

REACTA HOT TOPICS

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Staying In Touch With Members

Welcome to the first edition of REACTA HOT TOPICS. As President, I am committed to improve the communications between the leaders and members of REACTA. Our members have multiple ways in which to receive information about issues that impact their retirement. We have the REACTOR newsletter published every few months, a Facebook page with current information, email blasts when information needs to get sent to members with email accounts and the one on one conversation when members share information they hear from other sources. What has been missing is the timely, regularly scheduled dissemination of information to members from reliable sources. It is my goal to use a monthly email blast to members with accurate information about the hot topics impacting us for that month. This will include the following:

- Reports from REACTA leaders and committee chairs on their current projects
- A calendar of events listing luncheons, meetings and other activities of interest
- A list of active staff who have given notice of retirement
- Action taken by either the Employee Pension Trust or the Health Benefits Trust that impacts retirees

This first edition will help keep you informed of our current Hot Topics. Please share this with your former colleagues who are not REACTA members. We want them to see what we do and why it is important for them to join.

Organizing Committee replaced with Pension and Benefits Oversight Committee

At its February 9 meeting, the REACTA officers accepted the resignation of the members of the Organizing Committee. Rather than appointing a new committee, the officers decided to create a new committee to maintain close contact with REACTA's liaisons to the pension and benefits trust and make recommendations to the officers on any action necessary to protect our retirees. This includes continuation of the purchasing power guarantees that were agreed to by CTA. Since the pension trust is still in the Red Zone, no improvements may be initiated. Current members of this committee are Don Crawford, Felice Strauss and Bill Empey. Marilyn Russell Bittle is board liaison. I am waiting to hear from a few members who have been asked to serve.

Recent Retirees

Karen Kyhn

Linda Scott

Joella Neubauer

Julie Denton

Michaela O'Neill

Cynthia Manjarrez

Justo Robles

Mary Sue Weston

Linda Martin

Adela Amaya

Membership Promotion Committee Begins to Implement Plan

A newly constituted Membership Promotion Committee will begin a series of activities to promote membership in REACTA. Robin Rose is chair of the committee and board liaison is Art McLaughlin. Invitations have been sent to additional members. Each region will also have two contacts to help identify potential new members and initiate contact with new retirees. More information on their plan was included in the last edition of REACTOR.

Long Term Care

It is unfortunate that many retirees who purchased long term care policies through the trust are facing significant increases in premium. The Trust investigated this action and concluded there was nothing it could do to fix this problem. There is a nationwide crisis in long term care due to many factors. If you have a plan and want to maintain your current premium, you were given the option to lower benefits, reduce coverage or eliminate the COLA. According to Dan Saling, if you have been in the plan for more than ten years, you may have the option to convert currently paid premiums to daily coverage. This needs to be confirmed in writing with CAN.

Annual Reunion and Business Meeting

The officers decided to invite ALL CTA staff retirees to the Annual Meeting scheduled for October 2-5, 2017, at the Cambria Pines Lodge. Please encourage your former colleagues who are not REACTA members to save these dates. Non-members may attend all functions, however, they may not vote in the annual business meeting. There will also be an additional registration fee since REACTA subsidizes the cost of the conference, including dinner, for our members. More information about the annual reunion and meeting will be available in a few months.

REACTA Spring Luncheons

REACTA Spring Luncheons have been scheduled for Regions 2 on May 15 in Fresno and Region 4 on May 10 in Temecula. We are waiting to confirm dates for the other regions. More information will be sent when dates are known.

REACTA Scholarships

We have received two applications for REACTA Scholarships. These will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee under the direction of Marla Reyes. Winners will be announced in early April.

Congratulations to the CTA Retirees listed to your left. If you worked with any of our newest retirees, please call to congratulate them and ask them to join REACTA!