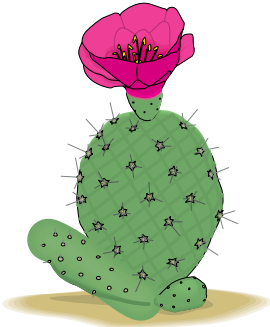


California Retired Teachers Association
Imperial County Division 64

Cactus Corner

May—June, 2010



Co-presidents: Anita Ramirez; Lillian Sidhu

Editor: Fran Rodenberg

Volume 33

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<http://www.area11.calrta.org>

Number 5

Non-profit Newsletter Published Bi-monthly for Members of the California Retired Teachers Association
Core Purpose: To enhance and protect the benefits of retired educators

Regular luncheon/program meetings are held at the Old Rose School at Pioneers Museum, 373 E. Aten Road, Imperial, at 11:00 a.m. on the fourth Monday of the month.

Board meetings are held at Uniserv in Imperial at 10:00 a.m. on the second Monday of the month.

See the calendar for exceptions.

<p>Date: Time: Place: Program:</p> <p><i>CalRTA Imperial County Division 64 will not hold a regular meeting in May because of Memorial Day.</i></p>	<p>Date: June 14, 2010 Time: 11:00 a.m. Place: Old Rose School, Pioneers Museum 373 Aten Road, Imperial, CA Program: TBA</p>
<p>Optional donations to offset luncheon expenses will be appreciated.</p>	

President's Message

Anita Ramirez, Co-president



Anita

The mundane world of everyday happenings seems to overwhelm me at times. There are so many details having to be dealt with that I sometimes tell myself

that if all of the people who have anything to do with "my business" would only do their parts, then I wouldn't be burdened with double checking to see whether or not they had done what they should have done in the first place. I started writing this before 4/4/10 and was struggling to put my thoughts together when at 3:40 on Easter Sunday afternoon, we were hit with a 7.3 earthquake that was

centered south of Mexicali. From what I can gather from the map, it occurred near Rio Hardy.

Damage was sustained to all valley cities in varying degrees. Two deaths in Mexicali and one serious injury in Imperial were attributed to the quake. A lot of glass and other stuff were scattered everywhere in homes and businesses. Roads were cracked. Aftershocks continue, and it is now April 13. Many people are nervous, apprehensive, and just plain scared. Then there are great predictors of another, larger quake. If one were a betting person, he/she might make some money on this one, but I wouldn't count on it.

I've been trying to think of a catchy slogan to screenprint on T-shirts—one that would commemorate the event—perhaps something like "We did our shakin' and soon we'll be bakin' in Imperial Valley." We could

send them all over the world as a fund raiser. There is nothing like trying to make good on a not-so-good happening.

Seriously, we are thankful that all is relatively well when it could have been so much worse. If you are no longer living in the valley, but you still have friends here, give them a call and let them know you're thinking of them. We are fortunate not to be in the position that other cities around the world are in from the devastating quakes they have endured.

Division 64 Calendar

Board meeting—Monday	5/10
10:00 a.m.	Uniserv Office Imperial
Board meeting—Monday	6/ 7
10:00 a.m.	Uniserv Office Imperial
General meeting—Monday	6/14
11:00 a.m.	Old Rose School Program: TBA Lunch will be provided.

Division 64 Programs

Cloggers Marroly Frostrup, Trudy Leonard, and Anna Gibalyou, winter visitors from the Fountain of Youth Spa, presented their program.

County Librarian Connie Barrington gave an inspiring talk on the county library system. Unfortunately one or two libraries are being closed. Their books are being added to the collections of other libraries.

If you have books to donate, you may take them to any library. If they can't use them, they will sell them or donate them to non-profit organizations such as ARC.

For more information, go online to www.coimperial.ca.us/library. The county library can borrow from any other library across the country. Just let them know what you want, and they will do their best to get it for you. Libraries also have stories, including classics, on tapes, videos, music CD's, and some software. If you have never listened to a book on tape, you might try it. You can listen and do the dishes at the same time! Also, check out the website www.betterworldbooks.com.

Gene Tubach donated fresh vegetables. Thank you, Gene.

If you have a contact that would be a good program for one of our meetings, call Sydney Shank and give her the information. We welcome new ideas.

Scholarship News



Donation:

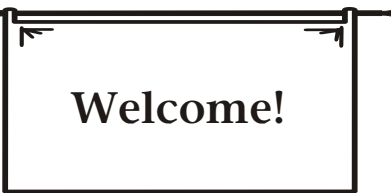
Emil Porter

Thank you!

Reminder: Donations to the scholarship fund are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations [501(c)(3)].



Membership Update



New Members

Castillo, Nancy H.
1108 Dahlia Court
Calexico, CA 92231-1999
ncastillo1108@gmail.com

Peña, Francisca V.
415 Halcon Court
Calexico, CA 92231-9411
760-357-4837

Change

L Krewall, Edward
1475 S 46th Ave Apt. 130
Yuma, AZ 85364-4035
602-726-8029

Resigned

Arlene Guirado

Where is she?

June Irvine

The last address we had for June Irvine was at Vintage Village #2, 1205 Driftwood Drive, El Centro. The last copies of *Cactus Corner* sent to that address, however, were returned, and we don't have a new address for her. If you have a current address or other information about June, please let Anita Ramirez or Bonnie Williams know what it is.

In Memoriam

Our sympathy goes to the families and friends of our deceased members.



Harold (Hal) Burnworth
Florence E. Dent
J. F. Guirado
Bertha Myers
Costas C. Tassis

Those who have passed from this world die only when we whom they loved forget them.



Happy Birthday to everyone who has a birthday between May and August. We want to acknowledge you and your special day, so if your birth date has not been reported, please send your information (month and date only) to Anita Ramirez.

Kathryn Oakley	5/ 3
Virginia Suits	6/ 3
Santita Mendenhall	6/ 9
Alicia Ortega	6/14
Karen Hickingbottom	6/19
Mary Ann Kline	6/22
Frances Fidler	6/26
Sandra Kay	7/ 9
Judy Jacklich	7/19
Sherry Gray	8/ 1
Marian Long	8/ 1
Sydney Shank	8/ 1
Elaine Ponton	8/ 9
Peggy McGuffin	8/20

ID Theft Prevention

- When asked to enter your Social Security number on any form, use **only the last four digits**.
- Put your work phone number and work address or a post office box number on checks you write.
- Keep a list of all toll free numbers to your credit cards with your credit card numbers in a safe place in case you need to report a stolen or lost card.
- File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit card(s) and documentation were stolen/lost. This will provide proof of your diligence to expedite an investigation.
- **Most important:** Call the three national credit reporting organizations and Social Security immediately to place a fraud alert on your name. Social Security has a fraud phone number. Any company checking your credit will then know that your information was stolen, and they will have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

CRTA Division 64 Scholarship Donation Form

For additional information, call Glenice Waters, 760-352-0419.

Donations are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations [501(c)(3)].

Thank you for your considerate donation of \$_____.

Please print.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

_____ This is a personal donation.

_____ This is a memorial donation in remembrance of _____

_____ This is a donation in honor of _____ for _____

If this is a memorial or honorary donation, a card of recognition will be sent to the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Make your check payable to CalRTA Division 64 Scholarship Fund and mail it to:

Glenice Waters
P.O. Box 743
Imperial, CA 92251-0743

- » Beauty is internal; looks mean nothing.
- » No rain, no rainbow.

English for English Speakers



- The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- They were too close to the door to close it.
- The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- A seamstress and another sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- To help with planting, the farmer used a taut leash when he taught his sow to sow.
- The wind was too strong to wind the sail on the yardarm.
- Upon seeing the tear in the painting, I shed a tear.

- I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- How can you intimate this to your most intimate friend?

Reflections

[Extracted from information from Jan Davis, Division 78]

I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, my loving family for less gray hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I've become kinder to and less critical of myself—my own best friend. I know I am sometimes forgetful, but some of life is just as well forgotten—and I will eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one or when a child suffers or even when someone's beloved pet is injured. I am blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turn gray and to have my youthful laughs forever etched into deep

grooves on my face. Many have never laughed, and many have died before their hair could turn silver.

I like being old; it has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been or worrying about what will be. I shall eat dessert every day (if I feel like it).

May our friendships never come apart—especially when they come straight from the heart!

[From the Palomar Division 63 *Starlight*, April-May, 2010]

I've been on a diet for the last two decades. I've lost a total of 789 pounds. By all accounts, I should be hanging from a charm bracelet.

—Erma Bombeck

It's rough to go through your life with your contents looking as if they settled during the shipping.

—Milton Berle

ID Theft Prevention (Cont.)

- ✦ Equifax: 1-800-525-6285
- ✦ Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742
- ✦ Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289
- ✦ Social Security: 1-800-269-0271

Emergency Loan— Quake Damage

CalRTA has emergency loan funds available—up to \$10,000 interest free and payable in ten years. Contact:

CalRTA
PO Box 15275 #C
Sacramento, CA 95925-3965
Tel.: 800-228-5453

Ballot Initiative Workshop

Norma Huhn
Area XI Director



Norma

CalRTA Legislative Advocate David Walrath and CalRTA State Legislation Committee Chair Ken Hewitt led a CalRTA Ballot Initiative Workshop on Saturday, April 10. They provided many in-

formative materials for us. We hope that we won't have to use these materials, but from the time of the workshop, there were almost two months left before we could be considered out of the woods for the June election.

Dave has cautioned us that even if a pension revision initiative does not appear on the next ballot, there will be attempts to get an initiative on the November ballot. He led discussions on Public Pension Attacks, Response to Attacks, and CalSTRS Full Funding. He also presented information on federal legislation including the new health care and insurance law and the WEP and GPO.

Ken Hewitt discussed the Pension Education Program, Retirement Security Talking Points, Who Pays for Our Pensions and Supplemental Benefit Maintenance Accounts. He also presented a comparison between CalSTRS and CalPERS.

If you were unable to attend this workshop, I encourage you to contact someone who did and to invite that person to share information about these topics with you—perhaps as a program or part of a program at a division meeting. Workshop attendees were surprised by being treated to a continental breakfast in addition to a delicious lunch. Everyone who attended came away with information we need to help us work to protect our pensions.

Legislation

Joanne F. Climie, J.D., Chair
Area XI Legislation Comm.
Advocacy Day in
Sacramento (Sacto)

March 11



Joanne

Trips to Sacto for Advocacy Day are not always as you plan. This year, we ran smack into the usual hectic working day for legislators. Planned visits to legislators were temporarily delayed because both the Assembly and the Senate were in floor sessions—each awaiting legislation from the other chamber. When the legislature is in session, a legislator may not leave the floor without permission from the marshalls; potentially in fact, legislators can be arrested if they do leave without permission. Needless to say, legislators do not leave the floor until the session is adjourned or is in recess.

The result of this was that our scheduled meeting with As-

Membership Directories

Copies of the updated 2009-2010 Membership Directory are available. You may obtain a copy at a luncheon meeting, or if you would like to have one mailed to you, just send \$3.00 to Bonnie Williams, PO Box 743, Imperial, CA 92251-0743. If you have questions, you may call Bonnie at 760-355-1711.

semblymember Marty Block took place at the railing outside the speaker's office, but within the boundaries of the floor. We first met with his staff who escorted us to the area where we could chat with him.

We met with Senator Kehoe's very gracious staff and expressed our thanks for the senator's support of SB810 (Single Payer Health Care) and of repeal of the WEP and GPO. Staff members worked to make plans for us to visit the senator at the rear of the Senate Chamber. Because of our schedule conflict and voting in the Senate, however, we had to leave before we could meet with Senator Kehoe. She is always supportive of teachers.

Walking to the office of Assemblymember Mary Salas to drop off our folder and visit with her staff, we were pleasantly surprised when the Assembly session was adjourned, and we literally bumped into her. "Follow me," she said. We did. She invited all of us into her office where we sat down and were enlightened as she told us about all of our issues—health care, retirement, and pension security as well as how the current budget is affecting our schools. Her sister is a teacher, so she knew the issues. This was a very rewarding visit.

Area XI representatives also met with staff members of Assembly members Martin Garrick (AD74), Lori Saldaña (AD76), and Joel Anderson (AD77), and with Senators Mary Wyland (SD38) and Denise Ducheny (SD40).

[Continued on p. 4]

[Continued from p. 3]

Area XI Legislative Team

We are building a very nice team of legislative advocates here in Area XI. This year, we had a complementary blend of rookies and experienced members who worked together to take our messages of pension security/fairness, repeal of WEP/GPO, and support for single payer health care to our local legislators. Some visits are more friendly than others, but our experiences and continuing advocacy are getting our messages to legislators.

Many thanks go to the following members of our team for their enthusiastic and professional efforts:

- ✦ Division 4: Laura Stevenson, Chris Paré, Barbara Bethel, and Vi Huprich
- ✦ Division 45: Joy Allen, Angela Aschbrenner, and Jay Klopfenstein
- ✦ Division 78: Joanne Climie, Mardi Covill, and Norma Huhn
- ✦ Division 69: Jo Wittrock

Because of schedule conflicts, we missed having some of our dedicated lege team members who also work hard on your behalf.

Delegate Assembly

Since the CalRTA Delegate Assembly (annual convention) will be held in Sacramento this year, we will have another opportunity to visit the capitol and become familiar with the environment there. Tours of the capitol are given hourly every day. CalSTRS has a new building near old Sacramento that we had a chance to visit, and we learned more about the process of our pension investments. CalSTRS members have free parking and a special lounge area. Our legislative team will be happy to share our information with you, and we look forward to seeing you in Sacto. Please join us.

Key Elements of Race to the Top

Bill Kipp, Area II Director

[Information sent by Area XI Director Norma Huhn]



Dr. Angela Aschbrenner and Bill Kipp

At a meeting of Butte County Division 32, I learned about some of the key points in the new federal program created by President Obama and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. States that want to participate in this new school reform movement will compete for \$4.35 million in grants to support education reform and innovation in classrooms.

Don McNelis, Butte County Superintendent of Schools, made a presentation highlighting the key factors involved in this national competition which replicates effective education reform strategies in the four following significant areas:

- × Adopting internationally benchmarked standards and assessments that prepare students for success in college and the workplace
- × Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals
- × Building state systems that measure student success and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve their practices
- × Turning around the lowest-performing schools

It was reported that California had to adopt several new laws in order to apply for some of these funds. Schools must implement these changes in the

Education Code even if the state does not receive one of the federal grants. California will also have to adopt common core standards by August of this year, design a new system of assessment which will track individuals in a more timely fashion, and determine how it will deal with low-performing schools. If a school is constantly in the bottom 10%, it could be dealt with by one of the following methods:

Turn Around Model:

Fire the principal and 50% of the teachers.

Restart Model:

Change the school to a charter school.

Close the School Model

Transformation Model:

Fire the principal and adopt a deferential salary scale which would reward good teachers.

There are some weaknesses and problems with implementing the various solutions. Various factors, such as California's cultural and language diversity, will be difficult to address.

Sharing Thoughts with You

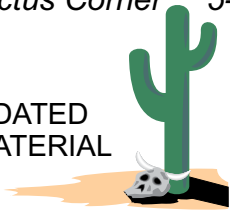
Carolyn Roth

- » Never judge a day by the weather.
- » The best things in life aren't things.
- » Tell the truth—there's less to remember.
- » Speak softly and wear a loud shirt.
- » Goals are deceptive—the unaimed arrow never misses its mark.
- » He who dies with the most toys still dies.
- » Age is relative. When you are over the hill, you pick up speed.
- » There are two ways to be rich: make more and desire less.

California Retired Teachers Association
Imperial County Division 64
PO Box 743
Imperial, CA 92251-0743
Cactus Corner 5-6/10

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

CALIFORNIA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (CaIRTA)—AREA XI
New Member Enrollment Form (Do not use for renewals.)

Please check your payment method and complete the enrollment information below. I authorize the California State Teachers Retirement System (CalSTRS) to deduct my association dues. Should the amount of dues be adjusted, as deemed necessary by CaIRTA, I authorize that the adjusted deduction shall continue unless I notify the CaIRTA business office in writing to the contrary. To terminate dues deductions, I agree to make my request in writing to the CaIRTA business office.

Membership Dues

- Dues Deduction (monthly): \$3.50 _____ (for self) \$7.00 _____ (for self and spouse)
- Cash: \$42.00 annually (renewals due on anniversary date of original membership)
- Life Membership: \$840.00 (one time payment)

Enrollment Information

Name: _____ Social Security No.: _____
Spouse Name if joining: _____ Division No.: 64
Address: _____ Phone: () _____
City/State/Zip: _____ Cell: () _____
E-mail Address: _____ FAX No.: () _____ Birthday (month/day only): _____
Retired from: (school and district) _____ Retirement Date: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please indicate payment method above and mail to:

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LIFE DDX2
INS

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
CaIRTA IMPERIAL COUNTY DIVISION 64
PO BOX 743
IMPERIAL, CA 92251-0743