

Our Goal: To be the dominant authoritative
Voice for all retired teachers
Core Purpose: To enhance and protect the
Benefits of retired teachers
CRTA URL: www.area11.calrta.org
Editor: Jean Whiteside

NEWSLETTER
AVOCADO DIVISION 81
California Retired Teachers Association

March/April 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A big thank you to those who have supported Division 81 with your attendance at our meetings. The program co-chairs, Sally and Jewell, have done an outstanding job giving us a mix of informative and entertaining programs. If you would like to come to a meeting and need transportation please contact me and we will arrange a ride for you.

If you have a computer, there is now a direct link to the Area 11 website. The web address is www.area11.calrta.org. From here you can view the activities of all the divisions in San Diego and Imperial counties as well as linking to the main CRTA website.

If you have not already done so, please re-link your Albertson's card to their website so that you can continue to support our teacher grants fund-raising effort. This must be done by February 28. If you have an Albertson's card and have not participated in the Community Partners Program, you can also sign up. The web address is www.albertsonscp.com. 4% of what you spend is donated to the teacher grant fund. All you need is your card number, telephone number, and our organization number, which is 49001015487. Anyone can support this effort whether or not they are CRTA members.

We will have a booth at the Avocado Festival on April 19. This is our first time at the festival and we can use volunteers to help man the booth. If you are planning to attend and can give us an hour of your time, we would greatly appreciate it. Please call me (760)967-7227 if you can help. Through this event we hope to get the word out to the community about CRTA, what we do, and maybe attract new members in the process.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING
CRTA DIVISION 81

Wednesday, March 11

Fallbrook Golf Club

2757 Gird Road

Fallbrook

9:00 AM

Brunch Buffet \$13.00

A check to CRTA Division 81 is preferred
Donations to cover guest costs welcome

Call Jewell Roberds at 728-1092

Before Friday March 6 for reservations

You as a member are important to us. Your attendance at meetings, financial support, volunteerism, and anything you do to spread the word to other retired teachers is appreciated. We value your membership and hope that you will spread the word to other retired teachers and those who support educational issues about what CRTA has done in the last 80 years and what the organization continues to do to enhance and protect the benefits of retired teachers. Please read your *Contact* magazine and keep abreast of the legislative happenings on line if you have a computer. There is a lot of political activity getting ready to happen that involves teachers and education. These resources will provide you with valid information on the issues.

GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM

For our next general meeting, March 11, we will host the Fallbrook High School Choir directed by Heather Smith. Be sure and

mark your calendar for this musical event. It is sure to be enjoyed by all who attend.

Remember to RSVP by Friday, March 6, to Jewell Roberds, 728-1092. You are responsible for the reservation. If you don't attend the meeting and do not cancel the reservation, the Division treasurer has to pay for it.

AHOY THERE SHIPMATES!!!

Join us on Wednesday, April 8, for a tour of the Midway Aircraft Carrier, located at the Navy Pier in San Diego. We will take a stroll through time aboard the Midway which served as a carrier to thousands of planes and home to more than 200,000 Navy personnel. The Midway is the longest-serving U.S. Navy carrier of the 20th Century—a 47-year odyssey that spanned the end of WWII and the liberation of Kuwait in 1991. Located at the Navy Pier, 910 Harbor Dr., San Diego, the Midway provides a dynamic and enriching experience “from boiler to bridge.”

Carpool: meet at the I-15 and Hwy 76 park and ride at 8:30 sharp to arrive at the Navy Pier for our tour at 10:00.

Parking: Available along side the Midway \$7.00 for 1-4 hours.

Lunch: 1:00 PM—Anthony's Seafood Restaurant, 1360 Harbor Dr., San Diego

RSVP: Sally Whitlock: 760-723-1945 or e-mail sallyjean45@yahoo.com, by April 1

Cost: \$10.00 (seniors) \$15.00 per adult, \$8.00 per child (ages 6-17). Please pay cash or check made out to Sally Whitlock at the March general meeting or the day of the tour.

JANUARY FIELD TRIP TO STEVEN BIRCH AQUARIUM, LA JOLLA

Nineteen CRTA members and friends journeyed to La Jolla for a docent-led tour of the Steven Birch Aquarium. It was a beautiful, sunny day and we saw many

wonderful displays. Everyone seemed especially impressed with the Leafy Sea Dragon, a very beautiful and rare seahorse. One of the displays featured a 20 pound lobster! Well, as you can guess, we all imagined what that would be like on our dinner plate, which made us turn our thoughts to lunch. We traveled a short distance into Del Mar and enjoyed a delicious lunch at Jake's Restaurant on the beach.

FEBRUARY VARIETY SHOW

Our 3rd annual variety show, organized by the very talented Lenora Sears, was another smash hit!! There were 10 acts presented by our very own CRTA members ranging from musical numbers including songs, piano solos, guitar, banjo, storytelling and even a waltzing bear! The last number was a Can-Can chorus performed by the very charming “Can Nots”. A good time was had by one and all in appreciation of the many talents of our very own members. Look for pictures in upcoming issues of the *Village News*.

LEGISLATIVE

2008 and 2007 legislative accomplishments

State level--Achieved 85% purchasing .

Power protection up from 80%; defeated proposals to cap purchasing power protection at less than 80%; defeated proposals to restrict STRA investments.

At the Federal level—achieved 351 co-sponsors for S206 to repeal the WEP and GPO; had federal hearings on HR82 and S206 and California press events for WEP/GPO repeal

State level—successfully litigated for \$500 million owed for purchasing power protection funding; won interest on \$500 million at 10 percent; reintroduced the Social Security Fairness Act as HR82 with more

than 320 co-sponsors and S206 with more than 30 co-sponsors to repeal the penalties on California educators; sponsored Assembly Joint Resolution 5 for the California Legislature to urge Congress to pass HR82 and S206; supported the enacted SB901 that continues the earnings limitation exemptions for retired educators returning to school districts in specified situations; defeated the budget proposal to reduce state contributions for purchasing power protection and cap the protection at 80%.

Four items of GOOD NEWS recently about retired teachers legislation—an increase in our retirement checks because of the increased supplemental benefit; 111 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives of HR235 which would repeal the Social Security Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision; CA governor says he will give more money to schools now that Washington has passed the Economic Recovery Bill. NEW INFO—Congress included all seniors in the special stimulus bill funding adding a special \$250 refundable tax credit for retirement systems retirees who do not have Social Security. BAD NEWS Proposed initiative measure to be submitted to CA voters that would amend the CA State Constitution to eliminate certain restrictions on renegotiating public employee pension contracts. If approved it would allow pension benefits to be reduced for existing and prospective public-sector retirees. We will have lots to do to keep it from passing. Attached to this newsletter is a list of addresses, fax, and phone numbers of our legislative contacts both federal and state.

RESOURCE—Joyce Brittain

Cell phone companies are charging \$1 to \$1.75 or more for 411 information calls. Since no one carries a telephone directory in their vehicle, they get away with it. When you need to use the information

option, simply dial 1-800-373(free)-3411 and you will incur no charge. This works on your home phone as well. Enter this number into your cell phone and you will always have a way to get a phone number if you need one.

Are you getting too many 800 calls? You may be registered on the “Do Not Call List” but still receive too many calls. The list is good for 5 years. If you signed up when the list was started in June 2003, you will need to register again. You can check that your number is still on the list by going to www.donotcall.gov or call 1-888-382-1222. You can report the names of violators to the FTC at the same website or phone number. Certain groups are exempt from the list—political operations, charities, telephone surveys, and businesses that have relationships with you.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sandra Pines
2035 Rue de lay Montagna
Oceanside, CA 92054 967-0952
sdpines@cox.net

Bernice “Snookie” Marier
410 S. Pacific
Oceanside, CA 92054 433-1241
bmarier@juno.com

Julia Ortgiesen
2520 Anuea Flores
Fallbrook,, CA 92028 723-5341

Please add these new members to your directory. Joyce Rogers has resigned from CRTA so her name may be removed.

COMMUNICATION CORNER

There have been some inquiries concerning awards given by the state CRTA. The following are descriptions that will help to clarify the awards.

The Ruth Q De Prida Award is presented to a CRTA member who has shown exceptional service to the Association. The intent of the award is to give recognition to a member who has not served as a state elective officer and is not currently serving as an Area Director.

Each division has the opportunity to nominate one individual for the award. Divisions may not make more than one nomination (one person, one couple) per year. This is the most prestigious award given.

The Martin P. Mathiesen Award is presented to all nominees for the Ruth Q. De Prida award other than the one receiving the dePrida Award. This award is presented at the Fall Workshops.

Ed Ely Award is awarded for evidence of outstanding communication skills including: written articles for newspapers or *Contact*, use of internet to inform and promote CRTA activities, submitted letters to legislators, served as liaison with the community, demonstrated innovative approaches to communication.

Division 81 volunteer hours have been sent to the State. Be sure and keep a record of yours for 2009/2010 to be turned in next September and February. Lenora Sears who keeps a record of the hours would appreciate your letting her know at these times how many you have. Thank you.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WALKING (just a bit of humor from Div. 63 *Starlight*)

Walking can add minutes to your life. This enables you at 85 years old to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at \$7000 per month. My grandpa started walking five miles a day when he was 60. Now he's 97 years old and we don't know where he is.

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.
I have to walk early in the morning, before my brain figures out what I'm doing.
I joined a health club last year, spent about \$400 bucks. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to go there.
Every time I hear the word "exercise" I wash my mouth out with chocolate.
The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.
I know I got a lot of exercise the last few years.....just getting over the hill.
I do have flabby thighs but fortunately my stomach covers them.
If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.
We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads.
Every time I start thinking too much about how I look, I just find a Happy Hour and by the time I leave, I look just fine.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 1	Jewell Ford
6	Ruth Watto
9	Pat Banes
20	Bud Roberds
	Russ Whipple
26	Beverly Cole
29	Louise Pyeatt
31	Genevieve Sparks
April 2	Melva Norvell
12	Lou Drexel
22	James Voorhis
25	Julia Hill

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

March 11—General meeting, Fallbrook High School Choir, Fallbrook Golf Club, 9:00 am see you there
March 17—Board meeting, FPUD 9:30 am
April 8—Trip to the Midway in San Diego, meet at I-15 & hwy 76 8:30 am sharp
April 19—Avocado Festival, visit our booth open all day