

REACTA HOT TOPICS

OCTOBER 23, 2017

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 8

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REACTA Annual Reunion and Business Meeting

The REACTA Annual Reunion and Business Meeting provided an opportunity for CTA retirees to tell stories, share memories, eat and drink together and enjoy the beautiful weather of California's Central Coast. To say "A Good Time Was Had By All" would be an understatement. You can find pictures of the event on our REACTA Facebook page and will soon be posted on our website, www.reacta.org. In addition to the social activities, REACTA hosted a Hot Topics Session to discuss some of the issues faced by CTA, our health trust and our pension trust. Some of this information was also shared as part of our business meeting.

Special thanks to the other officers who helped plan our annual meeting. We will again have our 2018 Annual Reunion and Business Meeting at Cambria Pines Lodge, starting on October 1, 2018. Your officers are looking at ways to improve attendance, especially among those who might have difficulty making a long drive. More information and incentives will be discussed at the Officers meeting in February.

REACTA Business Meeting Highlights

The Agenda for our Business Meeting included a significant number of issues that are important to the members of REACTA. Since we may not have a REACTOR for the next few months, I want you to know what was discussed:

- **Treasurer's Report** - Art reported our income to date, \$10,033; Expenses to date, \$4,239; Projected additional income for 2017, \$3,515; Current Assets = \$47,928.
- Our **Proposed Budget** for 2018 is \$13,847, based on 315 members.
- The **Membership Promotion Committee**, chaired by Robin Rose started up in May and has been personally reaching out to soon-to-be retirees, past retired members who have dropped membership, and cash paying members who have not paid for the current year. We have converted many cash payers to payroll deduction.
- **Scholarship Committee** – A revised application packet was discussed at the meeting. We will offer up to three scholarships in the amount of \$2000. The new application will be posted in early November on our website and Facebook page. Applications will also be available by emailing committee chair Marla Reyes – marlaed@earthlink.com

- **Long Term Care Insurance** - Dom reported that members are concerned about premium increases again this year. REACTA reviewed our legal options with legal counsel and there is nothing we can do. If members have questions about how to lower premiums by making changes to their coverage, Dom will refer them to REACTA member Dan Saling for assistance.
- **Health Trust Report** – Roseanne Becher attended the last Health and Welfare Trust meeting and prepared a written report for the membership. A slightly edited report is on page 4. Please read Roseanne’s report for additional information.
- **Pension Trust Report** – Dom reported that the Red Zone status was fixed in bargaining. Details were provided in the last issue of HOT TOPICS. CSO has asked one of its appointed Trustees to send us a written report following their next meeting.
- **REACTOR Editor** - We are looking for a volunteer to publish and mail our REACTOR (100 copies are mailed to those for whom we do not have a current email address). We publish four times a year and the work can be done, even if you are out of state! Officers will call people if no volunteers.
- **Meetings with CSO, CAS and Management** – CTA management is missing in action! Joe Nunez has not yet appointed a liaison from management to meet with REACTA since the retirement of Karen Kyhn. We did meet with CSO and CAS leadership and are discussing ways to share REACTA information with their members. We are also trying to get both CAS and CSO to appoint a Trust member as liaison to REACTA. REACTA plans to work directly with CSO and CAS staff when or members wish to volunteer for political action activities next year.
- **Pension and Benefits Oversight Committee** – The Organizing Committee was not continued and a new committee was established as the Pension and Benefits Oversight Committee with Bill Empey as Chairperson. This committee will continue to monitor the problem with the implementation of the Purchasing Power Adjustment (PPA) for our pre-1989 retirees. This year the adjustments were not done until April and the retroactive amounts were not done until June.

- **Location for 2018 Meeting** - We have a contract at Cambria Pines Lodge for 2018. We looked at other places but they were too expensive. Cambria is a central and enjoyable destination. Dates will be October 1-3, 2018. Ideas are welcome on how to encourage members to attend.
- **Other Information**
The Executive Board voted to form a Political Education Committee and appointed Conrad Ohlson as the Chairperson.

The meeting was adjourned in memory of deceased members Mary Wilhelm, Tony Leon and Susan Popovich.

Should REACTA Publish a Travel Report?

My wife and I boarded the Queen Elizabeth in Rotterdam on July 3 for a two week cruise. On the morning of July 4 we were walking through the casino and I saw someone at one of the slot machines who looked familiar. Turns out Bob and Lynne Persky were on the same cruise! Bob and I go way back since he was one of my first friends when I arrived in California in 1980. The cruise gave us an almost two week period to catch up on old times. In August I attended the REACTA reception and was talking with another former colleague, Jim Essman. Jim mentioned he and Mickey just got back from a cruise around the British Isles. He was on a Princess Cruise that docked at the same port (Gurnsey) on the same day as the Queen Elizabeth! So what is the point of this story?????? REACTA members love to travel! I am Facebook friends with many other retirees and enjoy seeing pictures of their latest travel adventures. At any given time there are REACTA members travelling all over the world. Maybe we should try to harness their experiences so they may be shared with other REACTA members considering travel to similar sites.

Should REACTA publish and distribute via email a bi-monthly "REACTA TRAVEL REPORT" where members can submit short articles on recent or future travel plans? We would need to avoid specific dates of departure for security reasons. The writer could also include an email address so others can get in touch for specifics about hotels, air travel, restaurants or tours. For example, "Dom Summa is going on a Princess Cruise through the Panama Canal in October. The cruise leaves from San Francisco. Is anyone else on the same cruise? If so, let me know at dsummacal@aol.com. " REACTA members might also submit a short article after the trip with information about where they travelled. Let me know if you think REACTA should do this. Even better, if you want to be the REACTA Travel Reporter, you have the job!

CTA Retirement Update

There were two retirees listed on the October CTA Board Report. We wish **Joella Aragon** from Region 2 and **Sheryl Goodwin** from Communications Burlingame a very happy retirement!

August 2017 Health & Welfare Trust Report - Roseanne Becher

The CTA Employees' Health and Welfare Benefits Trust Meeting was held on June 20, 2017. In compliance with Federal Non-Discrimination Legislation, the addition of Transgender Benefits was proposed, along with coverage for Dependent Pregnancies. Anthem's summary also reported that in-network utilization was over 90%.

The Benefit Consultant followed Anthem's presentation with reports detailing the monthly utilization data of Active Employees and Retirees. Some of the utilization trends through March 2017 were as follows:

- Number of Active Employees are down 2.46%
- Number of Retirees are up 2.65%
- Pharmacy Paid Claims for Retirees are up 4.33%
- Total Expenses for Retirees are up 3.63%
- Retiree Contributions are down 12.76%

At this "Annual" or "Rate Setting" meeting, Cost and Income/Expense Projection reports, along with a funding Rate proposal were submitted to the Trustees for review and approval. Based on the Projected Cost for 2017-18, Anthem Blue Cross and Express Scripts are expected to be \$18,595,467 a .33% increase from the prior year and Kaiser to \$2,445,446, a 5.28% decrease. The Projected 2017-18 Income and Expenses for "All Members" are expected to result in an overall surplus of \$304,200. For "Retirees only", the net would be a surplus of \$959,800. Included in the Retirees projected income of \$10,457,700, is \$815,600 in investment earnings. For this year, the Investment Consultant reported the investment gains through May 2017 were \$968,969, a return on investment of 6.32%.

As part of the Benefits Committee report, the Trustees approved the following "Action Items":

1. Approve the 2017-18 OptumHealth stop loss renewal 0.00% percent rate increase at the current \$175,000 specific stop loss attachment point.
2. Approve the 2017-18 renewal rates as recommended by the Trust consultant.
3. Approve the Anthem contract changes per the recommendation of Trust Counsel and Consultant.
4. Approve and distribute the SBCs (PPO Active and Non-Medicare Retirees, Medicare Retirees, FFS Retirees, and Kaiser). The Anthem SBCs include the change in coverage for dependent child pregnancies.
5. Approve the ESI Safeguard program for multiple sclerosis (MS). This program will be effective January 1, 2018 and provides high touch support to encourage drug therapy adherence for participants with MS.

The Trust Administrator reported the Trust's Total Assets were \$20,528,344.31 at April 30, 2017 and a Net Income of \$643,753.89 for year to date through April 2017. Trust participants total 1266, with 554 Actives and 712 Retirees.

Please continue to follow the Trust report and read all communications from the CTA Employees' Health and Welfare Benefits Trust.

If you have any difficulty with your coverage, or have any questions regarding the changes or the impact the changes may be having on your coverage, please call The William Earhart Company at the CTA-only toll free phone at 1-877-396-2942 or CTA-only phone at 1-503-460-5242. Please be sure to identify yourself as a CTA Retiree.