

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENTS Sharon Blattel/Sharon Yool



Getting ready to say goodbye to 2022. HELLO 2023!

As the year comes to an end, we look forward to the holidays with families. They often represent our ancestral roots from many countries. Family traditions are often passed on down to families. One of my traditions was to give my three children Advent Candy Calendars to enjoy the month waiting for Christmas. Advent calendars were originally used to mark Advent, a period that begins four Sundays before Christmas, which is dedicated to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Advent calendars would jump from Germany to America thanks to President Eisenhower. Eisenhower worked with German businessman, Richard Sellmer to use Advent calendars to promote a charity. Eisenhower was

photographed opening an Advent calendar with his grandchildren, and this holiday photo was published in many American newspapers. Advent calendars quickly became a hit with Americans and remain a holiday tradition today. Enjoy your holiday traditions! We look forward to meeting again in person January 4 with all our members at the Elks Club!

Sharon & Sharon

“ Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right ”

by Oprah Winfrey

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

These are the memorial donations to the grant fund since the Fall, 2022 edition of Fun Times:
By Judy Molander, Financial Secretary

IN MEMORY OF:

- Thomas Clark by Barbara Clark
- Carrie Maseda by Muriel Rodrigues
- Janice (daughter of Jean Ficklin) by Muriel Rodrigues
- Anne Graf by Muriel Rodrigues
- Anne Graf by Judy Molander
- Rita Hammer by Wanda and Don Homen
- Anne Graf by Jean Ficklin
- Anne Graf by Barbara and Gene Amaral
- Carrie Maseda by Jean Ficklin
- Carrie Maseda by Division 91
- ManYee Desandies by Division 91



IN HONOR OF

Donor's name: _____

Street Address, City, Zip Code of donor _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Send acknowledgment to (no amount will be shown) _____

Street address, City, State, Zip where acknowledgment is to be sent _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Make check payable to CalRTA Division #91

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

Please return this form with your gift.

See Pages 3-5 For Recent Mini Grant Awards!

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

KAREN RAUDSEP
JULIE CAMPO
ROBERT J. MOORMAN
CHRISTINA BATAUSA
SHEREE JORDAN
PATRICIO URBI
GAYLE AVERILL
LIDAA SMITH
AUDREY FAMBRO
SHARON KIRKER
KIM TAKACS

WE OFFER CONDOLENCES FOR THE PASSING OF:

CARIDAD MASEDA
MAN YEE DESANDIES

The address changes will be in the 2023-24 Directory. If you have questions about any information, please call Judy Molander (address and phone numbers are accurate in the old directory).

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.



Division 91 Grant Committee hard at work!

The Grant Committee has been hard at work

By Florence Griffin Mini-Grant Chair

The gift card tree at the October luncheon, as usual, was very successful adding almost \$400 to the Grant Account. The Book Sale, ably organized by Lyneil, brought in \$121, and Sharon Y's schoolhouses \$42.45. Combined with some donations, we now have \$7,225 in the account to use for grants to the teaching staffs of Fremont, New Haven, and Newark.



The Grant Committee met and sent the applications out to the three Districts. The deadline to submit the applications was December 2nd. The Grant Committee met again on December 6th and read 24 well written applications and chose the teachers who will receive the grants. Thank you to Barbara Clark and Mary Kay Henderson who served on the Committee but were unable to continue. We welcomed three new members - Norm Howell, Maureen Kamei, and Gail Stringer. We are including the winners in this newsletter - congratulations to them.

FREMONT 's winners- Lalitha Srinivasan, Mission Valley science teacher, dissecting the eye of a cow - 4th grade students are learning about vision & light

Daniel Thibodeaux, 4th gr. Cabrillo, new teacher buying several books for novel studies.

Nicole Oviatt, 2nd gr. Oliveira, to go along with Second Step SEL curriculum, purchasing books focusing on social emotional lessons like anger, anxiety, boredom, etc.

Kavita Narayanamurthy, Kindergarten, Forest Park Elementary, art materials to create art that represents natural and constructed environments, and build skills in various media - both CA standards for Visual Arts-Kinder

Kristine Tsung, 5th grade teacher at NEW Fremont school, Lila Bringham Elementary - planning a school-wide collaborative art project to unite the new campus. Create kiln-firing clay tiles to create a colorful campus.

Sachi Kondo, preschool, spec. ed. Glankler/Rix - purchase toys and props that are appropriate for the social skills of my students - new teacher

NEWARK's winners:

Marissa Quinonez & Celina Cesena, gr. 6-8, Newark Jr. High school, counseling department - grant used for small projects & materials that can support the NJHS counselors when we implement events & activi-

ties for students, and we might utilize the grant as a stipend offered to prospective counseling interns at NIHA to support their fieldwork & service to our communities.

Jessica Pollock , 3rd grade, Schilling Elementary, purchase a phonic resource kit & different level reading books for students reading well below grade level.

Mike Sung, 12+, Bridgepoint, purchasing baking materials to assist in "Life Skills" learning to cook basic meals, kitchen safety, and meal preparation for 18-21 adult students with special needs.

NEW HAVEN's winners:

Sara Maes, TK/K, Emanuele, bring the ZooMobile from the Oakland Zoo to our school site - 3 classes involved. The zoo experience will allow us to do more "in class learning: through writing about our experience, building language skills around our experience, and fulfill some of our science & social studies standards.

Satise Dizon, same as above for a different 3 classes.

Luke Green, PE Specialist, pre-K - 5, Emanuele Elementary, purchasing materials to construct an obstacle course that will allow students to perform multiple & various locomotion tasks. It will allow me to adapt & modify the course to suit the needs of our Special Education students.

Jason Lowe, Media Specialist, pre-1 Elementary, purchase materials & batteries for using with STEM materials based on lessons, activities, and exploration - using circuit boards, light boards which are outlined in the Engineering Design & Science & Technology NGSS standards.

Allison Sayavong, 3rd, Emanuele, class has 10 English learners, 4 Resource Special Ed students, 1 Special Needs with Cerebral Palsy, 2 students with a 504, and 1 student identified as deaf in one ear. to purchase a wealth of diverse, multicultural books to build Socio-Emotional Learning (SEL)

Emilyn Leary, TK-5. Alvarado & Kitayama science - conduct an owl pellet dissection lab for my five 5th grade classes providing the perfect opportunity to apply the Science & Engineering Practices at the Next Generation science standard.

Eileen Cristobal-Rodriguez, TK, Spec.Ed. inclusion, Kitayama Elementary, purchase Promethean Board Boom cards to extend students' learning, and help us provide multi-modal instruction to our students with special needs.



Thank you CalRTA for choosing Lila Bringhurst for the grant, and everyone for your ongoing support. We are so excited! This grant to fund our legacy tiles project will benefit the whole school. I am sharing our happy photo. Our photo can be shared on social media. All students are covered in my media release. Have a wonderful day!

Thanking you, Kristine Tsung

Gifts to Give

Thanks again for all who donated to this year's Gifts to Give Project. With the generous donations we were able to provide over 100 gifts to children from kindergarten to third grade. I will be starting to collect items beginning March 1st of 2023 through June in order to have time to put together packets and wrap everything. Below is a list of suggestions.

Pencils, glue sticks, crayons (16 or 24 pack) cute pencil sharpeners, new reading books, erasers, washable markers, colored pencils, age-appropriate puzzles, games, toys. Also needed are wrapping items such as curling ribbon and wrapping paper.

If you knit or crochet, could you create children-sized hats and scarves?

Text Sharon Yool for more information at (510)371-2584.



Raffle Prizes Needed Florence Griffin Mini-Grant Chair

The January luncheon is quickly coming up on January 4th, and, so far, we do not have raffle prizes. If you would like to contribute an item or basket, please let me know so I can label & credit you with the donation. Maybe you meet regularly with a group of teachers and would like to put something together. The Book Club is hoping to put a basket together again, and I've heard there are a few people who are considering a basket. Hope to see you at the luncheon, and thank you for all the things you do to make Grants a successful undertaking.



Division 91 Member Survey

Our division has four luncheons each year held on the first Wednesday of the month. This is an opportunity to see and meet friends and former colleagues. Unfortunately our attendance has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. But food cost as well as location rental have increased. The division has been subsidizing the cost. **We need to know your opinions** . Thanks for your help. Please fill out the form below and **mail to:**

CalRTA Division 91
P.O. Box 643
Fremont, CA 94537-0643

(or bring to the next luncheon on January 4th)

1. How often do you expect to attend luncheons in 2023? 1-2 _____ 3-4 _____
2. Does the cost of the luncheon impact your attendance? yes _____ no _____
3. Do you prefer: Entertaining programs? _____ Educational programs? _____
Other Suggestions _____

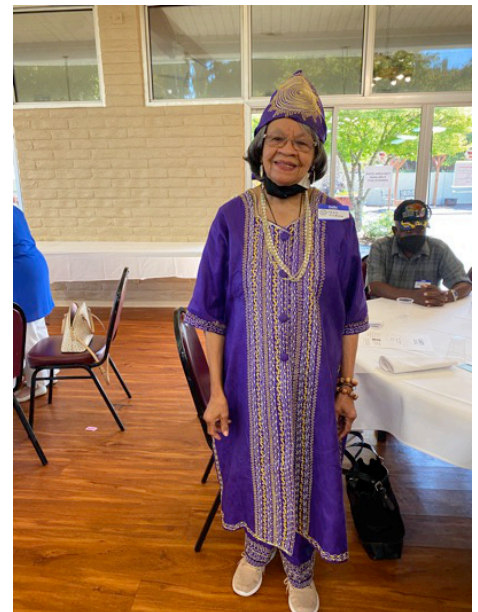


LWV presenter Sam Neeman sharing pros and cons of state propositions.



SCENES FROM OUR OCTOBER LUNCHEON

Jean Ficklin is wearing a traditional outfit from Guyana.



OCTOBER LUNCHEON



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)

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



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

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

www.calrta91.org/

<https://www.aarp.org/podcasts/the-perfect-scam/info-2022/scammer-payback.html>
World's Largest SCAMMER File Deletion! A humorous payback to a scammer.

VOLUNTEER HOURS From Judy Molander

2020 and 2021 Covid controlled years were most unusual. For the volunteer hours of those years, I asked you to check your old calendars and make estimates for how you volunteered. Many of the activities that we did were no longer available due to restrictions; other new ways of volunteering were presented.

Only 22 members submitted hours for 2020 and 2021 combined. During those two years, 18,422 hours were donated. I know some of the people that send in information and nobody gave himself or herself enough credit. Be honest but remember anything you do that benefits another (including animals when you volunteer for animal services, taking care of neighbor's dog while they are on vacation etc.) and you do not receive pay or reimbursement counts as volunteer hours.

The hours that you submit are totaled with the other members of Division 91 and submitted to Area 4 which forwards them to the state office. Your name will never be used; your reporting is totally anonymous. The information is used for publicity in local and state areas and for legislative purposes. In 2017, over 2 million hours that was valued at \$55 million was donated as volunteer hours by retired teachers.

The form that was included in the last issue of FUN Times was intended as a worksheet for you to use this year. Another copy of that form is on the next page, and will be in the December issue of FUN Times and you may use that form to send in your 2022 hours in January, 2023.

Thank you for all that you do to benefit others.

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 January 31, 2023.

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

Technology

Blacklisting and Whitelisting

By Marilynn Smith (Division 52)

What do those words mean? We all know that blacklisting means someone or something is cut off or not allowed to get in or to receive something, right? Well then, **whitelisting** must be just the opposite! Someone or something is always allowed “in”. You can control your email by the use of these two processes. In email programs today, you have the power to make certain emails are always allowed into your box, **AND** to make sure other emails are always blocked.

Email programs these days have spam filters, That’s not news! **But some email programs’ spam filters are a bit too aggressive**, and you may find out that you didn’t receive an email someone asks you about. In a case like this, you need to use your email program’s whitelisting feature.

Here are two good websites with directions for most email programs’ whitelisting procedures: Click on either hyperlink or type in your browsers: <https://gizmoxo.com/whitelist-aol-mail/> and <https://clean.email/blog/email-security/how-to-whitelist-an-email>.

Take control of your inbox! Don’t miss any emails from people you trust, and don’t see any emails from people or websites you don’t trust.

CalRTA Introduces YouTube Channel

Want to stay connected to CalRTA Communications? Subscribe to our YouTube Channel. It’s Free to Members.

Log in to <http://calra.org>... click on: **Technology “How To” Tools...** click on: **subscribe...** click on: **notification bell**

Now you can browse videos with Retirement Tips, Legislative Updates, Technology Tutorials, the Future of Learning... and so much more!



Got Tech Questions? Find Answers Here!

Here’s where any CalRTA member can seek and get answers to **ONLY** technology-related questions ranging from Division website and Zoom issues to any other tech glitches. It is manned by Communication and the volunteers and questions are usually answered within 24 hours.

Email us at: questions4calra@gmail.com

If you have a general CalRTA question that is **NOT** tech related, just click on the “Contact” tab on the blue menu at the top of the CalRTA home page.

For the past several years, our F.U.N. Times editor has been conducting a Cyber Geezer Technology class for Seniors in his SIR (Sons in Retirement) Branch. During the COVID era the classes have all been Online via Zoom. In the next session, AARP resource person and State SIR webmaster will be our guest—Subject is EV automobiles (Electric Vehicles)

Time: December 27, 2022 01:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/96358532596>

Meeting ID: 963 5853 2596



All CALRTA Division 91 members are welcome to join the sessions.

Additionally, Jerry has posted quite a few YouTube session that can be found on his web site at <https://jsabo.info/youtube-computers-video/>

CalRTA BOOK CLUB MEETING IN DECEMBER

Our next CalRTA Book Club meeting will be on Monday, December 12. We will meet at Jack's Brew Pub at the Hub in Fremont at 11:30 a.m. Holly Walter will lead a discussion of the book, *WHILE JUSTICE SLEEPS* by Stacey Abrams. We welcome new members. Call Carolyn Zeljak (510)673-6724 for more information.

CalRTA BOOK CLUB – Schedule for 2023

This is a list of books chosen by our CalRTA Book Club for 2023. We meet on the second Monday of the month at a restaurant for lunch and to discuss the book for that month. We welcome new members. Call Carolyn Zeljak (510)673-6724 for more information.

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| January 9, 2023 | SPIDERWOMAN'S DAUGHTER by Anne Hillerman |
| February 13, 2023 | THE MAID by Nita Prose |
| March 13, 2023 | RUN, ROSE, RUN by James Patterson and Dolly Parton |
| April 10, 2023 | YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS by Kal Penn |
| May 8, 2023 | THE BOOK OF LOST NAMES by Kristin Harmel |
| June 12, 2023 | LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY by Bonnie Garmus |
| July 10, 2023 | THIS TENDER LAND by William Kent Krueger |
| August 14, 2023 | THE CHOICE by Dr. Edith Eger |
| September 11, 2023 | PACHINKO by Min Jin Lee |
| October 9, 2023 | A WORLD OF CURIOSITIES by Louise Penny |
| November 13, 2023 | Choose books for next year, 2024 |
| December 11, 2023 | THE LIGHT WE CARRY by Michelle Obama |

Luncheon Book Sales

Please take time to check the books for sale at our January 2023 luncheon. In mystery and thrillers, we will have a large selection of titles displayed as collections by each of the following authors: Kate Carlisle, Lee Child, Sheila Connolly, Susan Connolly, Nelson DeMille, Jude Deveraux, Sue Grafton, Laurie King, Alexander McCall Smith, James Patterson, and Paige Shelton. For Julia Child fans there are several titles available - *My Life in France*, *Julie and Julia*, *Appetite for Life*, and *Julia's Cats*. Chef and restaurant critic, Ruth Reichl's delightful memoirs, *Tender to the Bone* and *Comfort Me with Apples*, are considered by some to be "riotously funny." And *Funny in Farsi*, a memoir by Firoozeh Dumas, adds a bit of stand-up comedy to her life as an immigrant child with a father who is passionate about all things American. Popular author John Green has a moving collection of essays, *The Anthropocene Reviewed*, and a mystery, *Paper Towns*. Look for these books, along with some more recent titles - *The Family Upstairs* by Lisa Jewell, *The Giver of Stars* by JoJo Moyes, *The Last Mona Lisa* by Jonathan Santlofer, and *Perestroika in Paris* by Jane Smiley. Also, many puzzles will still be available.



As a reminder, hardbacks are \$2.00, paperbacks are \$1.00, DVDs are \$1.00 each, audiobooks are \$1.00, and puzzles are marked as \$1.00 or \$2.00. Thank you for your wonderful donations and for continuing to buy books! All proceeds go to the teacher mini-grant fund.



Membership



Wishing happiness during the holiday season and throughout the new year to all Division #91 members. Comfort and perseverance are especially wished to those facing challenging times

In 2023 let's all practice thoughtfulness and kindness towards others and helpfulness where we can.

To each of you, thank you sincerely for your loyal CalRTA membership.

A warm welcome to New Members Gayle Averill, Christina Bernal Batausa, Sheree Jordon, Linda Binnal Smith, and returning member Judy Walter.

As great as it is to see these five new members join our Division 91, we have still shrunk our Division membership this month because 10 of our members are in the "lapsed/ tardy" category and haven't sent their dues in when they were due recently. Blessings on those who are dues deduct and the 27 folks who switched to dues deduct this year. Blessings also on all those cash members who loyally send that yearly check when the state office bills you. There are many of you and we LOVE YOU each and every one!!

Muriel Rodrigues, Division #91 Membership Contact

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

Name (First) _____ (Last) _____

Address City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

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



Change is in the Air!

Over the past 43 years, E.J.S. Insurance Services has had the privilege of working closely with the California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA), providing members the group benefits they have earned and deserve. Our work with CalRTA has been a cornerstone of what we do here at E.J.S. That is why we are excited to inform you of a recent development that will allow us to serve your association in new and expanded ways.

We are thrilled to announce that our companies have been acquired by **Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA)**, a national affinity-based membership and insurance agency. They have nearly 40 years of experience working with retired public employee associations, active and retired teacher associations, and other associations across the United States.

With this acquisition, members will now have enhanced and expanded access to top-of-the-line programs, as AMBA partners with some of the highest-rated companies in the insurance industry. AMBA is able to understand what you have and learn what you need. AMBA is committed to exclusively serving the members of its partner associations. **Individuals who wish to purchase a benefit from AMBA must first become a member and support the association.**

So, while our name may be changing, the personnel you are familiar with are not. The E.J.S. team remains intact and fully committed to working with CalRTA members. Exciting times are ahead, and all of us at E.J.S. and AMBA are looking forward to the journey, and we hope you are too!

The above information is provided by CalRTA approved benefit provider EJS Insurance Services and Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA). It appeared in the CalRTA Connections October newsletter.

calrta.org/join-us

WE WANT YOU

TO JOIN CALRTA!

Scan the QR code with your camera OR click on it to access an application

This JPEG image serves 2 purposes. People can scan the QR code with their cameras OR simply click on the image (it's a live link) to access the

membership application. To test it, press Ctrl then Click to follow the link.

INSURANCE BITS ‘N PIECES

By Yvonne Brown

There are few people who can say they didn't lose someone they knew during the recent pandemic, so in light of that, a reprinting of an article from the Fall 2020 newsletter might be useful for some members to read again.



REPORTING the DEATH of a MEMBER, a BENEFIT RECIPIENT or an OPTION BENEFICIARY

(The following information is from both RETIRED EDUCATOR, summer 2011 and the Internet, 2020)

Contact by calling, writing, or the Internet, CalSTRS as soon as possible to notify us of the death of a member, option beneficiary, or CalSTRS benefit recipient. CalSTRS will need the following information:

- Deceased person's name and Social Security number of Client ID
- Date of death
- Name, address, and telephone number of a contact person

Survivor Benefit Processing

After we learn of a member's death, we assign a caseworker who contacts those designated as benefits by letter. The letter includes the caseworker's name, telephone number, and other important information.

To process an application for benefits, CalSTRS must receive a copy of the death certificate and

any additional information or documentation requested. CalSTRS payments issued to the deceased member after the death must be returned to us or they will be deducted from subsequent benefits.

Report a death Online

myCalSTRS offers a convenient way to report a death, provide contact information and submit a

death certificate. We will verify the information with the person who reported it within two days

of receiving the report.

To report a death online, log into myCalSTRS at CalSTRS.com. At the myCalSTRS home page,

select "Complete & Submit Forms", then select "Notification of Death".

Payment of Benefits

CalSTRS generally pays benefits to beneficiaries or your estate within 45 days of receiving all the

requested information. Payment may be delayed if CalSTRS does not

• Receive required documentation, such as marriage, declaration of domestic partnership, or death certificate.

• Have a current "Recipient Designation" form (or the "One-Time Death Benefit Recipient" form) on file that identifies the names and addresses of your recipient or recipients.

More information can be found in Chapter 9 of the **MEMBER HANDBOOK**, available at CalSTRS.com/publications, or online at: my CalSTRS at CalSTRS.com

Luncheon Programs for 2023

Here are the tentative programs for the year. A clip board will be available at the luncheon for future ideas. Please include your name if the committee has any questions. All of our luncheon will be on the first Wednesday of the month.

April 6—HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program)

July 6—Singalong (tentative)

October 5—Jennifer Baker, our state Legislative Advocate.

LUNCHEON MEETING AT THE ELKS LODGE

38991 Farwell Dr., Fremont, CA 94536

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

11:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Program

Our program for our January luncheon will be a speaker from the Fremont Historical Society. The speaker will present information on the history of schools in the Tri-City area before the late 1950's.

Lunch Menu

Chicken Cacciatore, Penne Pasta with Marinara Sauce (vegetarian for all)

California Mixed Green Salad, Fresh Fruit Salad

Rolls and Butter, Sweet Tray (cookies, brownies, bars)

Drinks



Raffle and Book Sale

We will have a drawing for baskets filled with goodies, donated by various groups or individual members. Anyone who would like to donate a basket, please contact Florence Griffin. (510)792-4936

We will have used books and puzzles for sale at the luncheon. Paperbacks - \$1.00, hardcover - \$2.00, puzzles - \$1.00 or \$2.00.

Luncheon cost: \$20.00 per person. Reservations must be received by **Tuesday, December 27, 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? _____

Would you sometimes be able to PROVIDE a ride for a member who needs one? _____

My contact number is _____.

Our Two Sponsored Bills will become law in 2023

SB 868 (Cortese) through the legislative process, which will increase purchasing power for California's oldest retirees has been signed by Governor Newsom and will become law in January 2023.

AB 1667 (Cooper) will protect retirees from having to pay for mistakes made by their district or the California State Teacher's Retirement System (CalSTRS).



LEGISLATIVE NEWS, as of November 29th, 2022: By Linda Hall

≡Progress as of November 29th, 2022:

- ≡**HR 82** - the bill that would fully repeal the **WEP & GPO** Social Security penalties, has had a bumpy ride throughout the Legislative process in 2022!
- ≡It gathered more than 290 cosponsors in the House of Representatives, was supported by a bipartisan collective of Legislators, and recently proceeded to the House **Ways & Means Committee** for a study of the bill's fiscal impact before it could proceed to the House Floor for a vote.
- ≡The discussion in the **Ways & Means Committee** focused on how the bill would weaken the Social Security Trust Fund, just as several Representatives on the Committee are currently working to pass bills to fully fund the SS Trust Fund into the 21st Century ... they saw it as counter-productive.
- ≡CalRTA is pushing back on that argument, since the full repeal of the WEP & GPO would only require 1.9% of the fund, and those public employees affected have already paid SS taxes on their WEP benefits, so actually ... the SS fund is holding our earned benefits hostage
- ≡CalRTA, along with the **National Repeal WEP/GPO Task Force**, is lobbying in December 2022 to add **HR 82** to an **omnibus** bill in order to get it passed before January 3rd, 2023, when the brand new 118th Congressional cycle begins
- ≡An omnibus bill is a single document that is accepted in a single vote by a legislature, but packages together several diverse measures into one single bill



Update on WEP/GPO

- ≡ As of the end of November HR 82, the bill that would fully repeal WEP and GPO Social Security penalties has proceeded to the House **Ways and Means Committee** for a study of the bill's fiscal impact before proceeding to the House floor for a vote.
- ≡ Discussion has focused on how the bill would weaken the Social Security Trust Fund.
- ≡ **CalRTA** is pushing back on that argument. Full repeal would only require 1.9% of the fund. Actually The SS fund is holding our earned benefits hostage.
- ≡ **CalRTA**, along with the **National Repeal WEP/GPO Task force** is lobbying to get **HR 82** added to an **Omnibus bill** to get it passed before January 3rd, 2023.
- ≡ This is why it is very important for all of use to respond to the daily **Legislative Alerts**.
- ≡ **Thank you** to all who email these alerts to all the legislative email addresses.

Have You Heard?

Compiled by Dolores Wright

One of our members, **Stella Torrez**, had a wonderful time traveling to Banff and Canmore in Canada. What better reason to visit Calgary and Alberta than to attend her niece's wedding? Not only enjoying that event, but also included in the fun were skiing, mountain climbing, and visiting beautiful Lake Louise. She had a delightful time visiting relatives and reconnecting with Canadians. Stella came home happy and impressed by the friendly people. Oh! Canada! Oh! Canadians!



Kathy Langham also enjoyed traveling across the country to New England for her nephew's wedding. She was impressed with the beautiful coastlines, the many lighthouses, and picturesque small harbors of Massachusetts and Maine. An experience not to be forgotten, Kathy says, is enjoying many martinis and oysters!