



California Retired Teachers Association Area XI Newsletter



Director: Norma B. Huhn

Editor: Frances I. Rodenberg

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Core Purpose: To Enhance and Protect the Benefits of Retired Educators



Norma

Director's Message

Norma B. Huhn, Director, CRTA Area XI

Presidents' Council attendees reviewed the state membership report. In efforts to recruit members, some divisions are placing posters and calendars in schools, libraries, and other public locations.

Jo Wittrock was selected as the State Nominations and Elections Committee Chair; the new Area Chair is Fran Rodenberg. Special thanks go to Jo and Fran for accepting these positions. Dr. Angela Aschbrenner is a candidate for the southern region seat on the Laura E. Settle Foundation Board. Voting will take place at the

Delegate Assembly on May 15. Special thanks also go to Jay Klopfenstein and David Bisson for their work to establish a website for our divisions. To keep the web site current, divisions are asked to send their news to David at <bisson@david.us>.

CRTA Legislation Day in Sacramento will be on April 1. Divisions are encouraged to send legislation chairs and other interested members. For questions, please contact Area XI Legislation Chair Joanne Climie.

The Delegate Assembly (convention) will be held May 15-17 at the Airport Hilton in Los Angeles. This will be an opportunity to become better informed about CRTA, attend interesting workshops, and meet fellow members from throughout the state. I hope to see many of you there.

San Diego Division 4

Barbara Bethel, President

Happy 80th Birthday to CRTA! We look forward to celebrating the birthday and the many contributions to the enhancement and protection of our benefits.

Our focus this year is **membership!** We are increasing membership and meeting attendance. Using "Together we can make a difference" as inspiration, we are using membership survey results to improve our organization and service. We continue to be thankful for the advice, support and participation of our talented members!

Our programs have been spectacular. We learned about legislative successes and challenges from David Walrath and enjoyed a holiday musical presentation. We will hear San Diego Schools Superintendent Terry Grier, learn more about history of the San Diego Gaslamp Quarter, and meet our scholarship recipients.

Our Scholarship Foundation is selecting high school seniors who will receive \$1,500 scholarships. Recipients will be introduced at our June meeting. We are proud to assist students and to make positive differences in their lives.



Barbara

We appreciate the support of area leadership and division members. We welcome your attendance at our meetings at the Best Western Seven Seas in Mission Valley. For additional information, please contact me at 858-270-3483.

N. San Diego County Div. 45

Kathy O'Leary, President



Kathy

We are enjoying a very good year and are working well as a team. Programs are outstanding. More members have become involved in meetings by signing up to give inspirations, do table decorations, and be greeters.

Board members are keeping reports short and the meetings moving. Scholarship Foundation members delivered forms to schools, made contacts with school scholarship people, and will follow up before the April 1 application deadline for the \$1,000 scholarships to be granted to north county students interested in entering the education field.

Each month, our Communications Chair is awarding Volunteer Certificates and honoring ten members, and he is collecting our volunteer hours.

We appreciate our new *Spotlight* editors. We are e-mailing it to over 150 members. Thanks to David Bisson for updating our area website with current information!

South Shores Division 60

Sara Wood, President

With member support, our board continues to work hard to increase membership. Luncheons provide opportunities to socialize, learn, and enjoy first rate entertainment. We



Sara

look forward to performances by outstanding student groups. Third to sixth grade students from the South Bay Union School District Elementary Jazz Band will perform, and at our scholarship awards luncheon, the Southwestern College Mariachis will entertain.

You are invited to join us at the Holiday Inn South Bay in National City at 11:00 a.m. For reservations (\$11), please contact Lupe Garcias at 619-422-0990 or <ggarcias@sbcglobal.net>.

Palomar Division 63

Suzan Reiner, President



Suzan

Programs are outstanding. Miriam and Gordon Zittel told us more about "Cruising through Retirement" aboard their sailboat. Travels took them to South Pacific places and afforded many heart warming tales. They were not just tourists, but unofficial goodwill ambassadors for our country!

History Professor Emeritus Chuck Hanlen presented a fascinating history lesson about Pearl Harbor and the Japanese surrender. He promised to return to tell about the Normandy invasion. His informative, emotional presentation illustrated that history is neither dead nor dry; it shapes who and what we are today. Youngsters in the Hidden Valley Middle School Performing Chorus were a delight to see and hear, and again proved the importance of music in education.

One speaker overcame great challenges in getting to our meeting! In Kentucky just as January ice storms hit there, humorist Judy McDonald arrived straight from the airport after enduring the hazards and delays of flying in nasty weather. Her comments about Californians' reactions to weather were hilarious as were her many other observations.

Our tribute to former students and teachers is exciting; people who went through the Escondido school system and are now active in the community return to honor teachers who greatly influenced their lives. John Stubbs, former principal and wonderful singer of songs we all remember, will serenade us. When Precious Gems take the spotlight, they are always inspirational, and their dedication to CRTA is commendable! Alfredo Valasco, CEO of the Escondido YMCA, will tell us how the "Y" can be of benefit to seniors.

We seek to make CRTA more visible in the community by donating food items to a local food bank, participating in the Holiday Gift Box program sponsored by the Joslyn Center, accruing an enormous number of volunteer hours, and attempting to contact all teachers newly or soon-to-be retired in the area to let them know about our organization.

Imperial County Division 64

Anita Ramirez, Co-President



Anita

We celebrated our existence with State Legislation Chair Ken Hewitt at our special recognition event. Several members we had not seen for a long time helped us celebrate, and Ken handed out CRTA "Honorable

Retiree" mugs to those who had been members for the longest time. Our longest distance recipient was Donna Worker from Nebraska; her daughter, Principal Kathy Denton, was a special guest.

We moved our meetings to the Old Rose School at the Pioneers Museum. Many members remember when it was a functioning school, and some attended school in that building which now stands on museum grounds. Gene Tubach summarized steps to move the building, including removing and then re-installing the roof. It is a wonderful meeting place with plenty of room, old desks, a real black board, and hardwood floors. We are fortunate to be able to use the building.

Plans are under way for our division's 30th anniversary to coincide with the 80th anniversary of CRTA. We will have a program of sea chanty singers from Pine Ele-

mentary School in Holtville. In the spring, the students will take a fall ship trip to Catalina Island. They will teach the ship's crew to sing their chanties, and they will help pay for the trip by crewing.

In our never ceasing endeavors to increase membership, we are planning activities to let the Imperial Valley, including each school site, know that we are here, what we are all about, and how to contact us.

Webmaster David Bisson came to El Centro, took pictures, and had lunch with us. Three hours later, we were on the website! What a great tool! We will concentrate on utilizing it. Thanks, David!

We meet on the fourth Monday of each month, September—June, except in December. We invite everyone from other divisions to "Come on down!" The weather is really nice at this time of year.

E. Co. San Diego Div. 69

Sharon Davis, Co-president

Our entertaining and informative programs have included the musical talents of the Chula Vista show choir Sound Unlimited and the "Spicing Up the Holidays" concert by our Division 69 Chorus. David Walrath spoke of the possibilities and challenges for retired educators. The Laura E. Settle Scholarship for SDSU was presented to Adam C. Renick, a young man we knew because he was our guest when he accepted a Division 69 scholarship months earlier.



Co-presidents (l-r) Sharon Davis and Yolanda Lopez

A nominating committee is selecting a slate of officers for 2009-2010. Suzanne Geba is organizing our Day of the Teacher activities when we will honor current teachers by delivering hundreds of CRTA pens to local schools.

As always, we are committed to efforts to increase membership, encourage more active involvement at the local level, and monitor any attempts which threaten the security of our pensions.

North Shores Division 78

Abigail (Abby) Bisson, President



Abby

We experienced comradeship as educators; being able to assist and participate in projects with colleagues is enriching. This benefit continues with our CRTA activities—meetings, programs, committees. Luncheons enlivened by beautiful music and interesting

speakers have included David Walrath who presented updates on state and national legislative issues. Special music will honor Gold Star members; we will learn about Cabrillo Monument history, present scholarships, and enjoy music from the Div. 69 Chorus following installation of the new board.

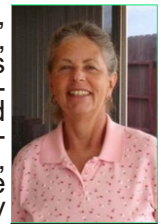
Our Communications Chair tracks volunteer hours and community outreach. She awarded Certificates of Special Recognition for Outstanding Volunteerism to all members present for one of our lunches. Past Division 78 Presidents were honored guests at that luncheon. The Resource Services Chair keeps us current on ways to protect and enhance the quality of our lives, health and safety. As part of our membership recruitment, we offer grants to teachers. A past recipient who is now a division member is working on this project. Members are placing recruitment posters in teachers' lounges and San Diego libraries.

Scholarship Foundation members will soon read applications. We hope to award five scholarships.

Avocado Division 81

Sandra Bell, President

Thanks to our varied, interesting programs, meeting attendance is up. We have a campaign to get the word out about CRTA. Posters, application forms, and calendars have been placed in faculty rooms at all Fallbrook schools and in the district office. We will follow up with a change of posters.



Sandy

We have been entertained with songs from the 40s—60s by vocalists Kathy Herbruck and Paul Kruse. Dr. Matt Rahn, Director of Research and Education, spoke of research being carried out, and implications for the future of that research, at the Santa Marguerita Ecological Reserve in Fallbrook.

Costumed Gaslamp Players provided insight into the history and characters of an early period in San Diego. Toe Tappers, a talented group of ladies, ages 50-80, entertained us. Our Christmas Parade float depicted Santa's Workshop. We presented eight grants to Fallbrook Union Elementary District teachers. We hope to try some new fund raising ideas to increase the number of grants we can present. Twenty people participated in our very informative field trip to the Scripps Aquarium.

We anticipate an exciting second half of the year. We will institute our ideas to increase membership and monetary resources for teacher grants. These ideas are brand new, and we are all eager to see how they work.