

Our Goal: To be the dominate 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

September/October 2009

CO- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As co-president with Lucile Reeder this year, we will take turns writing the president's message for the newsletter. We are pleased to have been elected, and along with the other elected officers and board we will do our best to work for the good of Division 81 and the California Retired Teachers. The board alone cannot accomplish this task. We need the support of the division members.

The first order of business for the new term is the Stay-at-Home tea. By the time you receive this newsletter, you will have received your invitation in the mail. This is our organization's major fundraiser for the year that supports the teacher grants program for Fallbrook's schools. The current economic problems in the nation and the state are going to greatly impact our schools this year. I urge you to support the tea with any amount you can give. Past recipients have used their grants in many creative ways to enrich their students' classroom experiences. We want to continue to support their efforts. Thank you for your continued support of the teacher grants project.

Our program committee has been diligently working to find programs both entertaining and informative for the general meetings. If you haven't been to a meeting for a while, now is the time to come out and join us. We would love to have you attend.

There are several legislative issues on all our minds, so make sure that you read your *Contact* magazine and if you have internet access check the "calrta" website for up to date information regarding legislation.

The officers and board members will be attending the Area XI fall workshop in September and I am sure we will return with much information to share with the members

The message is short this time as there is a lot of information that others want in this newsletter. Please join us for our meeting in September.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING
CRTA DIVISION 81

Wednesday, September 9

Fallbrook Golf Club

2757 Gird Road

Fallbrook

9:00 AM

Brunch Buffet \$13.00

A check to CALRTA Division 81 is preferred

Call Jewell Roberds at 1-760-728-1092

Before Friday, September 4th for reservations

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING
CRTA DIVISION 81

Wednesday, October 14

Fallbrook Golf Club

2757 Gird Road

Fallbrook

9:00 AM

Brunch Buffet \$13.00

A check to CALRTA Division 81 is preferred

Call Jewell Roberds at 1-760-728-1092

Before Friday, October 9th for reservations

GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 9 PROGRAM (Sally Whitlock)

For our first meeting of the year, we will feature "Sky Hunters" which is a non-profit group dedicated to informing the public about raptors, birds of prey and promoting raptor conservation. Nancy Conney has dedicated her time and energy to this very worthy cause and through her presentation, you will learn about the behavior of hawks, owls, falcons, and eagles. Also you will learn about what to do if you find a sick or injured raptor and about the laws we have to protect birds of prey. Nancy will be bringing living birds that she uses in her presentation. These birds cannot be returned to the wild and are quite tame. We hope you can join us for this entertaining and informative meeting. See you there.

GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 14 PROGRAM (Jewell Ford)

Come to the October 14th meeting and hear the latest about Autism. The guest speaker is Mark Anselmo, the son-in-law of Genie Summers. Mark will give us information about "Our Nicholas Foundation", the foundation he set up and the current methods used to help children with Autism meet their potentials. We are looking forward to an interesting and informative meeting. See you in October.

Our contract with Fallbrook Golf Club requires us to pay for 30 attendees at our General Meetings whether we have that number or not. We need your attendance. Make the decision this year that you will be at several. If you need a ride, call Sandy at 760-967-7227 or Lucile at 760-728-3879 and one will be arranged for you. We look forward to seeing you.

COMMUNICATIONS CORNER (Lenora Sears)

North San Diego County Scholarship Foundation is processing awards throughout the year. Four of the first year recipients have qualified for their first semester installment. These students have enrolled for fall semester in a minimum of 12 units and have received \$500.00 if they are attending Palomar or Mira Costa College or \$750.00 if they are attending CSUSM. They will become eligible for a second installment for spring semester when they provide proof of enrollment in another minimum of 12 units. Three second year students have also been awarded for enrollment in fall semester in the same manner. The procedures for receiving applications, selecting qualified recipients and awarding scholarships are being fine-tuned and successful procedures are being used to select worthy students. The Scholarship Selection Committee composed of 5 members of the Foundation (Sandy Bell and Lenore Sears from division 81, Jeannette Cushman from division 45, Joyce Kay and Helene Nickel from division 63) will be meeting in September to prepare for the 2009-2010 award presentations. The next Foundation meeting will be held on Monday, October 5. If you represent division 81 as a Foundation member, please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

COUNT THOSE VOLUNTEER HOURS. BEGINNING MARCH 1, 2009 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2009. This is the half year point for our CalRTA fiscal year. Be ready to report your hours at the September 9 meeting. There will be report forms available at each table.

(Lenora also handles communications received from Area XI officers and has included a report from the "CalRTA Rapid Response Team". A copy of the latest is attached to this newsletter)

LEGISLATIVE—CALL TO ACTION, Sherry Ludwig, Chair

In the August issue of *Contact* Polly Bacich addresses the legislative issues surrounding the repeal of the WEP/GPO, stating that CalRTA is gearing up for fights in our own backyard and she further addresses another very important point that might have gone unmentioned.

Explain to your neighbors and friends that retirees are denied benefits they PAID FOR. Most people agree it's unfair, but most haven't heard of these penalties.

These words “hit home” with your Legislative Chair. especially the PAID part, although of equal importance is the “unfair” part. The best way to explain the significance of passing the legislation to repeal the WEP/GPO is to personalize its impact.

CalRTA and our coalition have established a campaign for Social Security Fairness. Keep informed! Read *Contact*! Go to www.calrta.org! Talk to your friends and neighbors! Share your stories! Write letters to your legislators to repeal the WEP/GPO! Also write letters to newspapers telling your story of this Unfair Legislation.

RESOURCES—Joyce Britain, Chair

“Keep writing your letters”. A quote from August, 2009 *Contact*. The calRTA website has information on where to send your letters of support for HR 236 and S 484, the two Federal bills calling for repeal of the WEP/GPO. We need to keep the pressure on Washington. At some point they will be forced to look at the entitlement programs and when they review Social Security we must ensure that the WEP/GPO reform is on their “to do” list. Most people agree that it is unfair but most have not heard of these penalties.

RECRUIT NEW AND OLD MEMBERS

All of us are recruiters. We have lost several members this past year—some due to deaths, others moving. Those members who are “dues deduction” members are automatically renewed. We need to be sure our “cash” members renew. Sacramento sends a renewal notice to each at the time of renewal. It's easy to postpone sending in the check. We must be sure to remind those members to stay in touch by renewing their memberships.

If you know a retired teacher who is not a member of calRTA speak to them of the benefits of belonging to our organization. Invite him or her to accompany you to a general meeting. Our programs are informative and/or entertaining and the breakfast buffet is excellent. Once they attend they will probably return.

Remember, to be a member the person does not have to be a retired teacher. Just someone who is interested in education and our children. They would be most welcome. An application for membership is on the back of the address of this newsletter for those of you who receive it via US mail. Others will find one in *Contact*. Mail to Ruth Watto, Membership Chair, 4547 Palomar Dr., Fallbrook, CA 92028.

Dues are \$42.00 annually.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August 2 Barbara Barnes
8 Nancy Bergstrom
16 Sandi Grossman
17 Orrell Cooper
18 Marilee Ragsdale
23 Genie Summers

September 5 Mary Austin
12 Donna Overby
17 Betty Hall
18 Barbara Goener
22 Bobbie Smith

October 6 Barbara Layton
13 Dorie Mulica
17 Patricia Carson
19 June Moler
20 Jean Whiteside

Did we wish you a "Happy Birthday" this past year? If not, it is probably because we don't have it. Just give Sandy at 760-967-7227 or Lucile at 760-728-3879 a call and tell them you want to be wished a "Happy Birthday" and you will be placed on our list.

ODDS AND ENDS

Our component program chairs, Sally and Jewell, have been busy recently lining up programs for the coming year. They will be listed on the website soon. For a preview some are listed below

September and October are above. November will be a patriotic theme but as yet no confirmation has been received from prospective speakers. December will feature the Rancho Monserate Singers (Lenora Sears group). January will be our annual field trip (more about this later). You don't want to miss February as it is our very own Member Variety Show. This will be the third year for this program and it gets better each year. Plan on attending this one if it is the only one you can get to during the year. We do have talented (more or less) members among our group

Our treasurer, Laura Choate presented a preliminary budget to the board at our August meeting. The final budget will be available for you to see at the September meeting.

Remember, you are always welcome to attend board meetings which are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Fallbrook Public Utility District Board Room at 9:30 am.

Division 81's calendar for the years 2009-2010 is attached. There will probably be some changes as time goes on. Keep it handy and you will know what's coming up.

See you on Wednesday, September 9th (California Admission Day) at the General Meeting.