

CAROLYN WIDENER

Carolyn Widener was originally appointed to the Teachers' Retirement Board in 2001, and was first elected to represent community college educators in 2004. She served as Board Chair from 2005-2007 and currently chairs the Benefits and Services committee. CalSTRS is the second largest US public pension fund. It provides retirement, disability, and survivor benefits to California's public school teachers from kindergarten through community college, serving more than 800,000 members and their families.

Since 1996, Carolyn has been the Executive Vice President of the Los Angeles College Faculty Guild, Local 1521/CFT/AFT, which represents the faculty of the nine colleges of the Los Angeles Community College District. Her responsibilities include developing policy positions and activities for members on retirement issues and representing the faculty on the District's Joint Labor-Management Health Benefits Committee, which she founded and co-chaired for many years.

Carolyn Widener has counseled and taught in various colleges of the Los Angeles Community College District since 1970. At West Los Angeles College since 1989, she is a professor of English and former chair of the Language Arts Division. Widener writes frequently for *FACCCTS* (Journal of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges) and for *Read On* (a publication of the LA Faculty Guild) on the issues of teacher retirement and health care.

Ms. Widener earned a B.A. in History, with honors (Phi Beta Kappa), from the University of California, Los Angeles and both an M.A. in Education: Counseling Psychology and a TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) Certificate from the University of Southern California. Her awards include the "CFT Woman in Education" (1994) and a CalSTRS Certificate of Commendation (1998).

Ms. Widener is also currently serving as an elected representative of educational members on the board of the National Council of Public Employees Retirement Systems and as the appointed member representing California on the Retirement Committee of the American Federation of Teachers.

Since 1984, Carolyn has lived in Venice, where she joins her neighbors in supporting *Jazz at Palms Court*, which annually raises funds for the Venice Affordable Housing Corporation