

LEMON TWIST

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Terry Lee Marzell, Editor



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Advocacy Day, By-Laws discussed

By Ulda Revollo and Terry Lee Marzell, Co-Presidents

Since shelter-in-place orders were issued last March, the regular monthly meeting of Division 80 has been held via Zoom. For your convenience, we've been publishing meeting ID numbers in the *Lemon Twist*; however, due to security concerns we'll be making a change in that practice. In the future, members who have email addresses will receive the meeting ID number in an email a few days prior to the meeting. All others can contact Terry Lee Marzell at terrymarzell@gmail.com or text or call (909) 730-3790 for the information.

At the Feb. meeting, members heard about organization activities planned for Advocacy Day, which was conducted virtually this year. Later in the month, Board members and CalRTA state leaders met with a representative from the office of Ken Calvert to ask him for support for HR 82, to support Medicare and Social Security solvency, and help fund special education programs. Read more on page 4.

In addition, the By-Laws Committee discussed changes to the by-laws. The Committee consists of Ulda Revollo, Maureen Macomber, and Beverley Rouse. The Scholarship Committee is gearing up for reviewing this year's scholarship applications and make selections for recipients. Any member who is interested in serving on the Scholarship Committee is welcome to contact chairperson Kathy Shepardson. In addition, Communications Chair Shirley Sessions asks members to report your volunteer hours for 2020 to her as soon as possible.

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on March 26, 2021. The Board will meet at 9:30 am. Members are invited to attend.

Speaker shares childhood immigration story

The featured speaker at the Feb. meeting was Mr. Ed Brouwer, who delivered a presentation about his childhood experiences as an immigrant from Cuba in the 1960's.

Ed said his father was a high-ranking official in Cuba's Department of Agriculture, even though he wasn't a Communist. Following the Bay of Pigs invasion of April, 1961, dictator Fidel Castro



took over private schools and began to impose reprisals for rebellion against his regime. One 15-year-old neighbor, recalled Ed, published anti-government leaflets, was arrested, tried, and served more than 20 years in prison as a rebel. Ed himself was involved in anti-government activities to a small degree, he said. To escape potential reprisals, Ed was one of more than 14,000 unaccompanied minors who were brought to the United States from Cuba between 1960 and 1962. The US-sponsored airlift was dubbed Operation Peter Pan.

Ed was only 13 when he and his brother left their parents behind in Cuba. His journey took him first to Florida, where he stayed briefly with relatives, and then to a refugee camp in Florida City. "The conditions there were austere, but humane," Ed recalls. Next the boys were sent to a foster home in northern Minnesota. He was 14 and in the eighth grade when landed in Norco.

At 15, Ed's parents were able to immigrate to the US, and the family was reunited. "But my mom lost her kids," Ed remembers. "I was more like an adult when we met again."

Communications Team publishes survey results

CalRTA's Communications Team published the results of their end-of-year survey for 2020. The results show that virtual meetings have become almost commonplace for many divisions around the state. Division 80 has been holding meetings via Zoom since stay-at-home orders were issued in March, 2020. About 14% of divisions reported holding no virtual meetings during the past 12 months.

Volunteer hours tallied

By Shirley Sessions

Thanks to everyone that sent in their volunteer hours. Most of us weren't able to do as much as we usually have. I know the hours you spent volunteering were of great help to the people you served. So far I have had 24 people report their hours with a total of 14,194 hours. I'm sure that more of you were able to be of service. If you haven't sent me your hours you can still send them to me at musicps@aol.com. We will add them to our Division total. Thanks.

Treasurer's Report

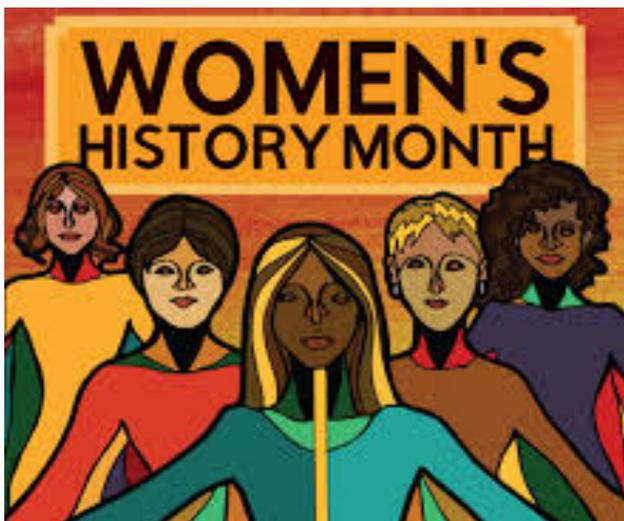
By Margit Olson

This is the Treasurer's Report for Feb. 26, 2021.

Checking account balance: \$14,281.56
 Savings account balance: \$7,808.78
 Donations received since July 1, 2020:
 \$3,542.23

Scholarship donations in December/January received from:

- Mary Fields (in memory of Bob Kremer, Erma Paloma, and Sue Simmons)
- Sally Talley (in memory of Thomas Talley)
- Patricia Mutka (in memory of Patricia Scott)
- Pamela Shilling (in memory of Bob Kremer)



Involvement Opportunities available in Division 80

We're seeking energetic members to become involved in Division activities and to fill some positions that will be opening up in the spring. When this school year ends, the terms of several Division 80's Board members will expire, and this would be a great opportunity for new leadership. Consider getting more involved in planning the virtual activities and programs we offer our members now, and the in-person offerings that we'll be able to offer in the future. In this and upcoming issues, we'll describe the responsibilities of Division leadership.

This month, we'll spotlight the position of Email/Social Media Manager. "The position of the Email/Social Media Manager is to send emails to members and to update our Facebook page," reports current office holder Lynda Archer. "This includes the monthly distribution of the *Lemon Twist* and other emails on informative CalRTA related subjects. Also, it includes keeping the contact list current by adding new members and deleting lapsed memberships," she continues. "The Facebook duty consists of sending friend requests to members, approving members to become friends, updating important CalRTA-related information and notifications of meetings and activities," Lynda concludes.

Our standing committees could also use new members. We have standing committees that work on such topics as Legislation, Publicity, Resources and Services, Communications, Membership, Insurance, and Scholarship.

Interested in volunteering to shadow a board member to learn more about the work division leaders do? If so, contact Terry Marzell at terrymarzell@gmail.com for more information.

Bob, Joyce Rittman organize Advocacy Day



Division 74 leaders Bob and Joyce Rittman, pictured above, organized five virtual meetings with members of Congress or their legislative assistants during the month of March. Each presentation contained convincing arguments and personal testimonies in favor of supporting the passage of HR 82, which repeals the WEP/GPO penalties that unfairly penalize retired teachers and their spouses. CalRTA speakers also spoke in favor of support for special education programs, Medicare, and Social Security solvency.

Members from Division 80 who participated in the session with legislative assistant Ryane Skinner from Ken Calvert’s Washington, DC, office were Doris Osko, Margit Olson, Beverley Rouse, Lura Staffanson, and Terry Marzell. CalRTA officials Ron Breyer, Mary Bryant, and Sue Wallace also attended the meeting held on Mon., March 3 at 9:30 am via zoom.

In addition to Representative Calvert, sessions were held with Congress members Pete Aguilar (CA-31), Jay Obernolte (CA-8), Raul Ruiz (CA-36), and Mark Takano (CA-41).

Directory updates

By Beverley Rouse

Here are the March updates for the purple 2020-2021 Division 80 Directory. You can send updates to Beverley Rouse, Membership Chair, at beverleyrouse@sbcglobal.net or leave a message at (951) 689-9861.

New Member

Messick, Jennifer
7185 El Cerrito Road
Corona, CA 92881-4514
(951) 316-8796
mnqcgjen@yahoo.com

Update the following information

Castro, Vickie
(951) 218-7586

Herr, Tonya Lynn
herr@sbcglobal.net

Aguirre, Maggie
44400 Blazing Star Trail
La Quinta, CA 92253-4827

Deceased Members

Jennie Adamo
Jack Brown

Seeking information about Covid-19 vaccinations in California? Click on this link: <https://covid19.ca.gov>

Have You Heard?

Lura Staffanson and friends enjoy quilting

For the second year in a row, member Lura Staffanson and her friends Vicki Knapp and Linda Waldo organized their own five-day sewing event when covid caused the cancellation of their annual quilting retreat. “We have been sewing, visiting, and eating good stuff,” says Lura, pictured below at right. The avid quilter is a retired Home Economics teacher from Centennial High School.



Share your exciting news! Tell us about your vacations, adventures, anniversaries, special occasions, or any new additions to your family. Recommend a good book or movie, or share a great recipe, work of art, or poem. Share photos, too. Send your news to editor Terry Marzell at terrymarzell@gmail.com.

We Remember...



Jennie Adamo

With great sadness we report the passing of CalRTA member Jennie Adamo on Jan. 15, 2021. Jennie was born in Princeton, New Jersey, and moved to Corona in 1939. She graduated from Corona Senior High in 1950. She earned her B.A. in Education and her teaching credential from Long Beach State College in 1957, followed by a Master’s in Religious Education in 1975. She taught elementary school in CNUSD from 1957 to 1962, and again from 1976 until her retirement in 1993.

Jack Brown

Jack Brown, well-loved and respected teacher at Washington Elementary, passed away in February. Services will be held at The Grove Community Church, 19900 Grove Community Drive, Riverside 92508 at 3:00 pm on Fri., March 19. Due to covid restrictions, please RSVP at (951) 735-1775 and leave a message. The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the CalRTA Corona-Norco Scholarship Fund.

Brenda Agard

With sadness we report the passing of Brenda Agard, a highly-regarded Norco High School Language Arts teacher. She also taught at the junior high level. Brenda was born on July 11, 1954. She passed away on Nov. 9, 2020.

Scholarship Committee organizing interviews

By Kathy Shepardson

In February we asked CalRTA members to sign up to review packets from scholarship candidates at seven District high schools. Hopefully, we will be able to reinstate interviews next year, as they are extremely rewarding. However, during the pandemic we will do our best with the personal essays, transcripts, letters of recommendation, and applications from our candidates. So far our teams include George Corwin, Melanie Murphy-Corwin, Dennis Crane, Maggie Little, Terry Marzell, Nancy Morgan, Margit Olson, Ulda Revollo, Kathy Shepardson, and Lura Staffanson.

If you would like to contribute toward a scholarship in memory of or in honor of family, friends, or former colleagues, please use the form below. Your gifts will help us to continue the tradition of helping future educators. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

All members invited to virtual Convention 2021

Every CalRTA member can attend this year’s virtual convention May 12 – 14. Sessions will be open to all – whether the general assembly or any of the several special sessions to be hosted by experts in their field with topics ranging from The Future of Learning to Masterplan for Aging.

The keynote speaker is tentatively set to be Tony Thurmond, California Superintendent of Public Education. CalSTRS CEO Jack Ehnes will also share his thoughts on the future for retired educators.

Virtual attendees will also be able to sit in on the Delegate Assembly, though, of course, only registered delegates will be able to vote.

In addition, there will be chat room sessions on Government Relations, Membership and Resources, and Technology.

Planning is still underway, but special focus is being placed on virtual attendance by any CalRTA member. Mark the dates and watch for more information.



Scholarship Gift
CalRTA Corona Norco Division 80 Scholarship Donation Form

Donor’s Name: _____ Date _____ Amount _____

Donor’s Address: _____

In Memory of: _____

Please check one: You may use my name in the newsletter under Scholarship Donations.
 Yes No

Make check payable to CalRTA Div. 80 Scholarship Fund
 Mail to Margit Olson, 2407 S. Cota Ave. Corona, CA 92882-5918

Contact Your Elected Representatives

State Officials

Governor Gavin Newsom

1st Floor State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 445-2841
FAX: (916) 558-3160
<https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/>

Senator Richard Roth (D-31)

Capitol Building, Room 4032
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 651-4031
<https://sd31.senate.ca.gov/send-e-mail>

Assemblywoman Sabrina Cervantes (D-60)

Capitol Office, PO Box 942849, Room 2016
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 319-2060
FAX: (916) 319-2160.
4740 Green River Rd., Suite 310
Corona, CA 92882
Phone: (951) 371-6860
<https://lcmsubcontact.lc.ca.gov>

Assemblywoman Melissa Melendez (R-67)

Capitol Office, PO Box 942849, Room 4009
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 319-2067
<https://lcmsubcontact.lc.ca.gov>

Federal Officials

President Joseph R. Biden

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500
Comments: (202) 456-1111
FAX: (202) 456-2461
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein (D)

Hart Building #331
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 224-3841
<https://www.feinstein.senate.gov>

U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D)

B03 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3553
www.padilla.senate.gov

Congressman Ken Calvert (R-42)

Rayburn Building #2201
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-1986
400 S. Vicentia Ave., Suite 125
Corona, CA 92882
Phone: (951) 277-0042
<https://calvert.house.gov/contact>



“Tell Your Rep Thursdays” are the fourth Thursday of each month. But you don’t have to wait until Thursday to contact your elected officials; you can communicate your concerns to your elected representatives any day.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the California Retired Teachers Association is to mobilize retired teachers to advocate for an independent, financially secure, and fulfilling life, and to provide all educators with the tools to achieve a secure retirement.

View our web page at <https://div80.calrta.org>
Contact the Corona Norco Division 80 at calrtacn@gmail.com

Calendar of Meetings

Below you will find the schedule of Division 80 meetings for the 2020—2021 year. Meetings will take place on Zoom unless otherwise announced. Everyone is welcome to attend all Zoom meetings. Board Meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. General Meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. See page 1 for more about how to attend.

March 26, 2021	Board
April 23, 2021	Board, General
June 4, 2021	Board, General



Beverley Rouse, Membership
Corona Norco, Area IX, Division 80
16471 Brightridge Lane
Riverside, CA 92503

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Time Dated Materials
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