Background Information

Founded in 1929, the California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA) is one of the nation’s largest organizations for retired educators. CalRTA is the only statewide organization working to protect and enhance the retirement benefits for all CalSTRS retirees.

Membership: Nearly 40,000 retired educators, including teachers and administrators

Geography: Statewide, 86 Divisions in 12 Areas

Goals: The core mission of CalRTA is to protect and enhance the pensions of CalSTRS members and protect public education, but other goals include:
- Full purchasing power for all retired educators.
- An equitable pension system that treats all retirees equally.
- Repeal of the Social Security penalties (the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset) which penalize careers in public education.
- A health care system that is accessible, affordable and of high quality for all Californians.

Community Service: Even in retirement, CalRTA members continue to give back to their communities. Last year members tallied over 2 million hours of volunteer service, valued at nearly $58 million.

Background: Laure E. Settle, CalRTA’s founder and president until 1945, drove the dusty highways to help organize teachers to a common cause. Settle set the tone for the organization – a spirit that was contagious then and endures today. CalRTA and its leaders have had profound effects on retired people nationwide. Ethel Percy Andrus, founder of AARP, got her start as a leader in CalRTA in the 1940s. From there she went on to create the National Retired Teachers Association and AARP.

For more information, please visit www.calrta.org.