



Retiree Advocate



STAY CONNECTED • BE PROTECTED • ENJOY BENEFITS

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE SUMMER 2022

So much has happened since the last edition of our ADVOCATE. Yes, our annual **CTA/NEA-Retired Issues Conference** did occur in March in what, I hope, is the last virtual only version of that event. With CTA, we will explore hybrid possibilities. Yes, CTA/NEA-Retired officers did attend the **NEA-Retired Annual Organizing Conference** in Baltimore in late March. It went well and was a lesson on “how to navigate through a multitude of Covid precautions.” Being there, talking and sharing with other state leaders in the nation, was an eyeopener. It revealed to me that California and CTA/NEA-Retired are in many ways ahead of other states in continuing with our union activity, helping Active and Retired members, being politically active, and supporting public education.

Speaking of politics and lawmaking, CTA/NEA-Retired has been in the vanguard of those in the state and nation advocating for law



Orval Garrison
President

CTA/NEA-Retired

changes that directly affect retirees. We have called upon all members with direct email alerts to contact U.S. Senate and House members to support **H. R. 82** and **H. R. 5723**. Our **RAN** system (Retired Action Network) has been activated multiple times also to lobby in support of these measures to repeal the Social Security penalties of GPO/WEP. **H. R. 5723**, in particular, includes a means to fund the repeal. Keep in mind: Elections matter! There is resistance from one party. The success of these bills depends on how the midterm elections go.

At the California state level, we have also been putting on a full-court press to get **SB 868** and **AB 1667** passed. As I write this now, the two bills have passed both Houses and are on the Governor's desk. For more information about **SB 868** and **AB 1667**, see the CTA State Council Year-End Review article on this page. CTA/NEA-Retired has been working doggedly with CTA Legislative Advocates to move these bills forward. Again, elections and politics matter.

I have met with many Active chapter leaders and members. At the closing of this 2021-2022 school year, it is apparent that teachers and other educators are exhausted. We suspect the number retiring will be higher than normal. We always attempt to make contact with all

Continued on page 3

CTA STATE COUNCIL YEAR-END REVIEW

by Dana Dillon, Vice President

In our January edition, we wrote about how the tenaciousness of your CTA/NEA-Retired leadership has paid off; that after years of our advocacy, CTA approved sponsoring legislation that will dramatically help members. Since January, a lot has happened!

The first piece of our sponsored legislation is **SB 868** authored by Dave Cortese, the Chair of the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee. **SB 868** is a proposal for CalSTRS to use the surplus monies in the Supplemental Benefits Maintenance Account Program for the benefit of members retired the longest. Those who retired prior to 1999 will get an increase in payments according to what year they retired.

The second piece of sponsored legislation is **AB 1667** authored by Assemblymember Jim Cooper, Chair of the Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee. **AB 1667** would change how CalSTRS recoups monies that have been overpaid to retirees. Currently with the CalSTRS Overpayment Recovery Program, members who have been overpaid benefits are obligated by law to not only have their benefit reduced, but also to repay to CalSTRS any overpayments – even when the overpayment is due to a mistake made by their district or CalSTRS. The error could result in a retiree being notified that they owe thousands of dollars. Among other improvements, this legislative proposal would make districts and CalSTRS responsible for any overpayment recoveries. No member should have to pay for mistakes made by others!

Your CTA/NEA-Retired leadership and our State Council members worked with our CTA Legislative Advocate, Seth Bramble, to find CTA/NEA-Retired

Continued on page 7

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Orval Garrison
1898 Kellii Way
Fortuna, CA 95540
Home: 707-682-6559
Cell: 805-746-0906
oeghda@gmail.com

Vice President

Dana Dillon
Cell: 530-949-2676
danad.cta.nea.r@gmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Debra Sheehan
Cell: 949-633-7222
Dsheehan.ctanear@yahoo.com

District 1 Director

Don Stauffer
Cell: 916-802-3005
djstauffer@gmail.com

District 1 Director

Lynette Henley
Cell: 707-688-3004
henleyl@aol.com

District 2 Director

Anna Poggi
Cell: 661-809-0123
APPOGI47@gmail.com

District 2 Director

Ken Johnson
Cell: 209-629-6206
mailto:kenj@gmail.com

District 3 Director

Bonnie Shatun
Home: 818-386-9440
Cell: 818-268-1149
bshatun@aol.com

District 3 Director

Anne Johnson-Curtis
Cell: 760-954-4299
nedanne@me.com

District 4 Director

Virginia Torres
Home: 714-322-7789
serrotva@aol.com

District 4 Director

Gerald Gandolfo
Cell: 949-395-1292
maruk@cox.net

Ethnic Minority Director/At-Large

Mary Rose Ortega
Home: 323-254-2919
Cell: 323-839-8857
Mortega25@aol.com

EDITOR

Bonnie Shatun
Email: bshatun@aol.com

PHOTOGRAPHS Retired Members

BOARD REPORT by Debra Sheehan, Secretary-Treasurer

CTA/NEA-Retired Board of Directors
Meeting March 25, 2022

Action Items:

The following items were approved:
to extend the \$300 Chapter Assistance Program from August 31 to December 31, 2022; to support the actions of President Garrison regarding North Bay Retired requests; and to encourage Retired Locals to do continued outreach.

Informational Items:

- **CTA Vice President David Goldberg** stated that the 2022 Initiatives look good for education, School Board elections are a way to identify opposition and candidates to support, and that CTA is looking at technology to improve hybrid meetings. He also discussed racism and anti-vaccination, anti-mask, and anti-trans students' issues.

- **CTA Executive Director Joe Boyd introduced our new Executive Deputy Director Laura Kurre.** Laura and Joe were urged to keep CTA/NEA-Retired involved in political campaigns and activities. Joe discussed the importance of School Board elections and ways to stay involved with Locals.

- **President Orval Garrison** announced election results, which are posted on our website. Our three current officers, Regional Alternates, and NEA Representative Assembly delegates were elected. He announced that Local Chapter Presidents' Outreach virtual meetings are planned for April and May. Orval reminded attendees of \$300 Chapter Development Fund that has been extended through the end of 2022. He updated us on the progress of the Workgroup, which is finalizing Bylaws and Standing Rules proposals, updating materials, and reworking our website. Orval discussed H.R.82 and H.R.5723 (GPO/WEP elimination). Local outreach and virtual meetings were encouraged. Discussion was held about efforts to identify members who drop after their one-year gift membership. Solutions are being pursued.

- **CTA Legislative Advocate Seth Bramble** spoke about AB 1667 (STRS repayment) and SB 868 (Supplementary Benefits Maintenance Account). A discussion was held about the pros and cons of fossil fuel divestment. Seth also talked about AB 1877, which would

change earnings limitations for Special Education teachers.

- **CTA Staff Rose Luna** reported that virtual Retirement Workshops, presented by Service Centers, have been well-attended. She expressed her goal to open these virtual workshops to all. Rose stated that our CTA/NEA-Retired brochures are part of these workshop materials.

- **CalSTRS Board Member Denise Bradford** said that she is on the CalSTRS Appeals Committee which hears appeals from members having to pay back CalSTRS overpayments and other appeals.

- **Vice President Dana Dillon** reported that the May 3, 2022 Webinar about retirement issues will be targeting members aged 50 plus and that the spring membership effort will ask Active CTA Chapter Presidents to submit retiree's names to their CTA Staffperson.

- **Secretary/Treasurer Debra Sheehan** reported that our membership has increased by 1,024 since February 21, 2022, and now totals 20,012. The Russo Scholarship balance is \$10,968. The Pedretti Scholarship balance is \$125,000, with four planned awards of \$1,500 each this coming year -- one per region. The issue of continuous dues had been discussed with CTA and will be further discussed at this summer's CTA/NEA-Retired Board Planning Meeting.

- **Board Members** reported on activities in their regions and membership growth efforts. **Bonnie Shatun** discussed three ballot initiatives that we have been watching which would threaten public education. They did not garner the required signatures and will not be on the November 2022 ballot. She stated that we should start planning for their return in 2024. Retirees will again be called upon for participation.

- **CTA Staff Consultant Brian Stafford** asked for volunteers for the Commission on Professional Competence Panels (dismissal hearings). Retired members are eligible to serve on these panels up to seven years after retirement.

- **NEA Board Member Ed Foglia** provided information about the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting, June 29 - 30, 2022 and the NEA Representative Assembly July 3 - 6. He urged participating in the \$5.00 a month Cup of Joe Campaign for the NEA Fund.

BOARD REPORT AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

by Debra Sheehan, Secretary-Treasurer

CTA/NEA-Retired Board of Directors Meeting January 14, 2022

Action Items: At the Board Meeting, the proposed Bylaw changes and the proposed 2022-2023 budget were approved to send to the Annual Meeting, the Standing Rules were approved, and the Russo Scholarship recipients were announced and approved. At the General Membership meeting, Bylaw changes, 2022-2023 Goals, proposed 2022-2023 Budget, and the formation of a Budget Committee were approved.

Reports:

1) CalSTRS Chair Harry Keeley and Board Member Denise Bradford

thanked us for our institutional knowledge and participation. Harry mentioned that CTA member Ken Tang was appointed to the CalSTRS Board. Denise talked about the Fossil Fuels Divestment issue and why STRS believes in “engagement, not divestment.” They are working on short term climate goals and accelerating the move away from fossil fuels.

2) **President Orval Garrison** announced that our new brochure is coming out soon and that the Workgroup continues to work on updating our website. He presented the Board approved 2022-2023 CTA/NEA-Retired Goals, which the General Membership also approved.

Orval announced the two 2022 Russo Scholarship winners are Joshua Ayala and Jessica Riojas. The new Pedretti Scholarship will start recipient selections later in August. He reviewed the driving efforts of CTA/NEA-Retired on CalSTRS and legislative effort for SB 868 (Supplementary Benefits Maintenance Account) and AB 1667 (Pension Overpayment).

4) **Vice President Dana Dillon** reported that CTA/NEA Retired Membership Webinars are in their second successful year. Virtual Regional Outreach has been completed for Regions 3 and 4, with Regions 1 and 2 to be scheduled. Dana summarized our CTA/NEA-Retired collaboration with CTA Legislative advocates and told of requested actions to support California bills about retirement. She announced plans to update our Retired Action Network (RAN) lists by legislative districts. Dana updated us about the new NEA Membership award.

5) **Secretary/Treasurer Debra Sheehan** reported that our membership has increased by 1,064 from April 2021 to April 2022. The Russo Scholarship balance is \$11,118.00. The Pedretti Scholarship balance is \$125,000.00. Debra presented the proposed 2021-2022 Budget. The motion passed at the Board Meeting and the budget was referred to the Annual Meeting, where it was

approved by the membership.

6) **Board Member Reports** were presented by the Directors at the Annual Meeting. Membership efforts, activities, and hybrid efforts were described for each region. **Bonnie Shatun** discussed CTA and CTA/NEA-Retired organizing efforts. **Mary Rose Ortega** spoke about monthly CARA meetings.

8) **NEA Board Member Ed Foglia** discussed the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 5723) that is currently in the House Ways and Means committee. This bill would repeal the WEP/GPO penalties for teachers and other public employees. Ed feels that this is our best chance to pass this long lobbied for issue because the bill includes a funding source. He asked us all to help. Ed also announced that he is running for re-election to the NEA Board.

9) **Discussion Items:** Dana discussed a group of members who are videotaping conference presenters and trying to undermine CTA activities. The General Membership approved the Board-recommended creation of a Budget Committee.

10) **Information Items:** The next Board Meeting will be held Friday, October 21, 2022 at the Westin Bonaventure in Los Angeles. Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ctanearetired (no “membership” in Facebook required).

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE Continued from Page 1

member retirees by working with Active chapters, CTA Staff Consultants and support staff. If you know of new retirees, I encourage you to tell them about CTA/NEA-Retired. Nothing is automatic.

Members have to join CTA/NEA-Retired to maintain access to a host of Member Benefits available to them—goods & services, travel, legal assistance, disaster relief, and more. A membership application form is available online at www.cta.org/retired. **Scroll down to “Join CTA/NEA-Retired.”**

Things are looking up for our local CTA/NEA-Retired chapters as they are coming out of pandemic hibernation. Chapters are getting together for luncheons and meetings, outdoor/indoor with precautions. Some are planning and having field trips. Most are asking for vaccination assurance and masking. I have heard from **Chico-Retired**, **Delta-Retired**, **South County United-Retired** (San Diego), **High Desert-Retired**, **Stanislaus-Retired**, **San Geronimo-Retired** and others. I myself have recently attended a **Bay Valley-Retired** hybrid event in metro LA and a **Northbay-Retired** gathering in Sonoma County. Reported health studies continue to identify seniors as being vulnerable, and so I call upon all of us to use common sense. **CTA/NEA-Retired now has over 20,000 members**, and we are growing. May our membership be happy and healthy in retirement!



BE SAFE, WEAR
A MASK, GET
VACCINATED
AND BOOSTED

JOHN GRAHAM RECEIVES THE 2022 CTA/NEA-RETIRED ELLEN LOGUE "WHO" AWARD

CTA/NEA-Retired and our WHO Award selection committee are pleased to announce that John Graham has been selected as the 2022 Ellen Logue WHO Award (We Honor Ours) recipient. There only one such honor awarded in a given year and only if there is a candidate deemed worthy.

John Graham is more than worthy. John was a member of the Hemet Teachers Association for many years, holding various positions of responsibility. He has served on CTA State Council, was an Alternate NEA Director, and has been president of the San Geronio-Retired chapter during very challenging times.

John is a frequent attendee at CTA/NEA-Retired Board meetings, attending as a member at both in-person and virtual meetings and self-funding his participation with our Retiree affiliate of CTA and NEA in California. John has also been an elected Delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly multiple times.

His leadership as president of San Geronio-Retired has been outstanding.



Photographic credit goes to John's wife, JoAnn, who took the picture when the trophy arrived at their home.

Members have reported his determination not to let the San Geronio chapter wither or disappear because of a worldwide pandemic. John attempted to become the "master of all things Zoom," as he scoured the internet for virtual programs of interest to members. His communications to members included

postal mail, emails, texts, and phone calls, all in an effort to keep San Geronio members connected. The chapter even raised a substantial donation of money for a local charity when in-person meetings were possible.

State leaders have taken notice of John Graham's extraordinary political activity on behalf of public education and candidates friendly to education. When phone banking was organized, one could always count on John to be there taking part, for example, in the No on Recall campaign or lobbying for local or California candidates supportive of educators and public education. John does not ask others to do the job without participating himself.

We congratulate John Graham for being selected as the 2022 Ellen Logue WHO Award recipient!



CTA Bay Valley-Retired held its first hybrid meeting on May 18. Members could come for lunch or attend via Zoom. CTA Retired President Orval Garrison reviewed the year's many accomplishments, gave CalSTRS and CalPERS updates, and shared tips to have a fun and secure retirement. BV-R President Carol Mathews asked for speaker and field trip suggestions. At the end, those in person gathered at the large screen to visit with friends attending by Zoom.



NEWS FLASH! Social Security Offsets ALERT!

Friday, July 15th was a historic day! For the first time ever, legislation to repeal the onerous Social Security Offsets will be moved to the floor in the House of Representatives! House Rules mandate that a bill that has 290 co-sponsors must have a floor vote. Last Friday, House Resolution 82 (HR 82) was filed with 291 co-sponsors by its authors Representatives Davis and Graves. This is the farthest any legislation to repeal the offsets has gone.

Members should continue to push their House Representatives to vote yes on HR 82 when it comes to the House floor for a vote, which could happen as early as late August or September.

Attention also now shifts to urging Senators to vote on Senate Bill 1302 (S 1302) which is the Senate companion bill to HR 82. S 1302, introduced in April of 2021, is stuck in the Senate Committee on Finance. While both California Senators Feinstein and Padilla have signed on as co-sponsors, contacting them and urging them to move the bill out of committee and to the Senate floor would be welcomed.





CTA President E. Toby Boyd addressed the Friday morning session and said that retired members are a vital resource for CTA. He thanked us for our activism on many issues important to our schools including supporting Proposition 15 and opposing the recall of Governor Newsom. Keeping our members, students and families safe is always our priority. CTA has also been on the front lines advocating for vaccinations, testing, improved ventilation and other measures to keep virus cases down in our schools. He pledged that CTA would continue to be the leader in advocating for CalSTRS and CalPERS.

President Boyd also spoke about the work CTA is doing to promote the concept of Community Schools. It begins with meeting with community stakeholders to ask what's needed so each child has their best education experience. Services available should include educators, nurses, counselors and social services to support students and their families.



Mary Kusler, NEA's Senior Director for Advocacy, reported on the positive impact of NEA's Day of Action to end the unfair tax on educator retirements by repealing GPO/WEP. These penalties affect more than 700,000 educators, mostly women who would be losing their entire spousal benefit. It also penalizes 1.9 million who worked in other jobs. NEA is supporting two bills and Mary said she is seeing actual movement for the first time. Under the Biden administration, education is receiving the largest financial investment in history and, that as she was speaking, the first African American woman, Ketanji Brown Jackson, was meeting with Senators in preparation for her confirmation vote. She closed by stressing that elections do matter and we cannot sit this one out. Our democracy itself is at risk.

CTA/NEA-RETIRED'S 18TH ANNUAL ISSUES CONFERENCE MET VIRTUALLY --AGAIN

By Bonnie Shatun, District 3 Director

This year's CTA/NEA-Retired Issues Conference was held on March 3-4 and once again was virtual due to COVID-19 concerns. The 278 participants had the opportunity to watch the sessions live or view any of the sessions online during the two weeks following the conference.

NEA-Retired President Sarah Borgman addressed the group from her home in Indiana. She shared that retired members make up 10 per cent of NEA's membership and contributed one fourth of the political contributions that NEA collected last year. She acknowledged that these are challenging times but our schools are the last, best hope for our Democracy and we as leaders must never remain silent. CTA President E. Toby Boyd and Mary Kusler, NEA's Senior Director for Advocacy, also addressed the Conference. (See side insert.)

One of the elective sessions I attended was the "2022 Political Landscape" given by Michael Borges, CTA's Political Action Manager. He reviewed the statewide initiatives currently in signature gathering and shared the wonderful news that the two Voucher Initiatives were unlikely to have enough signatures to qualify them for the November ballot but urged us to get ready for the fight because they may roll over to the 2024 general election. Up for election in California this November are our eight Constitutional Officers (including Superintendent of Public Education Tony Thurmond), one U.S. Senate seat (Senator Alex Padilla), 52 Congressional seats, 100 State Assembly and State Senate seats, as well as County Superintendent and Board of Education positions. **Members are urged to go to www.cta.yourvoter.guide for a list of candidates where you live that are recommended and for CTA positions on upcoming ballot measures.**

I also attended a wonderful session on Cyber Security Basics given by CTA Staffperson Elyse Dixon. She said that

security breaches and Ransomware are projected to cost more than \$6 trillion annually and to be careful using sites that can't be verified. She suggested hovering over links to see if they're actually coming from a trusted source like a favorite news site and beware of clicking on pop-up ads. A few more tips she gave are: 1. Analyze all incoming communications. 2. Verify the sender by hovering over or double clicking on the sender's email address or hitting the reply button to show the actual email address, 3. Logos are easy to copy. Be suspicious of content that has bad spelling, is asking for personal information or for you to do something urgently. 4. It's OK to open an email to look but think before you click on links or attachments. She also advised only going to secure sites that start with https – the s is for secure, stop using Internet Explorer and be sure your passwords are different, long and strong or use a Password Manager. Elyse is available to present similar workshops for our Retired Chapters. She can be reached at EDixon@cta.org.

Sessions were also offered on CalSTRS, Travel Tips, Member Benefits, Extremist Activities, Medicare, Your Rights in the Hospital, Community Schools, Clutter Cleaners, and more. Do plan to attend next year's CTA/NEA-Retired Issues Conference scheduled for March 16-17. We will be working with CTA and hope to hold a hybrid conference to allow members to attend in person or participate virtually.

At our Friday afternoon semi-annual General Meeting, CTA/NEA-Retired President Orval Garrison reported on the Membership Workgroup's progress improving our website and updating the Bylaws and Standing Rules which will be presented to the membership for approval. He discussed the two CTA/NEA-Retired Scholarships: the Sharilyn Russo Scholarships for Speech Pathology and Audiology and the new Pedretti scholarships for students in K-12

Continued on page 6



After several virtual meetings and fieldtrips, Bay Valley-Retired had a chance to boldly go where no chapter has gone before – to the Star Trek: Exploring New Worlds exhibit at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles. They even experienced the Enterprise Transporter.

“SPRING INTO ACTION: DECLUTTER, DECOLONIZE, ORGANIZE” SETS THE TONE FOR CTA’S EQUITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

By Mary Rose Ortega, Ethnic Minority At-Large Director

The 2022 CTA Equity and Human Rights Conference was held on March 4-6th at the Los Angeles Bonaventure Hotel. The conference began with a Welcome Reception and Dinner. Vice President David Goldberg spoke about the historical content of what has happened in the last two years and how it impacted our country and our communities. Another issue he discussed was how labor union rights and middle-class rights have been decimated. Our union has gone from one of the smallest labor unions to the biggest. He talked about the need to build collaboration and take care of each other and our own emotional needs because we have a lot of work to do. He ended with expressing the need for community schools.

On the second day of the conference, the workshop sessions covered the theme of “Spring into Action” through the lens of main categories: Awareness, Skills and Capacity. A few workshop titles included Multiraciality in Education, Creating Authentic Ethnic Studies Pathways from High School to College and An Introduction to Anti-Bias Education. During lunch there was a presentation by Jarvis R. Givens, an Assistant Professor of Education and African & African American Studies at Harvard University. He specializes in the history of African American Education and published his first book, *Fugitive Pedagogy: Carter G. Woodson and the Art of Black Teaching*. Following the workshops, there was a Racial Equity

Affairs Committee (formerly EMAC) Forum and Ethnic Caucus meetings.

On Saturday evening, at the CTA Human Rights Awards Dinner, CTA President E. Toby Boyd recognized the awardees by saying that these “educators are showing us how to tackle our past and present honestly, confront injustice, and educate with integrity and courage”. Awardees recognized were: VanCedric Williams, Christina Alaniz, Guadalupe Carrasco Cardona, Telly Tse, Juli Stowers, Vanessa Aranda, Daniel Gallegos, Magret Nunes and the Sacramento City Teachers Association.

On Sunday morning there was a Forum hosted by the Sexual Orientation Gender Identity Issues Advisory Committee followed by a Women’s Rights Committee Forum. Also, the LGBTQ+ and the Women’s Caucuses met before the last session. In the closing address President Boyd discussed how important the sessions are to a better understanding of our work as educators. He also mentioned the work that educators do beyond their daily work, the importance of the Supreme Court Justice nominee, and the effects of COVID on our educators and students. Lastly, he spoke about the need to continue the fight against vouchers, fight for our minority and LGBTQ+ students and the importance of basic human rights.

CTA/NEA-RETIRED’S 18TH ANNUAL ISSUES CONFERENCE MET VIRTUALLY -- AGAIN

Continued from Page 5

credential programs. He reviewed our legislative and political activity and reported that the Retired Action Network (RAN) was activated several times to support state and federal legislation. Vice President Dana Dillon reported on the success of the statewide Member Benefits/Retirement Workshops and the Sacramento State Sustainability Symposium about divestment

and engagement in fossil fuels. Secretary-Treasurer Debra Sheehan reported that our membership increased by 1,009 members since the same time last year and now totals 19,936. A highlight of our closing session was the announcement of the Ellen Logue CTA/NEA-Retired We Honor Ours (WHO) Award. Congratulations to John Graham! (See article on page 4)



Your CTA/NEA-Retired membership cards will be in the upcoming October edition of the *California Educator*. Also in the issue will be an overview of the benefits of being a member -- from protections such as legal services to savings on insurance, travel and purchases as well as information about how to access those benefits.



In March, CTA State Council returned to in-person meetings observing strict COVID protocols. Pictured during an outdoor break are (from left) Board Members Lynette Henley, Anne Johnson-Curtis, Ed Foglia (NEA Board), Dana Dillon, Ken Johnson, Orval Garrison, Gerald Gondolfo, Debra Sheehan, Don Stauffer, Virginia Torres, and Bonnie Shatun. Anna Poggi was excused.

CTA STATE COUNCIL YEAR-END REVIEW Continued from Page 1

members to testify on these bills. Member Ed Foglia testified on SB 868 before the Senate Committee and member Tom Conry testified on AB 1667. In addition to the testimony, CTA/NEA-Retired put together teams to lobby members of the Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees. Both bills passed easily in their committees of origin, their respective appropriations committees, and the house floors. We'd like to give a big shout out to all our members who participated. Thank you all!

When the bills crossed over to the opposite house, CTA/NEA-Retired once again had members testifying on our behalf. Ed Foglia testified on SB 868 in front of the Assembly PERS Committee and CTA/

NEA-Retired member Georgia Moore (former San Ramon Valley Education Assn member) testified on AB 1667 in front of the Senate PERS Committee. Our bills needed to be out of the Senate and Assembly by the end of August. Governor Newsom has until September 30th to sign or veto the bills.

While these two bills have been a major priority for CTA/NEA-Retired this past year, please don't forget that your nine State Council representatives sit on several of CTA's State Council committees. We have representation on CTA's Retirement, Political Involvement, Civil Rights in Education, State Legislation, Tenure and Academic Freedom, Assessment and Testing, and Student Support Services

committees. And, your representatives are not shy and make sure CTA is aware of retiree voices when debating policy.

An excellent example is the debate that occurred during the May State Council meeting over a New Business Item that would require CalSTRS to divest from fossil fuels. Based on CTA Policy, the CTA Retirement Committee took an oppose position on the NBI. Your representatives on the Retirement Committee debated the issue in committee and on the floor of Council. After debate had ended, State Council voted to support the Retirement Committee's decision and opposed the NBI for fossil fuel divestment.



Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond thanked representatives at the the May CTA State Council for recommending his re-election. He said people don't know how hard educators work especially now when systems are experiencing such hard times. He pledged to provide the resources to support educators and prioritize students to help every child recover from the challenges of the pandemic. His very inspiring speech is available on YouTube.



ATTENTION NEWLY RETIRED MEMBERS

If you retired this year, you must notify the CTA Membership Department by calling 650-552-5278 or send an email to membership@cta.org notifying CTA of your change in status. You will not be able to vote in the CTA/NEA-Retired elections or run for retired offices if you are still listed as "Pre-Retired!"



Retiree Advocate

CTA/NEA-Retired
California Teachers Association
1705 Murchison Drive, Burlingame CA 94010

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID
OAKLAND, CA
PERMIT NO. 379

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



LOOKING TO RENT A CAR?

One of the important advantages of belonging to CTA/NEA-Retired is the many amazing discounts available through the Member Benefits programs. A popular one is for car rentals. The pandemic was a challenge for car rental companies. Some went bankrupt. The once favorite Enterprise has changed its relationship with Retired members. There is now a separate access code for us and it may not always be the best rate. If you want a deal, also search out rental cars through CTA Member Benefits **ACCESS to Savings Program** (www.ctamemberbenefits.org), or go to NEA Member Benefits **Travel Program** or **NEA Discount Marketplace** (www.neamb.com).



On May 11, the Chico Retired Chapter held a luncheon for retirees from Chico, Oroville, Paradise, Corning and Orland. President Jim Burfeind asked each member to share a little about their retired life. Guest speaker Kevin Moretti, President of Chico Unified Teachers Association, was asked to describe the current situation in local schools and highlight areas where retired members could be helpful. CTA-Retired Board Member Ken Johnson gave a report on the work being done to repeal the GPO/WEP.

