

Retiree

CSEA

NEWSLETTER

SPRING | 2022

A Publication of
California
School
Employees
Association



Barrow Hall is the district's first building dedicated to a classified employee.

Clara "Jewel" Barrow

- 3 Retiree Leadership Conference
- 5 Upcoming RUEB meetings
- 6 Avoiding scams
- 10 Retiree talent benefits
Granny Grants fundraiser

School building dedicated to CSEA retiree

by David Ngô

Outside the halls of Tamalpais High School's newly christened Barrow Hall, a bronze plaque hangs in dedication to a cherished classified employee with the same name.

Located in Marin County, Barrow Hall was renamed to honor Clara "Jewel" Barrow, a retired paraeducator and current member of Marin Retiree Council 5013.

"Jewel was a very well-respected figure at Tam, having a positive impact on students, staff, and the community," said J.C. Farr, principal

of Tamalpais High School. "Jewel was instrumental in the development of so many young people, so we thought it was befitting to name a building after her."

Within the 110-year history of the school, Barrow's impact spans over 50 years as a student, graduate and employee. Before joining Tamalpais CSEA Chapter 549, Barrow's career began in 1968 as a switchboard operator before becoming an instructional aide and paraeducator, among other roles.

Throughout her time at Tamalpais High, Barrow has truly seen it all when it comes to racial equity: from the school's race riots in the '60s, to renaming the mascot from "Indians" to "Red Tailed Hawks" in the '80s. Today, Barrow Hall stands as a powerful reminder of how far we have come and how much further we must go for racial equity in public education.

"Most of the kids back then had different classes from one another, which I really didn't know about until I found out some were for so-called 'lower' students," Barrow said. "A lot of students had no idea about the differences until somewhere in the '60s, they found out we were treated unfairly. So, there were

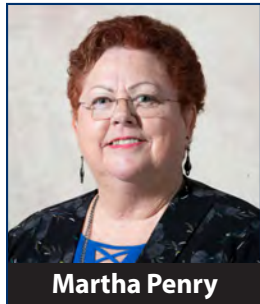
(continued on page 8)

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: Candidate ads for RUEB Secretary, page 14

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Opportunities in full swing this spring

Spring has definitely sprung! Beautiful blossoms, allergies, watery eyes!
Yep, it is definitely spring!



Martha Penry

With the new season, we have all seen a drop in COVID cases and an opportunity to get out and

about. I was able to recently celebrate my husband's birthday with our family, whom we had not seen for almost a year. We still took precautions, but it sure was great to see everyone and get those warm and long overdue hugs! Please, continue to be diligent and cautious. Mask up, wash your hands frequently and enjoy your time together. Mike and I are already scheduled for our "new booster" shot and look forward to another ounce of prevention.

I would like to thank our Association President Shane Dishman and Executive Director Keith Pace for listening to you, our members, and the Retiree Unit Executive Board. When I was inundated with concerns about the "postcard announcements" ending in June, I asked for a meeting with Shane and Keith. They listened

to our concerns and agreed that they will remain - indefinitely!

As we move toward the end of another school year, many members are considering retirement. We all know there's nothing better! Please, give them an application for the Retiree Unit so they continue to receive all the benefits of being a member, including the FREE \$5,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment policy! They can sign up today at <http://csea.com/joinru>. It's only \$36 per year! Yep, per year. And members are still eligible for the FREE college program; Humanitarian assistance;

amusement park, movie and restaurant discounts; and so much more! Additionally, that \$36 can be deducted directly from their CalPERS pension. All they have to do is mark the

box! We'd love to see them at our next council meeting!

In March, the RUEB voted to hold our May meeting in District H. We are excited to celebrate our amazing District H Director Jim Vinion as he steps down from our board (See an article about him on page 4). He will be with us through the annual conference, but we need to send him off with an outpouring

of love and gratitude! PLEASE, join us if you are able on May 11 at 10 a.m.

Our annual Granny Grants are now open for [applications](#) and the form is available on the new website. This year, the award amount is \$250. Please be sure that the application, when completed, is turned in to your Council president. DO NOT send directly to the Chair's designee or it will be returned.

Until next time, please enjoy this weather and the beautiful blossoms! Get outside, go hiking, or do some gardening; both are great exercise!

And remember, I may be retired but I'm Still In!



Martha Penry

**"We are excited to celebrate
our amazing District H
Director Jim Vinion as he steps
down from our board"**

- Martha Penry, Retiree Unit Executive Board
(RUEB) Chair

Please do not forget the new CSEA policy (GIB 50-21, October 4). For all in-person CSEA statewide functions; all attendees are required to be vaccinated and must show proof to attend, regardless of whether the meetings are held in a CSEA facility. Councils do not have this same requirement. They are required to follow all CDPH and local county guidelines as described in the CSEA Return to Work Guide. You may set up a confidential file with a copy of your vaccination card by sending an uploaded photo to vaxcard@csea.com.



2018 Retiree Leadership Conference.

Save the Date: September 25-27 Retiree Leadership Conference

Nothing can replace the spontaneity and contagious fanfare that comes with live events. The upcoming Retiree Leadership Conference will be a celebration of coming together once again as attendees gather September 25-27 at the Holiday Inn in Downtown Sacramento.

This conference is for leadership to learn transformative topics to take back to their members. Attendees can look forward to a benefits



fair, fabulous speakers, including Association President Matthew "Shane" Dishman and a full lineup of interesting topics including senior scams, (see an article about this topic on page 6), how to work with your membership list, and much more. There will also be plenty of exciting and fun activities.

The details are still being ironed out and information will be released via email in the months to come, so be sure to keep an eye on your inbox.

Help us stay connected!



CSEA and the Retiree Unit use email communication to send you important information about meetings, elections, your benefits, and more.

To stay informed, please send your email address, phone number, and mailing address to memberbenefits@csea.com or visit www.csea.com/email.

Retiree Unit Executive Board contacts:

Chairperson	Martha Penry (916) 899-9079 mpenryruebchair@gmail.com
Secretary	Teri Minoux (760) 500-0893 rueb_secretary@aol.com
District A Director	Carla Held (530) 990-9923 carla4csea@gmail.com
District B Director	Paulette Foster (415) 246-9351 pfoster.rr80@gmail.com
District C Director	Jill Scott (925) 360-1115 districtcdirector@gmail.com
District D Director	Beth Kieffer (661) 406-0455 101grammytoo@gmail.com
District E Director	Faye Lane (209) 537-1425 fylane@aol.com
District F Director	Susan Adams (909) 816-9025 sbailadams@aol.com
District G Director	Christina Berumen (213) 712-6768 cbbgptch38@yahoo.com
District H Director	James Vinion (714) 318-8954 csearueb.h@gmail.com
District I Director	Sandy Valadez (818) 353-2338 sannvalley@gmail.com
District K Director	Sandy Dabney (760) 822-9316 sandydabney@aol.com
District O Director	Roberta McElfresh (760) 254-2715 robo_8@hotmail.com
Coordinator	Debb Jachens (408) 433-1309 djachens@csea.com

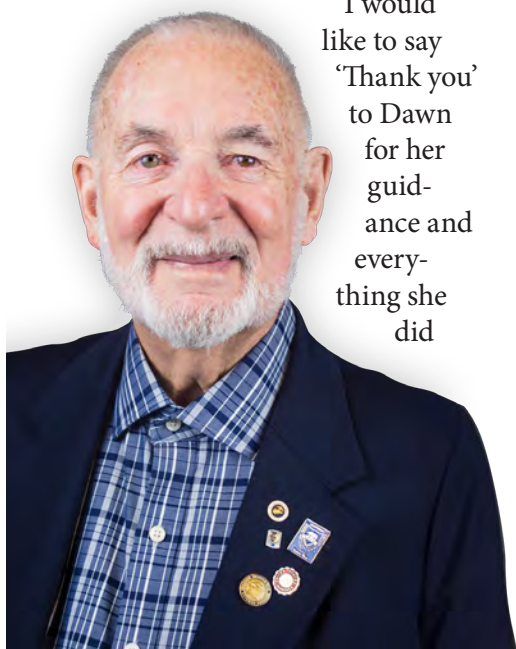
District H Director Jim Vinion departing RUEB after 22 years

by Shannon Carr

The Retiree Unit Executive Board Meeting on May 11 will mark the end of an era for District H Director Jim Vinion. The CSEA Honor Roll member will bookend his 22 years on the board with the meeting dedicated in his honor, being held at the Ayres Hotel in Orange, Calif. Vinion's term will expire at the end of conference in July.

"It has been very rewarding for me to see the RUEB grow," Vinion said.

As a champion of retirees for more than two decades, Vinion has made a lasting impact. Of his many contributions, he founded Granny Grants with Dawn Bronsema, president of Lynnwood Sentinels Retiree Council 5019, and kept the fund successful (read more about Granny Grants on page 10).



"I would like to say 'Thank you' to Dawn for her guidance and everything she did

with me as the fund raisers for Granny Grants," Vinion said.

Vinion said he is also proud of building a stronger Retiree Unit and seeing the addition of District O for out-of-state retirees.

Susan Meyer, president of Orange County Retiree Council 5012, said she is blessed to have known Vinion for 35 years. She regards him as a "kind, loving, conscientious, hardworking, consistent, amazing leader who improves the life of everyone he comes in contact with."

Vinion is Meyer's mentor, having convinced her to become a regional representative after she served as vice president and president for North Orange County CCD Chapter 167.

"I had a lot of respect for Jim, watching him interact with others. We worked together over many years on different projects," she said. "I just couldn't say no to him, and my life became better every time I did what he asked."



2019 Super Session, San Jose. (Left-Right): Adam Weinberger; Jim Vinion; Shane Dishman.

Meyer's most memorable moment was attending conference in 2016 to see Vinion awarded Honor Roll membership.

"Jim Vinion worked his way through the ranks in CSEA and dedicated most of his life to CSEA," Meyer said. "He so deserved this award."

While Vinion will be leaving his post as the District H director, he still plans to play an active role.

"I have enjoyed working with you all and thanks for all your help and support for the Retiree Unit," Vinion said. "I will miss it, but I will still be making whatever I can for the Granny Grants program."

All Retiree Unit members are invited to attend Retiree Unit Executive Board meetings

Now that shelter-in-place orders have been lifted, the Retiree Unit Executive Board is pleased to host some meetings again in person. Meetings have been evenly split between face-to-face and virtual. All the meetings are scheduled for 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month as follows:

May 11: *Orange, Ayres Hotel Orange, 200 The City Drive N, Orange, Calif. 92868*

July 13: *via Zoom*

September 14: *In person or Zoom, to be determined*

November 9: *via Zoom*

Proof of vaccination required. If you plan to attend in person, please email a copy of your vaccine card to the CSEA Member Benefits Department at vaxcard@csea.com. Member Benefits will create a confidential record under your name, so you will not need to resubmit proof every time you attend a CSEA event. If you do not submit a copy of your card in advance, you can also show evidence of vaccination at the door: a photo of a vaccine card is sufficient (you do not need to bring the original). Remember that one is not “fully vaccinated” until two weeks after the final shot.

Look for the links and exact location of upcoming meetings from Member Benefits in future emails. If you don't have an updated email address on file, fill out your information today at www.csea.com/email or call (866) 487-2732.

What is Zoom?

Zoom is an app you can download on any computer, smartphone or smart tablet at no cost. Zoom allows you to both see and hear the presenters and their PowerPoint presentation. It also allows you to use a “chat” feature to ask questions in real time.

How do I set up my Zoom account?

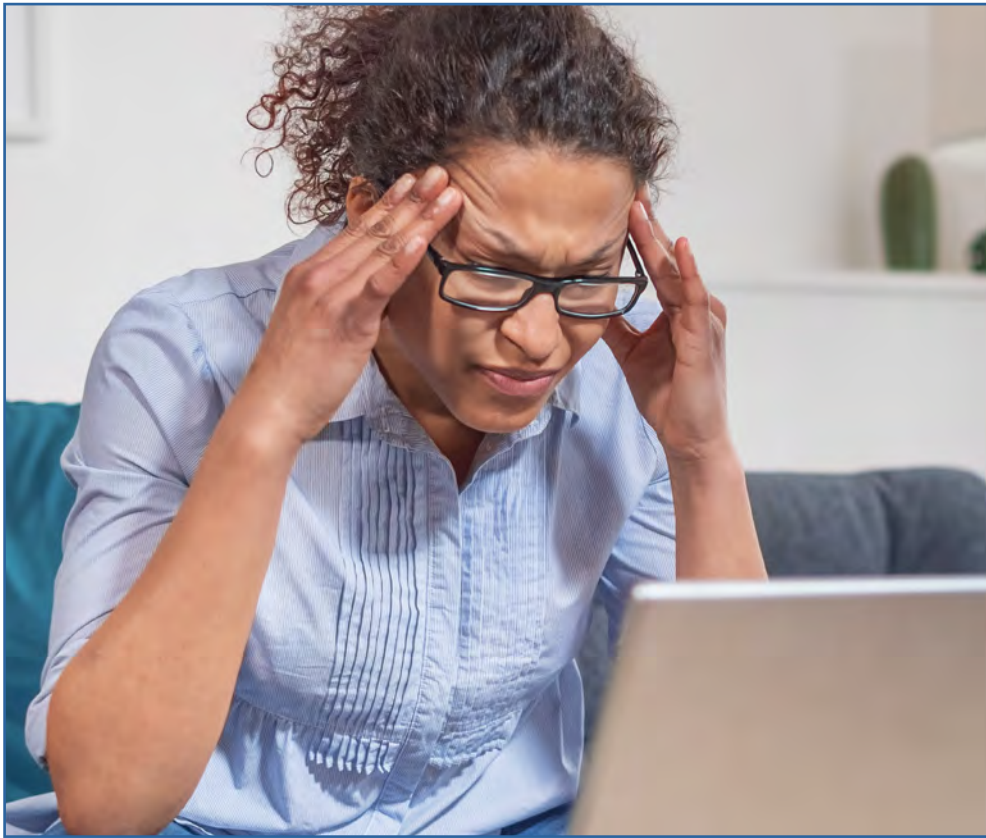
Go to zoom.us today to sign up for your free account. Download and test Zoom by going to zoom.us/test and follow the instructions. **Make sure your Zoom application is updated.**

How do I attend the RUEB meeting?

You must be an authenticated Zoom user (see set up above) and pre-register to attend this virtual meeting by clicking on the links that are sent via email.

After you have pre-registered, and once your CSEA membership has been verified, you will receive an email with the Zoom link and information to join the meeting. We look forward to your participation.





Avoiding scams in 2022

by David Ngô

From unknown phone calls to fraudulent emails, avoiding scams these days is a constant challenge.

In response to a flurry of pandemic era scams, the California legislature passed AB 1864 (Limón), the California Consumer Financial Protection Law (CCFPL) which began identifying gaps in consumer protection.

The California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI) recently reported more than 100 investigations using its expanded authority

under CCFPL, resulting in \$1 million in restitution for consumers victimized by criminal financial activity.

Last year's implementation of CCFPL created several new divisions to expand oversight and outreach, with specialized teams responsible for working with traditionally under-

served communities, including veterans, students, immigrants, and most importantly – senior citizens.

"The department has made substan-

"ID theft was the leader in 2021. Imposter scams, which include government agencies usually pretending to be the IRS or Social Security Administration."

- Karen Mazzilli, CSEA staff attorney

tial progress in its first year to imple-

ment the new law, expand protection for consumers, and foster responsible financial innovation," Clothilde V. Hewlett, DFPI Commissioner said in a March 23 press release. "We remain committed to accomplishing the goals of Governor Gavin Newsom and are grateful to all stakeholders, including the Legislature, consumer advocates, industry partners, small businesses, community-based organizations, and many others for their continued input and support."

"The department has made substantial progress in its first year to implement the new law, expand protection for consumers, and foster responsible financial innovation"

- Clothilde V. Hewlett,
DFPI Commissioner

Fighting scams against vulnerable populations have been a key priority for Sacramento in the past two years, and with its expanded authority under CCFPL, the California DFPI works closely with private companies to scout for unlawful, unfair, deceptive, and abusive practices.

Under CCFPL, state financial regulators now oversee industries previously unregulated by the department, like debt collectors, debt-relief companies, consumer credit reporting agencies, credit repair companies, and popular smartphone apps that allow users to transfer funds from personal bank accounts.

"I noticed on my Venmo account that there were two entries for \$2,499

and \$2,132.50 posted on my bank account. I contacted Venmo via chat, as one can't talk to Venmo directly, and they started to investigate," said Isa Wiechmann from Modesto Retiree Council 5010. "One amount was for eBay, and the other was a deposit to another bank, which I have not heard of."

"Help protect your computer by keeping your security software and browser up to date and avoid opening attachments.."

- Michael Moore,
Account Executive with
Provident Credit Union

In addition to passed legislation, CSEA retirees also have access to the CSEA Legal Referral Program in the event you believe you are a target of a scam. CSEA staff attorney Karen Mazzilli explains the importance of not disseminating personal information before vetting by whom you are being contacted.

"ID theft was the leader in 2021. Imposter scams, which include gov-

ernment agencies usually pretending to be the IRS or Social Security Administration," Mazzilli said. "Foreign inheritance scams, fake tech support, romance scams, and grandchild or

personal accounts which may have login information privy to your financial records.

With cryptocurrency and paperless banking gaining popularity, mal-

ware is becoming more and more prevalent and is often the first sign of a scam.

"Recognizing potential threats is the first step to prevention. Malware is software designed to damage computer systems and may be used to steal information," said Michael Moore, an account executive with Provident Credit



family member in trouble scams also target vulnerable populations."

As we close out the 2022 tax season, CSEA's credit union partners also remind us about the threat of malware when checking emails year-round, especially protecting

Union. "Help protect your computer by keeping your security software and browsers up to date and avoid opening attachments or using free software from unknown or untrusted sources."

Resources

- CSEA Legal Referral Program – (800) 632-2128, ext. 1274
- Do Not Call List – (888) 382-1222 or www.donotcall.gov
- Federal Trade Commission – www.ftc.gov
- California Department of Financial Protection & Innovation – (866) 275-2677 or www.dfpi.ca.gov/contact-us/
- Provident Credit Union - (800) 632-4600 or bit.ly/3NqPtul



(continued from cover)

a lot of protests. We let them know that we weren't going to stand for it anymore. We wanted to be equal just like everyone else."

In October 2021, Barrow Hall made history as the school's first building named after a woman of color. Even more notable, it also marked the first time a Tamalpais Union High School District building was dedicated to a classified school employee.

"Jewel's contributions to Tam were immeasurable and thus, we felt this honor was more

than appropriate," said Principal Farr, who was instrumental in convincing the board of trustees to approve the renaming last spring.

"Classified workers are the backbone of school organizations," he said. "Classified provide the structure to allow for teaching and learning to happen. Without classified workers, school would not be school."

"Before I retired, I was told that something was going to be named after me. They chose a building, and I am elated,"

- Clara Barrow

Though Barrow has been retired for six years now, her impact is still felt to this day.

During Barrow Hall's

dedication ceremony last fall, former administrators, teachers, students, and family members reunited to share stories of Barrow's impact on the community.

"Often standing in for parents, Jewel was always a link, always an advocate for students," former principal Frank Gold said at the dedication ceremony on October 30.

"Despite continued changes with race riots, voting campaigns, the women's movement, Title IX funding catastrophes here at Tam, school enrollment going down and all these changes – Jewel rose with them."



Clara Barrow with a family member at Barrow Hall's dedication ceremony on Oct. 30, 2021.

School buildings named after classified employees may be a rare occurrence, but the impact CSEA retirees have on their school communities are simply undeniable.

Whether a school building dons their name one day or not, CSEA retirees leave their schools a better place than when they found it. In Barrow's case, finding Barrow Hall on campus these days will be a lot easier.

"Before I retired, I was told that something was going to be named after me. They chose a building, and I am elated," Barrow said during the dedication ceremony. "I've had so many great times here on this campus. I have learned so much from the students, from the parents, and staff. I've been overwhelmed. I'm still overwhelmed. I'm just going to say. 'Thank you.'"



In the school's 110-year history, Barrow Hall is the first building named after a woman of color.

Safeguards against inflation

by David Ngô

Whether it's at the grocery store or at the gas station, everyone's facing an old, yet new challenge today: inflation. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation rose to 7.9 percent in February compared to 12 months ago, the highest in more than 40 years.



Carmen Sexton-Boykin, regional representative for region 77 and current member of Riverside Retiree Council 5023, remembers living through the inflation of the '80s and tries to save money the best she can.

"It's very different. Today, I compare pricing at grocery stores and buy only sale items," Sexton-Boykin explained. "I also garden vegetables and drive only when necessary."

While the cause of today's inflation may be tied to unforeseeable factors of an overseas conflict and pandemic-related supply chain issues, there are safeguards in place for Social Security and CalPERS recipients.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) help keep Social Security benefits and pensions at pace with inflation. So, for retirees who are worried about increasing prices at the pump – COLA can help.

For those receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, legisla-

tion enacted in 1973 allows for COLA to trigger in the event of rising inflation. The Social Security Administration reports Social Security benefits increased by 5.9 percent, beginning with the December 2021 benefits, and were paid out in January 2022.

"Social Security and SSI beneficiaries are normally notified by mail starting in early December about their new benefit amount." Social Security Agency Press Officer Mark Hinkle said in a press release on October 13. "Most people who receive Social Security payments will be able to view their COLA notice online through their personal 'My Social Security' account."

Inflation has also triggered COLA for retirement pensions, resulting in some of the highest CalPERS increases to retirement pensions in 32 years.

For Kevin Palkki of San Bernardino CCD Chapter 291, retirement security is one of many reasons why he has announced his intention to pursue the school members seat on the CalPERS Board of Administration.

"I know what happens without retirement security, without a pension. I saw it happen to my family. My mom raised me by herself and was hit hard by the Great Recession of 2008," Palkki said at the 2022 CSEA Campaign Kickoff in Sacramento on April 11. "I never want to see any CalPERS members face what my mom experienced. I will always fight to protect your benefits to ensure you can retire with the dignity you deserve."

For CalPERS recipients, the COLA benefit begins the second calendar year of retirement, although the an-

nual rate of inflation and changes to retirement law (the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act) could affect the onset of your COLA.

"It's very different. Today, I compare pricing at grocery stores and buy only sale items,"

- Carmen Sexton-Boykin,
Regional representative, Region 77

As more and more Americans must fathom the thought of cutting down on non-essentials or thinking twice about buying their favorite food treats, retirees can lean on the strength of their pensions during these uncertain times.

"We are facing a lot of uncertainty. We see inflation rising for everyday products and the promise of a middle-class life getting harder," said Palkki, whose CalPERS petition cannot be signed or voted by retirees but will have a crucial role in phone banking to help get the vote out in September. "The added stress we face at worksites is growing and the worry of our retirement should not be one of them."

CalPERS states that public employees who retired between 2006 to 2014 will receive a 4.7 percent increase in COLA this year, the largest increase since 1990.

For those who retired between 2015 and 2019, you'll receive an increase in COLA from 2.77 percent to 3.13 percent, according to CalPERS charts, but many can expect to receive an annual COLA paid in the May 1 warrant of each year.

Retiree Paula Pelton spreads the love

Fundraiser brings in nearly \$1,000

by Shannon Carr



Paula Pelton has a big heart and lots of passion when it comes to Granny Grants, CSEA's scholarship program for grandchildren and great-grandchildren of members. It's not surprising, then, that she spread the love by creating 42 heart hand towels for people who donated \$25 or more during a four-day flash sale for Granny Grants in February.

"I decided to create the heart hand

towels at a Granny Grants committee meeting. We had been offering bowl cozies for our last few fundrais-

ing events and needed a new and fresh idea," said Pelton, Granny Grants Committee member, secretary of

Coachella Retiree Council 5032 and Regional Representative for Region 10.

Thanks to Pelton's contributions, the fundraiser brought in \$966 dollars for Granny Grants.

"Paula did a wonderful job. It is very high quality and looks professional. The quilted heart reminds me of quilting that my mother used to do."

- Bob Johnson, Livermore/Pleasanton Retiree Council 5042

Bob Johnson with Livermore/Pleasanton Retiree Council 5042 was among those who donated, his first contribution to Granny Grants since retiring two years ago.

"I have received the heart towel and it is beautiful!" Johnson said. "Paula did a wonderful job. It is very high quality and looks professional. The quilted heart reminds me of quilting that my mother used to do."

Pelton said each towel took her 20 minutes to create and explained the process.

"The Granny Grant fund is a very meaningful way in which a positive impact can be made on the lives of the students who receive the grants."

- Bob Johnson, Livermore/Pleasanton Retiree Council 5042

She first created the quilted heart from 1-1/2 inch strips of remnant fabrics. Pelton then ran them through her sewing machine to create the "I Love CSEA" embroidery. Once that was completed, she attached them to a white hand towel and quilted the fabric to the towel.

Pelton only selected blue fabric prints to honor CSEA and says she "chose the heart shape to express my love for CSEA and my love of quilting."

Johnson said he would have donated anyway but "getting the heart towel is a nice touch."



Retiree Paula Pelton works on creating heart hand towels, which were given to donors during a recent Granny Grants fundraiser.

"I will definitely donate again because it is a very worthy cause," he said. "The Granny Grant fund is a very meaningful way in which a positive impact can be made on the lives of the students who receive the grants."

"Being able to offer heart hand towels as a gift for a donation to the Granny Grant fund brings me joy many ways."

- Paula Pelton

Granny Grants was founded in 2003 under the name William Turner Scholarship because the Retiree Unit Executive Board decided they wanted to start fundraising. No dues

money goes to the scholarship, which is funded solely by donations and fundraising. It originally started as a scholarship of \$100, then grew to \$150 and now it is generally \$250, but the amount is set by the RUEB. One winner is selected per year from each council, with the final determination also by the RUEB.

"Being able to offer heart hand towels as a gift for a donation to the Granny Grant fund brings me joy in many ways," Pelton said. "One is that I can help to bring the fund up to a financial point that any child someday can receive the benefit of a scholarship offered by the Retiree Unit. It also warms my heart to see so many people have a piece of my quilting in their hands. Even if it's just a small item, it was made from my heart."



Q: What unique skills do you have to raise money for Granny Grants?

A: Lynnwood Sentinels Retiree Council 5019, in the past, has planned bus trips to casinos to raise funds along with Afghan and Quilt raffles.

A: Coachella Valley Retiree Council 5032 has an annual opportunity drawing of an Afghan made of granny squares. Several members donate yarn and premade squares. President Irene Pina puts them together and conducts the opportunity event in the spring. Over the course of the year, the council has a competition to see who can create/donate the most granny squares. Leftover squares are assembled and donated to Martha's Village, which is a local shelter.

A: Each year, Marin Retiree Council 5013 donates approximately \$50 either to enhance the Granny Grant Council 5013 recipient or funds are forwarded to the CSEA Humanitarian/Dorothy Bjork Fund on the council's behalf.



RUEB Chair Martha Penry and New District O Director Roberta McElfresh at the 2022 Campaign Kickoff in Sacramento.

New District O Director brings 'fresh' perspective

by David Ngô



Roberta McElfresh

Roberta McElfresh was appointed as the new director of District O at the 2022 Campaign Kickoff in Sacramento

on April 10. Surrounded by familiar CSEA faces, McElfresh's appointment was met with applause, symbolizing robust support for the Retiree Unit's newest district.

"Roberta's history and years of service with CSEA speaks for itself. Her dedication and continued willingness to represent retirees is not a surprise to me," said Retiree Unit Executive Board (RUEB) Chair

Martha Penry, who appointed McElfresh to the RUEB at Campaign Kickoff.

"Roberta believes in CSEA and what it stands for: volunteering to help make lives better. She brings her knowledge, enthusiasm and dedication to the position. We are excited to have her join our RUEB."

As past president of Silver Valley Chapter 374 and former member of the Legislative Committee, she brings a wealth of experience to her new role.

Coincidentally retiring around the same time District O was founded to represent out-of-state retirees, McElfresh hopes to continue building on the district's existing foundation while bringing a 'fresh' perspective to grow District O.

"We see Zoom as a plus. It's what has allowed Council 5000 in District O to be formed," said McElfresh. "But we also see it becoming more social as well, not just council news. We want to have social interactions, which is very important."

Before retiring and joining District O a year ago, McElfresh spent many years as a regional representative. It was during these years that she understood the most effective way to connect with her peers was a simple, yet sometimes overlooked ethos – cultivating relationships.

"We're hoping to build our membership. We have a core group of leaders who are contacting retirees by phone as many out-of-state retirees have been retired for a long time," McElfresh explained. "We're letting them know personally that the council is active, and that the district is here to serve."

Though District O only has one council, McElfresh and her members expect to be able to reach even more out-of-state retirees by phone and email in the coming months.

And as the 2022 election campaign kicks into gear, districts like McElfresh's will play a decisive role in supporting CSEA-endorsed candidates through a time-tested approach.

"We are still the phone banking kings and queens of the Association!" McElfresh exclaimed.

"Everything we do is through phone calls or Zoom, but we're really looking to put together a report from the phone bankers. We've already been assigned by headquarters for District O to a group, and I think we're really going to be able to make a difference."

Spring District Meetings

by David Ngô



Oroville Retiree Council 5045 in-person meeting.

Spring is a time for new beginnings. Though Retiree Unit meetings have looked a little different in the past two years, there is much to look forward to in the coming months.

As we prepare for the first in-person Retiree Leadership Conference in over 24 months later

this year, we are reminded of the progress we have made.

"Our June meetings will probably all be in-person. The decision was made after the February meetings and discussion with council members," said District A Director Carla Held. "Our expectations are to get back to 'normal' meetings and greeting mem-

bers to make them feel welcome."

Retiree Unit meetings are where members gather to discuss important agenda items, such as upcoming legislative campaigns, elections, fundraisers, and much more.

With more counties announcing the lifting of public health mandates,

many retirees will be convening in person for the first time in quite some time.

For others, meeting virtually has actually helped increase attendance and even boost participation.

"The biggest impact was not being able to meet in person, but that did not stop us. Business as usual for the Retiree Unit Executive Board and district council officers," said District B Director Paulette Foster.

"We just changed the location of our meetings to our homes using Zoom, our lifesaver. Zoom gave us the opportunity to hold both RUEB and District meetings."

Through a mix of virtual and in-person district meetings, the Retiree Unit continues to represent over 11,000 retirees in 56 councils. As we inch closer to a return to in-person meetings, your district directors are excited to welcome you back safely.

District	Date
Districts A, B, C & I Contact Director Jill Scott	Retiree Day Event (Multi-district) May 19 @ 9:45am, virtual meeting;
District A	May 25, multi-council meeting, Oroville, CA
District D	(Virtual meeting was on March 12)
District E	TBD
District F	(Virtual meeting was on April 14)
District G	(In-person meeting was on March 29)
District H	Friday, May 13, virtual meeting;
District K	(Virtual meeting was on March 12)
District O	(Virtual meeting was on March 12)

For questions regarding upcoming meetings, contact your district director.

Candidate Ads



TAMMY SHAFFER- NORIEGA

FOR CSEA
RUEB
SECRETARY



State Level:

Granny Grant Committee
PACE Committee - 4 years
Regional Representative - 5 1/2 years
Alternate Area G Director - 2 years

Chapter Offices Held:

Chapter President - 2 years
1st Vice President - 4 years
2nd Vice President - 6 months
Past President - 2 years
Secretary - 4 years
Job Steward (Basic and Advanced)
Negotiations Team - 6 months
Site Representative - 10 years
PAC - 12 years

✓ **Going the
EXTRA Mile
for Members**

✓ **2020
Retiree of the
Year SFFO**

✓ **2021
Spotlight on
Excellence
Award**

Political Activities:

GOTV (Get Out The Vote)
Phone Banking
Precinct Walking
Rallies (Attending and Organizing)

Training:

Member Unity Program Winner 2013
Member Unity Program 2015
Know Your Rights
Site Representative
Organizing Institute 2013
President Leadership Institute

(562) 422-8093
Tammyshafer93@yahoo.com

What makes Martha Run?

EXPERIENCE THAT MATTERS!

- Chapter Secretary
- Regional Secretary
- Tri-Regional Secretary (Ad Hoc)
- Pre-Retirement Resource Committee, Area C
 - (also serve as Ad Hoc Secretary)
- Newly Elected Treasurer, Retiree Council 5003
- Delegate Assistance Committee
- Retired Administrative Assistant – Technology
- Chapter Negotiations Team



VOTE

MARTHA STEELE SPELLMAN
for
**RETIREE UNIT EXECUTIVE
BOARD SECRETARY**

SANDY VALADEZ for RETIREE BOARD SECRETARY

- 30 years experience, attending every training, seminar, workshop, and strategy meeting possible. I'm an inveterate note taker, newsletter producer, and have been Secretary for my Chapter and Council.
- 30 years serving and representing CSEA in various offices, five state committees, Chair of Legislative Committee, and political action.
- As Secretary I want to have a closer connection to all our Councils, and more fully participate in the workings of the Retiree Unit. I feel I have the experience and qualifications to make a positive, valuable contribution as Secretary.

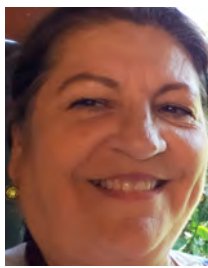
Respectfully seeking your vote.



BLANCA BARELA for RETIREE BOARD SECRETARY

- I have been active in CSEA for close to 30 years at the chapter, regional and state levels.
- I have been council secretary for 10 years and feel very capable to move to a higher level.
- I take my obligations very seriously and will work hard to fulfill the obligations of the office of RUEB Secretary.
- I want to serve the retirees as your RUEB secretary to keep the lines of communication open and transparent.
- I believe we can do better in getting councils to participate in our Retiree Conferences as well as other events and activities.

Vote for Blanca Barela RUEB Secretary



Se Habla Español

Dental & Vision Insurance

CSEA Retirees Get Better Rates with UIP!

Available for active and retired CSEA members and families, our dental and vision insurance plans are designed to get you great benefits at great rates!



Dental

Our CSEA Dental Plans offer the broadest coverage with low out-of-pocket costs with one of the thousands of participating dentists in California.



Vision

CSEA retirees and their families can enjoy comprehensive vision care at great rates! Choose from thousands of participating doctors. Plus, take advantage of discounts for eye exams, contact lenses and designer frames.



Contact a CSEA Member Benefits Insurance Specialist *today!*
CALL (833) 426-2732 | VISIT [CSEABenefits.com](https://www.CSEABenefits.com)

UIP United Insurance Partners
CSEA MEMBER BENEFITS INSURANCE PROVIDER
Member of United Agencies CSEA MEMBER BENEFITS

Underwritten by MetLife Insurance (Dental) and VSP (Vision).

CA Ins Lic #0252636



TruHearing

1-855-203-2014 | TTY: 711



TRU Hearing Benefit

When you book an appointment with our TRU Hearing Program, you will not only get affordable hearing aid options, you also receive personalized care, next generation sound you can rely on, and devices that can keep up with your lifestyle. To find out more about how you can take advantage of this program, and get on the road to better hearing.

Think you might have hearing loss? Visit: www.truhearing.com/CSEA



California School
Employees Association
2045 Lundy Avenue
San Jose, CA 95131

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN JOSE, CA
PERMIT NO. 1048

CONTENTS



2 Message from the chairperson: Activities to help you blossom this spring



9 Protection against inflation



13 Spring District Meetings



4 RUEB bids Jim Vinion farewell at May meeting



12 New District O Director

RETIREE UNIT MISSION STATEMENT: The California School Employees Association Retiree Unit envisions a strong, organized program for retirees to promote communication among all retirees, to address issues that impact their lives, and to assist CSEA's active membership in accomplishing their retirement goals.

The Retiree Unit newsletter is published four times a year by the California School Employees Association, 2045 Lundy Avenue, San Jose, CA 95131, (408) 473-1000. Copyright 2022 California School Employees Association. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Keith Pace; COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, Karen Chandler; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, Aaron Latham; EDITOR, Shannon Carr; CONTENT WRITER, David Ngo; SENIOR DESIGN COORDINATOR, Justin Garcia; MULTIMEDIA/DESIGN SPECIALISTS, Nathan Nakao, Isaac Santiago; ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, Katherine Miller.

Visit us on the web at www.csea.com/retiree

