



Your partner in pension protection

# Newsletter

## President's Message

"The Secret to Getting Ahead is Getting Started" –  
Mark Twain

Welcome back to another year of lots of good things, new and old. A select group of leaders has already met with me and we are "getting started". Many Division 10 goals were accomplished last year: travel, game days, excellent programs after good meetings, more grants to new teachers and scholarships for teachers in training. A delicious luncheon produced loads of volunteer hours. Officers and chairs worked overtime to make you proud of our division. We also hosted the Area VI Conferences again and the Spring meeting followed a new format that was very well received.

This year we should see our building rentals pick up. (Remember our building for parties and donations!) Century Club is a great opportunity to help day to day operations. Halcyon apartments are increasingly becoming yearly rather than monthly rentals. There was a reasonable rent increase and all units are currently occupied. There will be some physical changes to the entrance to the Ed Center that should keep the area clean.

Finally, I am thankful for all your support. Even though you may not attend business meetings, we value your membership! Of course, we would enjoy your "Howdy!" and updates at the monthly meetings. We will continuously alert you to what you can do to help all of us keep our retirement benefits.

*Richard E. Harris, President*

## Travel—11:00 am - September 9, 2015

We are looking forward to our division meeting in Sept. The program will feature travel. Memories of the Southern Charm trip taken in April 2015 will be shared. Matt Kellogg from Collette Travel will be our main speaker. His presentation will highlight the American Heritage trip planned for April of 2016. If you have any questions, this is the time to ask. Several people have already reserved their space on the trip. Remember to reserve yours while you can still get the \$100.00 DISCOUNT. Brochures are available on a table in the hallway. Pick one up if you don't already have one.

It's time to get started again with our last Wednesday of the month activity day. In our survey, several people requested a visit to a local historical site. We are excited to announce that arrangements have been made to visit the Kingsburg Historical Park. We will meet at 10:00 A.M. at the site located at 2321 Sierra in Kingsburg on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2015. Fees are \$3.00 per person. Please car pool if you can. Hope to see you there. For questions or directions, call Jacqueline Harper at 960-2262 or Gladys Griffith at 896-1390.

## Calendar Sept, 2015

Sept. 1	Division Board Meeting	9:00 am
	Foundation Board Meeting	10:30 am
Sept. 7	Labor Day	
Sept. 9	Library Social	9:00 am
	Blood Pressure Checks	9:00 am
	Division Business Mtg.	10:00 am
	<b>Travel</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
	Lunch	12:00 pm
Sept. 25	Area VI meeting	8:30 am
Sept. 30	Kingsburg Park	10:00 am

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## September Menu

Please make checks payable to Lourdes Burge -\$12



Garden Salad  
Grilled Pork Chops  
Rice Pilaf  
Glazed Carrots  
Dinner Rolls  
Pineapple Upside down  
Cake

Phone reservations appreciated  
by 5 p.m. Sunday before the meeting to:  
Jan Peterson 227-6575

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## Treasurer's Report— Aug. 1

**Savings \$ 2,870.21**  
**Checking \$ 12,411.10**  
**Total \$ 15,281.31**

Contact Mike Farley for full financial report at  
mstioga1@me.com

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## 'Tis to Laugh

A good time to keep your mouth shut...  
when you're in deep water.



Why is it that at class reunions...  
you feel younger than everyone else looks?

There are no new sins...  
the old ones just get more publicity.

There are worse things than getting a call for a  
wrong number at 4 am..... like it could be the right  
number.

I've reached the age where.... "happy hour" is a nap.

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## Memorials, Summer 2015

**Eileen Kilner,**  
**Donald Martin,**  
**Don Wright**  
*Bette Samuelson*

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## Welcome New Members!

Janice Boyd  
Linda Hudson  
Robert W. Jost  
Gretchen J. Miller  
Robin Ann Pfeiffer  
Terese De Boer  
Freddie Jimenez  
Beverly Miller  
Mary Perich  
Janine Reeves

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## Member Spotlight

Applause! Janice Noga, one of our members, was in New York in the spring presenting her one-woman show *Off Broadway. Janka* is the story of the mother of her husband Oscar Space. He wrote the play based on a letter, written by his mother, telling of her experiences during the Holocaust. The letter told of her being in Auschwitz and Dachau. The very moving play will be presented in October at *2nd Space*. For more information call Barbara Mendes 435-7659.

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## Zoo Mobile

Last June we had a wonderful visit from Sharon Nelson, docent, and the traveling zoo! She brought an armadillo, snake, owl and skunk. The crowd was enthralled! The armadillo walked around and we touched all the animals. Lots of cool comments. Thanks Sharon and the Chaffee Zoo!  
Donna Garcia, Vice President

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## Come One! Come All!

The Retired Teachers' Chorus resumes rehearsals on Thursday, September 17, in the library. If you enjoy singing, please join us for get-acquainted social time at 9:00 AM, with rehearsal starting at 9:30. It is not necessary to be able to read music, and there are no auditions. Please come – and bring a friend!

*Sandra Bright, Chorus Director*



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## In Memoriam

John Robert "Bob" Canfield  
James Crump  
Georgia Cucuck  
Mary Dernick  
Donald Fillmore  
Eileen Kilner  
Don Martin  
Bill Musick  
Joyce Opperman  
Esther Prinz  
Mary Jane VanHoosan  
Gerlinda Wirzfeld-Olvera

*"A teacher affects eternity: he can never tell where his influence stops."*

*Henry Adams*

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## Legislative News

### Protect Retirement Security

Petitions for the "Voter Empowerment Act of 2016" may be on the street soon. DO NOT SIGN THE PETITIONS!

If this proposition were to pass:

- \* It could destabilize the state pension fund and the state would become liable to make up the difference.
- \* It would undermine teacher recruitment.
- \* it could create 1,700 different plans (rather than STRS only) creating chaos if a teacher changed districts.
- \* it could eliminate vested rights.
- \* it would impact women the most.

I will have more details for you at our September meeting.

*Jan Drenth, Legislative Chair*

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## Library Social

Refreshments will be served at 9:00 am on Wednesday, September 9, in the Library. Gladys Griffith will entertain us on the piano. Sandra Imbrogna and Bev Thompson will serve refreshments. Thanks to all who help make our social such a success!



*Stella Helghatian, Chair*

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## Cheer & Courtesy

Our friends may need a card of cheer, sympathy or encouragement. I'm "on duty" all year, so please contact me about anyone who needs this service. *Bette Samuelson, Chair 439-9751*



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## Reporting a Death

Quite often I receive calls requesting information on contacting CalSTRS after the death of a member. My best advice is to look in your pink address booklet, page 18. There it tells you how and why to contact the Sacramento office. Not only do they need to know so that benefit payments can be stopped in a timely manner, but a death benefit check will be mailed to the survivor, or beneficiary. Call the toll-free number at 1 (800)228-5453. Apparently the other number has been disconnected. CalSTRS will provide further information on how to proceed with the claim once they are contacted.

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## Volunteer Hours

Summer is over! Get into a fall routine VOLUNTEER—record the hours and report them to:

Nancy Weiser, 559-222-4106

nngweiser@gmail.com

3025 E Northdale Ave.

Fresno, CA 93726-2319



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## Membership

Reminder—If you get a new phone number or move—even just to a different apartment, please call our office (229-6351) so we can update your information. Thank you. *Carol East, Chair*

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## Pedestrian Safety

The two circumstances in which pedestrians need to be especially careful are: crossing streets, and walking in parking lots—usually to get to or from your parked car. Many times our minds are on other things – what we are going to do at the store, what we just did, where we're going next, plans for tomorrow, talking on the cell phone, etc. Do you remember the popular song, "Did You Ever See a Dream Walking?" That's a good description of a distracted pedestrian.

We all know the dangers involved in crossing streets and what precautions we should take. The situation in parking lots can be more complicated. Usually cars park head-on into diagonal parking spaces in two rows, one to the left and one to the right. In that case you would be walking between two rows of parked cars. When these cars leave, they have to back up, and there is the danger.

The driver usually looks around before he gets in the car, and seeing no pedestrians or other cars looking for a parking space determines it is clear to go. He gets in the car, buckles up, starts the engine, shifts into reverse and starts backing up. The driver remembers that there was no traffic, but there was enough time for a pedestrian to enter the area while he was preparing to start. We all know that vision behind the car is restricted from the driver's position (obstructions, inadequate mirrors, dirty back window, etc.) so it is up to the pedestrian to stay alert. First look for a car with back-up lights on. Back-up lights are usually white/clear (not red or amber) located in the same area as brake lights and taillights, which are red. Back-up lights being on means that the engine is running, the transmission is in reverse and the car could start backing up at any time. If the car stops backing, stay clear, for as long as those lights are on, the car could start backing again. If the back-up lights are on and the stop lights are on, the driver is in reverse with his foot on the brake. This doesn't mean he can see you. If the stop lights go out, he could start moving. The pedestrian has the right-of-way but no protection. Remember this headstone in the cemetery:

*Here lies Jeff Strong  
He was right, dead right  
But he's just as dead  
As if he'd been wrong.*

**DON'T WALK OR STAND BEHIND A CAR WITH BRAKE LIGHTS ON.**

*Bob Clark, Resource*

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## Pages from the Past

### The Library – part three

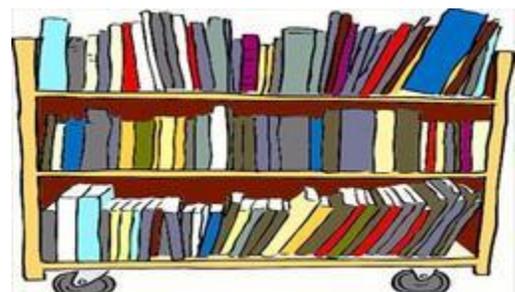
To correct the June article about the library fireplace, not one member, but many members contributed rocks from their travels and donated them for the facing of this unique feature of the Library. After the rocks had been labeled and catalogued, many volunteer hours of "sweat equity" were needed to construct the facing, as well as the fireplace itself.

Volunteer members also constructed shelves, glass cabinets and anything that was needed to make the room beautiful, functional, and relaxing. Committees were formed for accepting donations of furnishings, décor, serving ware and whatever would be desirable for a room that would be used for classes, social hours, and restful activities, as well as reading.

Today we are able to enjoy this lovely room and beautiful building because of the dreams, dedication and hard work of early members. They sacrificed in many ways to provide our association and community with an educational center that would be admired for its beauty and lofty purposes for years to come.

The room is named for David R. Metzler, association president from 1962-64. He was so influential in getting the idea of the center accepted and supported by teachers and the business and educational leaders of the city, county, and surrounding areas. He worked tirelessly and relentlessly along with the finance committees to secure funding, interest, and support for an area educational center, which became a reality in November of 1972, when dedication ceremonies were held, 10 years after his presidency.

*Bette Samuelson, Historian Chair*





## **Area VI Workshop** ***Fresno Retired Teachers Educational Center***

**Friday, 25 September 2015**

***Learn . . . Enjoy . . . Understand***

- ☞ ***Featured speaker - Irene Wetzel , CalRTA Pres Elect***
- ☞ ***Break-out sessions - selected areas***
- ☞ ***Reports - Area & State Committees***
- ☞ ***Division activities roundup***

Attend any sessions you wish.

This is ***your chance*** to learn just what CalRTA is all about . . . how other divisions do things . . . what division leadership is all about . . . where we need to be going in the future.

This is also your chance to meet folks from outside our immediate area and see how their thinking compares with your own.

If you've never visited the Fresno Retired Teacher's Association Educational Center < <http://www.crtafresno.com/> > this will be a real learning experience. Their facilities are great and a delicious lunch is provided.

This workshop is open to **any CalRTA member** interested in learning more.

Ask any board member for info or to reserve your spot.

### ***Who is Irene Wetzel?***

Prior to being elected as CalRTA's President Elect, Irene Wetzel served as chair of the State Legislative Committee, helped launch the Leadership Development Program, and helped lead the CalRTA Advocacy Days.

She is a member of the CalRTA Speakers Bureau and has served as a division president – Area V - Div 23 (San Luis Obispo) – and has been involved at the area and state level for more than 14 years.

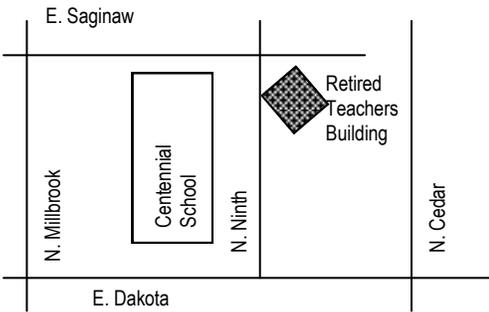
A focus of her remarks will be the pending threat to teachers' retirement – as well as threats to other public pensions. Wetzel says constitutionally guaranteed agreements may be threatened by outside influences forcing ballot initiatives. Legitimate PACs (Political Action Committees) likely face a critical demand for the finances needed to carry undistorted truths to the voting public.

***Don't miss your chance to better understand CalRTA!***

California Retired Teachers Association, Division 10  
3930 E Saginaw Way Fresno, CA 93726  
229-6351

Websites: crtafresno.com, calrta.org, calstrs.com

Address Service Requested



Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit #585  
Fresno, CA

Your Save Mart  
SHARES card  
gives money  
towards our  
scholarships!



Give to a Friend to Join CalRTA - mail to 3930 E. Saginaw Fresno, Ca 93726

## Enrollment Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

\*District: \_\_\_\_\_

\*E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Division # (if you know): \_\_\_\_\_

You may pay \$54 on an annual basis, or have \$4.50 per month deducted from your CalSTRS pension when retired.

Check enclosed, payable to CalRTA     Send me information on CalSTRS deduction

(\*voluntary information)

Mail to:

CalRTA—Fresno Division  
3930 E Saginaw Way  
Fresno, CA 93726

CalRTA membership  
dues are only \$54  
per year. **Join today.**



**Retired or not, please join us!**  
Educators need to stick together.