

# REACTA HOT TOPICS

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## **What if.....**

You receive a letter from the Pension Trust telling you there will be a reduction of your future retirement benefit due to the failure of the previous Trust Administrator to accurately determine your benefit. You contact a former colleague who suggests you contact REACTA. This action was taken this fall by three retirees who were "overpaid" by the trust. In each case, the retiree selected the Social Security Offset. Each case has its own circumstances that should have led the Trust to deal with these individuals in a more humane manner. Instead, the new Trust administrator wants to collect these alleged overpayments which range from \$45,000 to \$140,000! In one case the overpayments continued for eight years before the Trust made its determination.

I asked a committee headed by Joe Colton with Bill Empey, Felice Strauss, Geri Gonzales, and Roseanne Becher to contact the individuals and gather the necessary data. REACTA authorized up to \$1500 for Joe to contact an outside attorney with expertise in ERISA issues to research the legal rights of the retirees. We have also contacted Pension Trustees to discuss alternative ways to resolve the problem. We recognize the responsibility of the Trustees to act in a Fiduciary manner to protect Trust assets. However, there are certain limitations when it impacts individual retirees. We are preparing a background paper that will be sent to the Trustees outlining our concerns and offering better solutions. We will include the legal position confirmed by outside counsel. What happened to these retirees could happen to other retirees if a calculation error is discovered. Helping these three retirees benefits us all.

***REACTA was informed about the recent passing of Stephen Edwards Jr. Stephen was a past president of CTA and also an active member of REACTA in Region 2. When I posted this on our Facebook page, many REACTA members commented about their positive interaction with Stephen. May he RIP.***

### **Mid-Term Election 2018**

The 2018 Mid-Term Election results are still unknown in certain California Congressional districts. However, the large voter turnout and flipping of so many Congressional seats is a testament to ground level organizing. There are many REACTA members who donated their time and money to support their favorite candidates. Their training and experience working for CTA helped give them the skills to bring about such a massive change. Although the results of the race for Superintendent of Public Instruction is still too close to call, the election of Gavin Newsom should move us closer to key policy changes in Health Care and Pre-School Education. Thanks to all who made a difference!

### **REACTA Scholarship Program 2019**

The officers are pleased to announce that the 2019 REACTA Scholarship Application Packet will be available on **November 15!** There will be a link on our Facebook page or you may go to the REACTA website, [www.reacta.org](http://www.reacta.org), where you can download the packet.

### **REACTA Officers Election Deadlines**

Ballots for the REACTA Officers Election have been mailed. If you did not receive a ballot, please contact Dixie at [ctadixie@verizon.net](mailto:ctadixie@verizon.net). Ballots must be postmarked by **December 4, 2018.**

### **Congratulations to Our Recent Retirees**

REACTA congratulates Scott Postel, Len Feldman and Mike Myslinski on their retirement from CTA. Scott worked in the Controller's office while Len and Mike were part of our Communications Department. We welcome them to the world of retirement and will encourage them to be members of REACTA!