Celebrating Retired Teachers Week

By Ulda Revollo and Terry Lee Marzell, Co-Presidents

Educators all around the state of California celebrated Retired Teachers Week Nov. 1-7. This year is the 22nd year that the celebration was observed.

After years, and sometimes decades, of giving selflessly to their students, their schools, and their communities, California's retired teachers continue to give back through their wallets and their passion for volunteer work. Throughout the state, members of CalRTA donated more than $600,000 in grants, scholarships, and donations to schools, and to current and future teachers last year. In addition, statistics show that retired teachers donated nearly 2 million hours in volunteer work to their communities. These volunteer hours have been valued at nearly $61 million.

To publicize Retired Teachers Week to the community, a press release and a letter to the editor were sent to the Press Enterprise, the Daily Bulletin, and the Chino Champion. Press releases were also submitted to be read into the minutes of the November meetings of the CNUSD School Board and the City Councils of Corona, Norco, and Eastvale.

We will continue to hold meetings via Zoom until we can safely hold in-person group meetings. The next meeting will be held on Fri., Dec. 4, at 9:30 am. Because the Corona Madrigals are unable to perform personally this year, we are looking into organizing some virtual musical entertainment.

The Board meeting is scheduled for 9:30 am and the general meeting will start at 10:30 am. All members are invited to attend both meetings. To join, use Meeting ID number 890 9795 0670. No password is required. We hope to see you there!
Measure GG Report

Beth Kearney, Senior Citizens Representative

Our last meeting was on Sept. 28, 2020, and the first time CNUSD provided financial reports since Feb., 2020.

Eastvale’s portion of Measure GG was 23% of the $396,000,000 bond or $91,080,000. CNUSD budget for Eastvale included building the ESTEM at Roosevelt and Rondo Elementary, and a new HVAC for Roosevelt and building upgrades. At present, Eastvale is way OVERBUDGET. To complete the buildings, money has been used from the Corona budget. The Oversight Committee has been PROMISED by Alan Giles, Assistant Superintendent of Business, and John Vondriska, Administrative Director of Facilities, that those budgeted funds from Corona will be replaced by funding from State Prop 51.

Prop 51 is a state bond proposition passed in 2016. Those bonds have NOT ALL BEEN SOLD yet, and CNUSD is waiting in line to receive funds when they become available. I have continued to voice my concerns with the movement of funds between areas because: (1) The Corona area has some of the oldest facilities and projects have been postponed, and (2) State funds do NOT always come as promised or in a timely manner. To me, it is like making purchases by credit card and not knowing when or if money will be available to meet bills.

According to the original bond and promises from the District, Measure GG tax money raised in one area of CNUSD was to remain in that area. That condition of Measure GG was approved by voters. Mr. Giles and Mr. Vondriska have again REAFFIRMED that by the completion of Measure GG projects, the bond money will balance between areas with Corona receiving 63%, Eastvale receiving 23% and Norco receiving 14% of the total funds.

The total spent in Eastvale for facilities and technology from Series A&B bonds is $118,946,432 ($27,757,342 OVER BUDGET). Series C Bonds have been sold and projects have been identified. Series D has not been sold and the projected budget has not been finalized. The overage for Eastvale might go up even further. While building schools was the emphasis for Eastvale, it did not mean shifting money from one area of the district to accomplish building was permitted.

The last financials showed Roosevelt High School and Barton Elementary had ROOFING done after they knew their budget was over the 23%. This roofing was after Mr. Vondriska said no other projects would be done in Eastvale after ESTEM and Rondo were completed. Roofing is a legitimate project for Measure GG. BUT, that roofing cost ($908,530) could have been spent on roofing for Corona area schools.

When asked about the expenditure, neither Mr. Giles nor Mr. Vondriska could rationalize why roofing Eastvale schools came from Measure GG rather than maintenance funds. As of this newsletter, there is at least one Corona area school needing roof repairs that I know. There are other Corona projects that could have used those GG funds.
Treasurer’s Report

By Margit Olson

This is the Treasurer’s Report for Oct. 23, 2020.

Checking account balance: $13,397.94
Savings account balance: $5,392.30
Donations received since July, 1, 2020: $1,125.00

Scholarship donations in October received from:

Mary Paulson, in memory of Michael Olson
Nancy Emch, in memory of Erma Paloma
Mary Ward, in memory of Michael Olson
Christine Whitlock, in memory of Donna Schneider

Supporting CNUSD teachers during the Covid pandemic

The current Covid pandemic has been incredibly stressful, especially for teachers who are still working. Many retired teachers are offering support for classroom teachers in a variety of ways, including tutoring school-age grandchildren, helping adult children who are teachers with lesson preparation, or babysitting so parents can devote their day-time attention to their students.

As an organization, CalRTA is also offering support for CNUSD teachers. Division 80 will be presenting one teacher at each school site in the district with one $10 gift card to Starbucks. The recipient of each gift card will be selected in a random drawing.

“As retired teachers, we know how hard it is to keep up in regular times, much less in this unprecedented time,” expressed Beth Kearney in an email to CNTA teachers on behalf of Division 80. “We are behind you and you are appreciated.”

Members of the Division 80 Board conducted the Oct. meeting via Zoom. Top row, left to right, Ulda Revollo, Terry Marzell, Doris Osko. Middle row: Shirley Sessions, Beverly Rouse, Maureen Macomber. Bottom row: Beth Kearney, Margit Olson, Kathy Shepardson.
CalRTA explains purpose of Political Action Committee

CalRTA is a nonpartisan organization; nevertheless, the organization is politically active. Since its founding in 1929, CalRTA has actively organized and advocated for public education and the protection and enhancement of the benefits of retired educators. CalRTA does not endorse or fund partisan political candidates.

In addition, in order to effectively communicate its position on ballot measures that affect public education and educators’ retirement security, CalRTA has created an independently-financed Political Action Committee (CalRTA PAC).

The organization has many outlets to educate its members, but needs a legal vehicle to help all citizens become informed voters on these key issues. When communicating with the public about why CalRTA advocates for a “yes” vote for ballot initiatives protecting the retired educator pension system or a “no” vote against those that undermine the system, the law requires us to make the expenditure through a PAC.

To learn more, follow this link to calrta.org.

Recipients of Fall classroom teacher grants announced

CalRTA has announced they are continuing to offer classroom teacher grants, despite the challenges presented by the current pandemic. This year, two programs of 40 grants each will be offered. Each recipient will receive $100 to support their virtual teaching goals.

The recipients for the Fall 2020 program have been announced. One is Jerry Goar, a math teacher at Auburndale Junior High School. To view the entire recipient list, click on calrta.org.

Applications for the Spring 2021 program will be accepted from Feb. 17, 2021, through March 7, 2021. For answers to questions about how to apply for the Spring program, classroom teachers can email outreach@calrta.org.

Funding for the classroom teacher grants comes from the CalRTA Educational Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is, “To provide professional development opportunities and grants for educators that will enrich their instruction and enliven the learning experience of their public school students.”

Many teachers are Veterans. We thank you for your service.

CalRTA Division 80 Co-President Ulda Revollo prepares the Oct. issue of the Lemon Twist to take to the post office for mailing. About 200 Division 80 members receive their newsletters through the US mail, and the rest receive their newsletters in email format.
Have You Heard?

Yolanda Carias enjoys local activities

Division 80 Board member Doris Osko had the pleasure of chatting with CalRTA member Yolanda Alvarado Carias when Doris was helping to verify information for this year’s directory. Yolanda mentioned that she reads the Lemon Twist cover-to-cover and always enjoys hearing about her colleagues. She said being in her particular mobile home park in Laguna Woods has been wonderful during these troubling times because there is a network of friends and activities to keep her occupied. Yolanda is particularly interested in art projects and a place and group has been formed to pursue art. She is, of course, self-distancing, but there are various ways to keep in touch in this very friendly park.

Buenrostro named new Superintendent

The CNUSD School Board has announced that they have selected Sam Buenrostro to fill the position of CNUSD Superintendent. He’ll replace current Superintendent Michael Lin, who announced in August his intention to retire. Mr. Buenrostro has been employed in the District for 21 years. currently serves as the Deputy Superintendent in charge of Instructional Support, and formerly served as the principal of Centennial High School.

In Remembrance

Sue Simmons

With great sadness we report the passing of CalRTA Division 80 member Sue Simmons. Sue was born Oct. 14, 1938, in Cleveland, Ohio. Sue graduated from Shaw High School in Cleveland in 1956, and then enrolled at first Ohio Wesleyan and then Miami of Ohio, where she earned her Bachelor’s degree. After she graduated from college, Sue moved to California, where she accepted a position in the Anaheim School District. Two years later she transferred to Corona Norco Unified Schools, where she taught for 33 years. Sue enjoyed quality time with family, camping, traveling, mountain skiing, and trips to the river and desert. Sue passed away Oct. 13, 2020.

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 Lemon Twist editor Terry Marzell at terrymarzell@gmail.com.
Directory Updates

By Beverley Rouse, Membership Vice President

The new 2020-2021 Directories were mailed to all members on Oct. 20, 2020. Here I am at right at the post office completing the mailing. Even though the directory has been updated, already there are corrections. Here are the November UPDATES for the Purple 2020-2021 Directory.

Send your updates to beverleyrouse@sbcglobal.net or call (951) 689-9861.

Updates:   Carlile, Donna  gvemehoch@aol.com

Crane, Dennis (951)642-2899

DeVlieger, Carolyn
11377 N. Drover
Hayden, ID 83835

Donlon, Carol (213) 248-3399

Deceased Member:  Sue Simmons

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://lcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov

Assemblywoman Melissa Melendez (R-67)
Capitol Office, PO Box 942849, Room 4009
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 319-2067
https://lcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov

Federal Officials

President Donald Trump
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 Kamala Harris (D)
Hard Building #112
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 224-3553
FAX: (202) 224-2200
https://www.harris.senate.gov/contact/email

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.

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. See page 1 for the Meeting ID number and password for the next meeting.

Everyone is welcome to attend all Zoom meetings. Board Meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. General Meetings begin at 10:30 a.m.

December 4, 2020  Board, General
January 22, 2021  Board
February 26, 2021  Board, General
March 26, 2021  Board
April 23, 2021  Board, General
June 4, 2021  Board, General