constructed. Skilled artists and volunteers had started decorating them. Along with hundreds of other volunteers, we were assigned various jobs, prepping fresh flowers to be added before the Friday deadline.

Every inch of every float must be covered with flowers or other natural materials, such as leaves, seeds, and bark. The volunteers apply the most delicate flowers into vials of water which are set into the float one by one. Flowers, petals, and other natural plant material are glued in place by hand!

The day before the parade, the floats must be finished. Then the judges award prizes to the outstanding winners. I was amazed at the enthusiasm and hard work that goes into this event. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year! What an inspiration to "Dream, Believe, and Achieve!"



Witty & Wise

Skips money-printing business, mines cryptocurrency instead



Gives kite away, tests atmospheric science theories with a drone



POOR RICHARD'S PODCAST

IN THIS WORLD, NOTHING CAN BE CERTAIN EXCEPT DEATH, TAXES AND INTERNET TROLLS



Dispenses advice through Poor Richard's Podcast

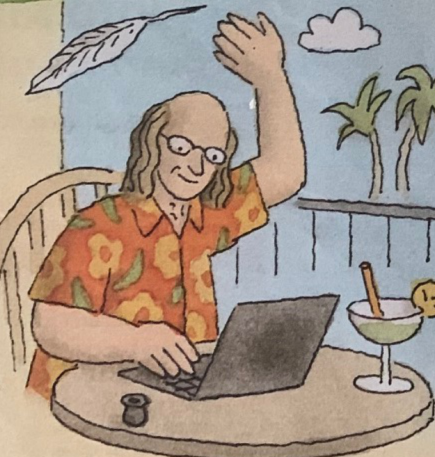
IF BEN FRANKLIN WERE ALIVE TODAY

A BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE
(BORN JANUARY 17, 1706)

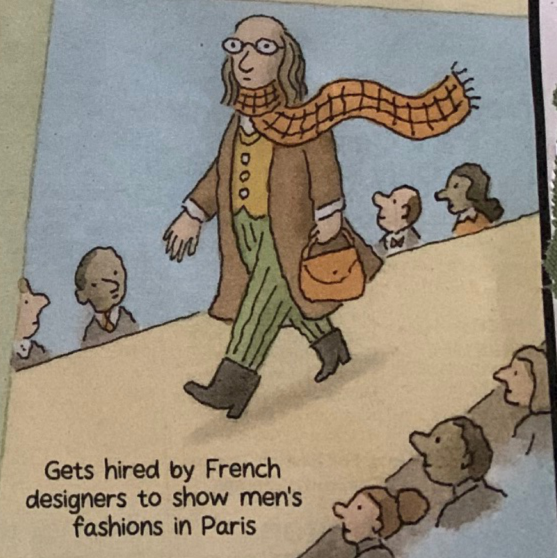
Adapts bifocals into new generation of virtual reality glasses



Uses TikTok to advocate for exercise and healthy eating



Signs the Declaration of Independence digitally from retirement condo



Gets hired by French designers to show men's fashions in Paris

DIRECTORY UPDATES

The Directory Updates which you were expecting January, 2022 were delayed due to difficulties with the mailing. **You should have received them February, 2022.** If you have questions or corrections, please contact Judy Molander. The current address, phone, and email is listed in your 2021-2022 orange Directory of Members.

SPAM AND IDENTITY THEFT AVOIDANCE

To keep your identity from unscrupulous people, the CalRTA Division #91 board has voted to no longer publish home addresses, email addresses, or phone numbers for our members where they might get into the wrong hands. Since some of our members receive their FUN Times via emails, this information

will not be submitted to the FUN Times. If you want to contact a new member, get the address of a member that has moved etc, you may call or email Muriel Rodrigues, membership chairperson, or Judy Molander financial secretary and she will provide contact information in a responsible way.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

No new members so far in 2022.

WE OFFER CONDOLENCES FOR THE PASSING OF:
Chuck McIntire

DIRECTORY CHANGES in 2022:

Victor Carlos added phone number and email address
Richard John moved, updated phone number and email address
Gail Monzello added email address
Marylee Tripi added email address

VOLUNTEER HOURS

From Judy Molander

Thank you for all you do to help others.

Due to Covid and Omicron Restrictions, 2020 and 2021 hours will be greatly reduced from the generous hours we have reported in past years. You will recall that the definition is volunteer is "offer one's service for the benefit of another without being financially compensated." The categories we use are Health Care (hospitals, clinics, nursing homes blood banks, etc.), Church Activities, Organizations (CalRTA, AARP, LOV, Abode, Candlelighters, etc.), Senior Services (life eldercare, meals on wheels), Schools (tutoring, classroom), library, phone work, travel, family service, other. Please, estimate what your services were and send them to Judy Molander 3441 Streamside Circle #218, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Note this is a change of address. Send the information no later than the end of March, 2022.

NOW is a good time to start recording your hours for 2022. Those hours will be turned into Judy in January and early February, 2023.

Your name will never be used for reporting purposes. The purpose of this survey is to enhance the image of CalRTA by informing the public, our legislators, and our membership of volunteer community services rendered by CalRTA members.

You could also use the sheet on the next page to summarize those hours and send the sheet to me . If you have kept track of those hours during Covid, you could use the sheet, and mail the time recorded to me.

Thanks again,
Judy Molander



**California Retired
Teachers Association**

CalRTA Division 91 VOLUNTEER HOURS SURVEY
January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

Name (please print)

Senior Service

Senior Center, Meals on Wheels, Senior
Transportation, etc.

Service Organizations

CalRTA, AARP, Club Officer or Committee,
Rotary, AAUW, Elks, etc.

Health and Welfare

Caretaker of relatives and/or others,
Hospitals, Clinics, Nursing homes, Hospice,
Handicapped services

Church

Choir/Music, Teacher/Aide, Officer or Usher,
Committees

Civic

Boards or Commissions, Community
Betterment, Youth Groups

Education

Schools, Tutoring, Counselor, Teacher, Event
Judge, Scholarship

Cultural

Library, Museum, Historical or Genealogical
Society, Music, Art Groups

Other

GRAND TOTAL

Please be prepared to submit this survey with your total hours by no later than March 31, 2023.

CalRTA Division 91
Judy Molander
3441 Streamside Circle #218
Pleasanton, CA 94588
Note this is a change of address

Three Very Important Links



www.calrta.org

We welcome retirees and current educators. Dues only \$66 per year.

<http://www.calrta.org/>



SUBSCRIBE
to the CalRTA YouTube Channel

STEP 1 - Click Subscribe 

STEP 2 - Click Notification Bell 

Be the first to see new videos and updates!
[youtube.com/user/CalRTA](https://www.youtube.com/user/CalRTA)



California Retired Teachers Association
F-U-N - Division 91
Your partner in pension protection

<https://www.youtube.com/user/calrta>

<https://div91.calrta.org/>

www.calrta91.org//

2022 Winter Advocacy – 290 NOW!

Our Legislative Alerts Are Working!

We focus on consistency and volume during this fight to repeal the Social Security penalties.

We have contacted over **160 Federal Representatives** with impressive results: **as of January 24th H.R. 82 has 246 cosponsors ... on our way to 290!**

Please continue to act on our Legislative Alerts sent on both Tuesday and Thursday. We will add State alerts on Wednesdays as needed.

Thank you for your consistency and dedication

Survey for Non Techies

Within the next month a survey will be sent out to those members of Division #91 that don't have an email listed in the directory to find out how you would like CalRTA and Division 91 to communicate with you. There will be a self-addressed, stamped envelope that you can use to return the survey. The purpose is to keep all our members well-informed.

CaIRTA BOOK CLUB NEWS

Our CaIRTA Book Club continues to meet on the second Monday of each month. We met in person for a few months, but then with the omicron version of Covid 19 spreading so easily, we went back to Zoom meetings. At our February meeting we discussed the possibility of meeting outdoors at Melinda Picken's home. Because of the unsettled weather, we will meet on Zoom in March, hoping to be able to meet in person in April.

Our March meeting will be on March 14 at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom. Carolyn Zeljak will lead a discussion of the book, *THE FOUR WINDS*, by Kristin Hannah. I will send out invitations to the Zoom meeting a few days before. We welcome new members, so if you are interested in joining our book club, please contact me by email or text. My cell phone number is (510)673-6724.

April 11, 2022	THE LAST DAYS OF NIGHT by Graham Moore
May 9, 2022	MY FEET DON'T TOUCH THE GROUND by W. Lee Baker
June 13, 2022	THE GIRL WITH THE LOUDING VOICE by Abi Dare
July 11, 2022	A LONG PETAL OF THE SEA by Isabel Allende
August 8, 2022	STATE OF TERROR by Hillary Clinton and Louise Penny
September 12, 2022	I AM A GIRL FROM AFRICA by Elizabeth Nyamayaro
October 10, 2022	HOW STELLA LEARNED TO TALK by Christina Hunger
November 14, 2022	Choose books for next year, 2023
December 12, 2022	WHILE JUSTICE SLEEPS by Stacey Abrams

Mission Statement

CaIRTA's mission is to protect and advocate for retired and active educators' pensions and other retirement benefits and to support public education in our communities.

CaIRTA★

California Retired
Teachers Association



"You can come down now, Everett.
The children have grown up and left."

--Dated Material, but Newsworthy-- National Repeal WEP/GPO Weeks February 14 -18 & February 21 - 25

CalRTA is joining several other organizations this month in a **National Repeal WEP/GPO campaign**. During the week of February 14th, we will be sending a Legislative Alert on Tuesday and Thursday asking for support from our California Representatives, Speaker Pelosi and Tom Reed (Ranking Member Social Security Sub-committee) for both H.R 82 and H.R 5723. We know our Legislative Alerts work - just last week Tony Cardenas finally signed onto H.R 82 after last week's Legislative Alert that included him for the 3rd time. As of February 7th H.R. 82 now has 248 cosponsors.

During the week of February 21-25, we will have 5 Days of Alerts- each day will have a new set of Representatives from one of the 15 states affected by the WEP and GPO who haven't signed onto H.R. 82. We need to motivate and get our members to act on all Legislative Alerts during this time. With many other groups across the nation doing alerts during the two weeks, our message will be heard Loud and Clear.

Thank you so much for your commitment to our members, retired educators in the other 14 states, and public employees affected by these unjust penalties.

ACTION NEEDED:

Please contact these Representatives and urge them to prioritize the inclusion of the WEP and GPO in H.R. 5723 and to support efforts to move this bill forward. Click on the email link and your email program should launch with all the information preloaded. If that doesn't work, contact information and message are listed so you can copy and paste.

CONTACT LIST:

Representative Doug LaMalfa (CA) - (202) 225-3076
Staff: John Veale - John.veale@mail.house.gov

Representative Tom McClintock (CA) - (202) 225-2511
Staff: Kyle Campbell - Kyle.campbell@mail.house.gov

Representative Ken Buck (CO) - (202) 225-4676
Staff: Zach Mendelovici - Zach.mendelovici@mail.house.gov

Representative Drew Ferguson (GA) - (202) 225-5901
Staff: Allie White - allie.white@mail.house.gov

Representative Austin Scott (GA) - (202) 225-6531
Staff: Zach Roberts - Zach.roberts@mail.house.gov

Representative Warren Davidson (OH) - (202) 225-6205
Staff: Connor White - connor.white@mail.house.gov

Representative Lance Gooden (TX) - (202) 225-3484
Staff: Jordan Wood - Jordan.wood@mail.house.gov

Representative Randy Weber (TX) - (202) 225-2831
Staff: Bill Christian - Bill.christian@mail.house.gov

Continued Next Page

SUGGESTED MESSAGE

The Subcommittee on Social Security recently held a hearing on H.R. 5723 (Larson-CT): Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust, which highlighted the immediate need retirees have for increased benefits now.

CalRTA supports Section 110 of H.R. 5723, which would temporarily repeal the penalties and harm created by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) and is urging Representatives to continue to include repeal in their list of priorities. Retired educators suffer devastating financial loss when their spouse dies, and they lose their survivor benefit paid for by their spouse.

The WEP and GPO are earned benefits that retirees have paid for. The nation has been seeing an exodus of teachers who are either leaving the profession or retiring earlier than planned. The repeal of these two offsets is an important step to help to turn the tide in favor of teachers remaining in the classroom.

Now is the time to take action to repeal these two unjust penalties. As an elected official who represents a state affected by both the WEP and GPO, we urge you to prioritize the inclusion of the WEP and GPO in H.R. 5723 and to support efforts to move this bill forward by cosponsoring H.R. 5723.

CTC ROUNDTABLE

NOTES

February 8, 2022 @ 9:00 am

I. Update from Debbie Pate-Newberry:

A. [Convention brochure](#) is ready to go!

B. A 2-page Convention spread is in the CONTACT magazine (log in required to access) that has already been emailed to members who receive the publication by email. Those who receive CONTACT by postal mail will receive it in a week or two.

C. A CalRTA trifold, customizable PDF brochure is nearly finished. We are working out the glitches in adding info to the PDF. It should be available soon. Stay tuned!

D. Teacher Grants open on Wednesday, February 16th. Information can also be found on the state website (calrta.org) under the "What we do for you" heading at the top of the main page. A Teacher Grants box will be added to the CalRTA website main page as well.

II. 2022 CalRTA Convention:

A. [Convention brochure](#); [2-page Convention spread in the CONTACT magazine](#)

B. Volunteers for Koffee Klatch room: Short 15-minute blocks BETWEEN breakout sessions (Saturday, May 14th @ 10:15-10:30; Sunday, May 15th @ 10:15-10:30). Volunteers so far are Karen Linder, Catherine McNally, Bill Britton and Jeff Cooper. CTC will be in the room at these designated times (they can "hang out" in the room at any time) and will assist those who drop in and need tech help. The room will stay open as long as there are people who need help and assistance (until the next group of Koffee Klatch volunteers shows up).

MEMBERSHIP

March 2022

THANK YOU to the 17 Division 91 members who took advantage of last year's "21 in 21" program that paid any cash member \$21.00 if you switched to dues deduct payment method to pay your dues. It's now 2022 so we are continuing this program which is now "22 in 22." Dues deduct is CalRTA's version of "sustained membership" you hear about if you watch PBS stations. As years go by and maybe we grow forgetful this is a way of keeping our dues paid and CalRTA reliably funded.

Blessing on the 200 Division91 members who are already dues deduct and blessing on the cash payers who pay their dues regularly each year without extra reminding. We appreciate you all!

*** Welcome to our newest member Higinio Paula ! ***

FOLKS, WE MUST NOT BE COMPLACENT ABOUT OUR PENSIONS! BE SURE WE ARE SUPPORTING AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS THEIR EYE ON AND RESPONDS TO LEGISLATIVE THREATS AND MEDIA MISINFORMATION (I know I sleep better at night knowing someone's watching out for my retirement income!) MurielRodrigues Membership Division 91

***** Help a New Member Fill Out This Enrollment Form CalRTA Division #91

Name (First) _____ (Middle) _____ (Last) _____

Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Retired from _____ When _____ School _____

Please check your selected payment method:

Dues Deduction \$5.50 monthly Social Security Number _____
(required for dues deduction)

I authorize the State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS) to deduct my association dues. Should amount of dues be adjusted, as deemed necessary by CalRTA, I authorize that the adjusted deductions shall continue unless I notify the CalRTA business office in writing to the contrary. To terminate dues deduction, I agree to make my request in writing to the CalRTA office.

Cash \$66.00 annually (Make Check out to CalRTA)
Signature _____ Date _____

Did a particular person encourage you to join CalRTA? If so, who? _____
Mail to: Muriel Rodrigues 5342 Westbury Ct. Newark, CA 94560-1353



ADD A DIGITAL COVID VACCINE RECORD TO YOUR SMARTPHONE!

Airlines, sporting events, entertainment venues – all now require proof of your Covid-19 vaccinations before you are allowed to enter. But what if you forgot to carry your paper CDC vaccination record card?

Wouldn't it be easier and more convenient to have digital proof on your smartphone?

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), your healthcare provider, and Cellular manufacturers have made it easy to add your Covid vaccine card to your Apple iPhone, Google Android or Samsung Galaxy smartphones.



(1). CDPH. One way to go about this process is get proof from the state. Just enter the following link into your browser / search engine (Google, Safari, Edge, etc.) – <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov> or scan this QR (Quick Response) code with the camera of your smartphone:

Enter your first and last name, your date of birth, your mobile phone number or email, and create a four-digit PIN. If the information you entered matches the information you gave when receiving your doses, you will receive a link to QR code and digital copy of your Covid-19 vaccination record. Take a “screenshot” (on the Apple iPhone, press the right-side button at the same time as the upper button on the left). If successful, you'll see a small image in the lower left corner of the screen indicating that this “proof” can be found in your Photos and can be “scanned” as you enter an event.\

(2). Apple iOS15.1. If you have installed iOS 15.1 on your iPhone or iPad, scan the QR code you received from the state with your camera, tap the Health app notification, then add it to your “wallet” and health apps. You may also download a verifiable health record from your provider and add that to your Health and Wallet apps. If you already have your vaccine record in the Health app, just open it and add directly to the Wallet.

The Wallet card will show your name, which Covid vaccine you received, the dates of your doses, your healthcare provider and a QR code. Samsung and Google also offer Wallet apps like Apple where you can store and easily display your vaccination status.

(3). Photograph Your Card. If you prefer a simpler choice, users can snap a photo of their physical COVID-19 card to keep on their phones. While this record can't be scanned electronically, an entrance attendant can view it and “clear” you for the event.

Be Prepared! Keep your vaccine record on your smartphone and be ready wherever life takes you!

Emergency Contacts on your Smartphone: Set It Up Right Now!

First Responders are trained to look at our phones for emergency contacts and medical information.



Taking ten minutes to enter your emergency contacts and medical information could help save your life and get your loved ones to your side faster, so don't put it off. You can download instructions by entering this link into your browser / search engine (Google, Safari, etc.) - <https://tinyurl.com/472f7yz6> - or capture this QR (quick response) Code with your smartphone's camera

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CfnnzXrhoy6U-lu2BD_OdVHxbEKA1y4k/view?usp=sharing

<https://tinyurl.com/472f7yz6>

Logging on to the CalRTA Website

Visit <http://calrta.org> – This takes you to the state association website. You will need to login with your member ID and password as follows:

- Mbr ID: You will find this on the address label on your CONTACT Magazine
- Password: This will be your last name
- Login: Click on this and you are in the site. Choose the topic you're interested in and just click

For the Good of the Members

Our Vision: Retired educators join Fremont, Union City, and Newark Division 91 (FUN) to keep in touch with friends and colleagues, to continue their support for public schools, to provide financial enrichment to current teachers through our grants, and to secure and enhance their own lives in retirement.

Got Tech Questions? Find Answers Here!

This is where any CalRTA member can get answers to ONLY technology-related questions. It's manned by Communications and Technology volunteers and questions are usually answered within 24 hours.

Email them at questions4calrta@gmail.com

Web Addresses of Interest to CalRTA Members

These addresses are intended for the enrichment of CalRTA members. Please email your own recommendations at: sharonyool@yahoo.com

<http://calrta.org/look-further/calstrs-watch> STRS Watch

A service of CalRTA is on publication called **STRS Watch** that reports on developments at the state and federal level that affect issues of retire teachers

<http://Aarpdriversafety.org> Driving Course

AARP's NRTA Educator Community offers online **refresher driving course** for drivers over 50

<http://teachers.net/mentors/retired/>

This site is primarily for working teachers, but there is a category for retired teacher chats. There's also interest in hearing the wisdom on experienced teachers like us.

<http://CalRTA.org> CalRTA Website

<http://myCalSTRS.com>

Get personal info on your retirement account. View or download your benefit payments, annual statements (select years), for 1099-Rs, retirement info, and personal data. Also, you can review your tax withholding exemptions, and make changes

<http://20.asmdc.org> State Assembly District 20 **Bill Quirk**

<http://a25.asmdc.org> State Assembly District 25 **Alex Lee**

<http://sd10.senate.ca.gov> State Senatorial District 10 **Bob Wieckowski**

<http://Swalwell.house.gov> U. S. Congressional District 15 **Eric Swalwell**

<http://Khanna.house.gov> U. S. Congressional District 17 **Ro Khanna**

<http://calvoter.org/> **The California Voter Foundation** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization promoting and applying the responsible use of technology to improve the democratic process. We are involved in issues where democracy and technology intersect, working to ensure that democracy is enhanced rather than harmed through technological changes.

<http://Area4.calrta.org> Area 4 information and news

LUNCHEON MEETING AT THE ELKS LODGE
38991 Farwell Dr., Fremont, CA 94536
Wednesday, April 6, 2022
11:15 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Program

We are all looking forward to our first in-person luncheon in two years. Our program will be provided by the Water Use Efficiency (WUE) team from the Alameda County Water District (ACWD). Topics to be covered in the presentation include the drought, ways to save water (including resources on gray water), tips on drought resistant landscaping, and information about free giveaways and devices that ACWD can provide to help reduce the amount of water home owners use. At this point we are hoping that county protocols will allow for a representative to attend in person, however the presentation may be conducted virtually.

Lunch Menu

Chicken Piccata, Penne Alfredo (vegetarian for all),
Seasonal Vegetable Saute, California Mixed Green Salad,
Rolls and Butter, Sweet Tray (cookies, brownies, bars)

Quilt Fundraiser and Book Sale

Tickets will be sold on a quilt donated by the Piecemakers Quilting Guild of Southern Alameda County. There will also be a Book Sale with hardbacks for \$2.00, paperbacks for \$1.00 and puzzles for \$1.00 - \$2.00.

Luncheon cost: \$20.00 per person. Reservations must be received by Tuesday, March 29, 2022. Please send your reservation to Janie Caldwell, 37111 Elm Street, Fremont, CA 94536. Phone (510)797-2462.



Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Make your check for \$20 per person payable to CalRTA#91. Check Amount _____

Would you like a ride to the luncheon? _____ If yes, what is your zip code? _____

Grant Fund News

By Florence Griffin

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we awarded all but \$500 of the Grant Fund to applicants in late November. We will now be building back the Fund for next year's grants. At the present time, we have \$777.21 in the account.

Also mentioned in the last newsletter, Piecemakers Quilting Guild of So. Alameda County have donated a quilt to use to raise funds for the Grant Fund. There will be at least one other item to be presented. Tickets will be 6 tickets for \$5 or 30 tickets for \$20.00.

Looking forward to seeing some of you at the FIRST luncheon in what seems like forever.



INSURANCE BITS 'n PIECES

Yvonne Brown INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE

TIME OF YEAR TO CHECK.....

HEALTH INSURANCE as suggested by United Health Care (UHC)

To understand the 2022 coverage in your health insurance----Review your plan materials--

1. Check your Annual Notice of Changes which you should have received in Fall, '21 (September, usually).
2. Check your Evidence of Coverage either on your plan's website or by calling the Customer Service number on your member ID card.
3. Check your drug list (formulary). Be certain you understand coverage for your medications. This can, also, be found on your plan's website.

HOMEOWNERS' INSURANCE

Checking your Homeowner's Insurance From a recent (January, 2022) copy of Saturday Homes, (The Bay Area's Comprehensive guide to new homes online at NewHomeFinder.news)

1. "Review your homeowner's insurance at least once a year, or during an event change, such as getting married or making a large purchase, home renovation or otherwise...."
2. "Scrutinizing your policy may reveal gaps and deficiencies that can leave you financially vulnerable.....or, possibly you'll find ways to reduce the costs in a policy."



CURRENT LEGISLATION

Recently, Assembly Bill 1400 by Assemblyman Ash Kalra, Democrat, San Jose, was "pulled from a vote" by the CA State Legislature. If passed, his bill "would have guaranteed medical coverage to every resident by levying billions in new taxes" according to the East Bay Times, February 1, 2022.

"AB 1400 would have created a publicly financed health care system called CalCare, which would cost between \$314 billion and \$391 billion in state and local funds according to a legislative analysis."

Information from the **TRI-CITY VOICE**, January 18, 2022 reported, "Vermont enacted the nation's first universal health care system in the country.

But state officials abandoned it three years later because they couldn't afford to pay for it.

George Skelton, Los Angeles Times Columnist, wrote in the East Bay Times, February 4, 2022, that "Universal coverage in California is a better bet than single-payer."

According to information from the internet.....

"A universal system would likely keep existing plans in place, but also create new options for the state's 3 million uninsured."

Will California choose either of these plans to pay for health insurance, or will California continue with the health insurance plans, including the Affordable Care Act insurance plans (Obamacare), which are now being used?

Mary Kay Henderson, Area IV, Co-Director

The coming months are busy ones for CalRTA and we hope you will join us for some important events. Advocacy Day, March 23rd, takes place in Sacramento. This is a day to meet with your representatives in the assembly and the senate to explain the goals of CalRTA. This year, however, because of continuing Covid concerns only 2 to 4 of us at a time will meet with our representatives. (Also, the capitol is being renovated and the assembly members and senate members are meeting in smaller offices right now.) Please let Stella Torres or me know if you wish to attend. Meanwhile, you are encouraged to make appointments at the offices of your representative locally.

And in May the Annual Convention and Delegate Assembly gathers in-person (at last!) at the Hyatt Regency also in Sacramento this year. The dates are May 13-15. Outstanding seminars and speakers are planned to expand our knowledge of CalRTA and how it works to protect our pensions, our public schools and our health. Please let your Co-Presidents know if you'd like an application.

CalSTRS manages our pension fund. In past years they have begun to conduct random audits of members' pension. For some, the results are positive—the member has been underpaid. But for others, the result has been negative sometimes resulting in thousands of dollars owed. CalSTRS has required teachers to pay back overpayment dating back many years even though the retired teacher had not made the error. Negotiations have been at a stalemate. In response to this, our organization has sponsored **AB 1667** through California State Assembly Member, **Jim Cooper**. This bill would place the responsibility away from the retired teacher and onto the School District or other entity where the problem originated. If passed, there would also be a limit on the backdating of the audit.

"Beware" of those gathering signatures on petitions. There are several in circulation at grocery stores, Farmers' Markets and other events. Be especially suspicious of those that have titles such as "**The Education Freedom Act.**" These deceptive titles are placed on initiatives that would take a percentage of public education funding and turn it over to private and/or religious schools thus reducing money for our public schools but also reducing the number of teachers that invest in CalSTRS. These petitions are another way to diminish public education over time. Pass this on to your colleagues, friends and relatives. Thank you.

And don't forget to check out the CalRTA website every chance you have—it's full of help and information for all to share. Facebook Page, You Tube videos, resources, advocacy for Social Security Fairness—we're getting closer to success and so much more.



Our Major Goal

To be the dominant, authoritative voice for all retired educators.

CalRTA 

**California Retired
Teachers Association**

Legislative News Compiled by Stella Torres

Legislative Updates from the desk of Alex Lee
CA Assemblymen District 25.

The California legislative session has started up again, and we are currently finalizing our legislative package for the year based on many of the priorities you shared through the survey. I'm excited to share more about our bills with you next month.

State Updates

The State has reached an agreement to ensure employees continue to have access to COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave and restore tax credits for California businesses. The legislation also includes significant funding to bolster testing capacity, support front-line workers, and strengthen the health care system. The state's extended supplemental paid sick leave will be retroactive starting from January 1, 2022 and go into effect until September 30, 2022.



January 2022 Legislative Advocate Report By Jennifer Baker

Sponsored Bills Update

CalRTA-sponsored **Assembly Bill 1667** (Cooper) was introduced on January 19th, and will protect a teachers' retirement security by ensuring that any California State Teachers' Retirement (CalSTRS) benefit reduction will be covered in the event of an employer mistake. This important measure will additionally create a more transparent and accountable system to ensure school and community college districts receive timely and accurate information from CalSTRS, reducing the likelihood of reporting mistakes in the future. The bill is eligible to be referred to the Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee 30 days after its introduction.



CalRTA-sponsored **SB 868** (Cortese) was introduced on January 24th, and will protect the purchasing power of California's oldest retired teachers by changing the one-time permanent increase for pre-1999 retirees using excess funds in the Supplemental Benefit Maintenance Account (SBMA). The SBMA is a specific fund within CalSTRS that provides purchasing power to retired teachers whose retirement salary has eroded to less than 85 percent of its original value. The bill is eligible to be referred to the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee 30 days after its introduction. For additional information on these two CalRTA-sponsored bills,

visit: <https://calrta.org/advocacy-action>

Legislative Advocate Report

January 2022

Teachers' Retirement Board Update

The Teachers' Retirement (TRB) met over January 27- 28 at the CalSTRS headquarters in West Sacramento, but were unable to provide public in-person access to the hearing due to the lingering impacts of the pandemic. A key highlight from the Investment Committee was Chief Investment Officer Christopher Ailman's comment that their assets, as of December 31, 2021, were \$327.7 billion but the market has been so volatile since the beginning of the year that the new asset total is now closer to \$315 billion.

The Triennial Health Benefits Study was presented, illustrating the current healthcare costs, what health care benefits CalSTRS members receive from current and former employers, and how the perceptions about the cost of healthcare have changed. The information CalSTRS was able to provide was primarily specific to K-12 as the community college system did not have the same data, primarily due to the significant amount of part-time faculty in the community college system who do not have access to retiree health care benefits.

The TRB approved an additional \$18.5 million in increased funding for the new CalSTRS building through the use of tax-exempt lease revenue bonds and noted various delays will prevent the new building from its completion until 2023.

National Repeal WEP/GPO

CalRTA joined several other organizations this month in a **National Repeal WEP/GPO campaign**. During the week of February 14th, we sent a Legislative Alert asking for support from our California Representatives, Speaker Pelosi and Tom Reed (Ranking Member Social Security Sub-committee) for both H.R. 82 and H.R. 5723. We know our Legislative Alerts work - just last week Tony Cardenas *finally* signed onto H.R. 82 after last week's Legislative Alert that included him for the 3rd time. As of February 7th, H.R. 82 now has 248 cosponsors.



During the week of February 21-25, we had *5 Days of Alerts* -- each day had a new set of Representatives from one of the 15 states affected by the WEP and GPO who haven't signed onto H.R. 82. We need to motivate and get our members to act on all Legislative bills regarding repeal of WEP/GPO. With many other groups across the nation doing alerts, our message will be heard Loud and Clear.

Thank you so much for your commitment to our members, retired educators in the other 14 states, and public employees affected by these unjust penalties.

ACTION NEEDED:

Please contact these Representatives and urge them to prioritize the inclusion of the WEP and GPO in H.R. 5723 and to support efforts to move this bill forward. Click on the email link and your email program should launch with all the information preloaded. If that doesn't work, contact information and message are listed so you can copy and paste.

CONTACT LIST

Representative Doug LaMalfa (CA) - (202)

225-3076

Staff: John Veale - John.veale@mail.house.gov

Representative Tom McClintock (CA) - (202)

225-2511 Staff: Kyle Campbell - Kyle.campbell@mail.house.gov

Representative Ken Buck (CO) - (202) 225-4676

Staff: Zach Mendelovici - Zach.mendelovici@mail.house.gov

Representative Drew Ferguson (GA) - (202)

225-5901

Staff: Allie White - allie.white@mail.house.gov

Representative Austin Scott (GA) - (202)

225-6531

Staff: Zach Roberts - Zach.roberts@mail.house.gov

Representative Warren Davidson (OH) - (202)

225-6205

Staff: Connor White - connor.white@mail.house.gov

Representative Lance Gooden (TX) - (202)

225-3484

Staff: Jordan Wood - Jordan.wood@mail.house.gov

Representative Randy Weber (TX) - (202)

225-2831

Staff: Bill Christian - Bill.christian@mail.house.gov

SUGGESTED MESSAGE

The Subcommittee on Social Security recently held a hearing on H.R. 5723 (Larson-CT): Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust, which highlighted the immediate need retirees have for increased benefits now.

CalRTA supports Section 110 of H.R. 5723, which would temporarily repeal the penalties and harm created by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) and is urging Representatives to continue to include repeal in their list of priorities. Retired educators suffer devastating financial loss when their spouse dies, and they lose their survivor benefit paid for by their spouse.

The WEP and GPO are earned benefits that retirees have paid for. The nation has been seeing an exodus of teachers who are either leaving the profession or retiring earlier than planned. The repeal of these two offsets is an important step to help to turn the tide in favor of teachers remaining in the classroom.

Now is the time to take action to repeal these two unjust penalties.

As an elected official who represents a state affected by both the WEP and GPO, we urge you to prioritize the inclusion of the WEP and GPO in H.R. 5723 and to support efforts to move this bill forward by cosponsoring H.R. 5723.