

REACTA HOT TOPICS

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REACTA Scholarship Winners

The REACTA officers met on April 5 and voted to grant two scholarships for 2018. Recipients included Lisa Gonzalez and Lanae Caldwell. Lisa is the daughter of Ann Adler. Lanae is the granddaughter of Marilyn Bittle. Each will receive a \$2000 grant upon proof of registering for the Summer or Fall Semester. More information, including pictures, will be included in the next REACTOR. Special thanks to Marla Reyes, chair of the committee, and members Art McLoughlin, Gerri Gonzalez (no relation to Lisa), Debbie Edginton and Joe Colton. The committee members did not know the names of the applicants they reviewed. The officers did not know the names of any applicants until the vote was completed.

Health Trust Update

Rosanne Becher submitted a report about the January Trust meeting. This is attached to HOT TOPICS. The June meeting of the Trust will include presentations from the various insurance companies we use. There will also be discussion about Express Scripts. Roseanne will have a report in a future HOT TOPICS.

REACTA Leaders Meet with CTA Management

REACTA leaders met with Jim Schlotz on March 2 to discuss matters of mutual interest. REACTA requested that a trustee from each trust be appointed as liaison to REACTA. We also discussed how retirees can volunteer to assist with political campaigns. Our scheduled meeting with the presidents of CSO and CAS was postponed due to personal conflicts by the CAS president. We are working to re-schedule this meeting.

**Save October 1-3
for REACTA Annual
Reunion and
Meeting at Cambria
Pines Lodge. More
details will be in
the next REACTOR!**

Political Education Committee

Committee Chair Conrad Ohlson attended the meeting described above with Jim Schlotz. CTA's priority for the June primary is to vote for Gavin Newsom for Governor and Tony Thurmond for Superintendent of Public Instruction. Both candidates face strong opposition and it is in the best interest of public education to support these candidates. REACTA members who would like to volunteer to assist these campaigns should email Conrad at Ctaswede@aol.com. You will be asked to help at a CTA office close to your home.

REACTA Spring Luncheons

REACTA has helped organize five Spring Luncheons! Please see the attached list with information about dates, locations and contact. This is your chance to get together with former colleagues. I plan to attend each luncheon and give an update on some of the issues REACTA is dealing with. You may attend more than one luncheon!

Retirement Trust Letter

CTA retirees recently received a copy of a letter sent by our Pension Trust to IRS requesting to increase the number of years it would take for the dollars in the trust to support retiree payments. Both labor and management trustees supported this request. In English, this would be like extending your 30-year mortgage to 35 years in order to reduce your monthly payment. This gives the trust a few extra years to recover some of the income they projected that did not appear due to the earlier stock market losses. By extending the amortization period, the Trust will be able to demonstrate that their current funds can support the payments to retirees. This practice is fairly common for trusts. When I received a few questions from retirees, I contact Pension Trustee Susan Midori-Jones who assisted with the above explanation.

I recently found out that Ron Bennett, CEO of School Services, passed in March. Many of us worked across the table from Ron in some of the most contentious bargaining situations. We may not have always agreed with Ron, but he was a man of integrity. When a deal was "cut" he had your back. RIP Ron.

REACTA Spring Luncheons - 2018

Region 2 South

May 7th, 2018
Elbow Room at 11:30 a.m.
731 W. San Jose Avenue
Fresno CA 93704
RSVP: Marla Reyes marlaed@earthlink.net or Dick Sawtelle
sawtellerg@aol.com

Region 4

May 22nd at 11:30 a.m.
South Coast Winery
34843 Rancho California Rd.
Temecula, CA
RSVP: Kathie Casas 951-532-8979 kcasas@aol.com

Region 3

May 30th at 11:30 a.m.
Chevy Chase Country Club
3067 E. Chevy Chase Drive
Glendale CA 91206
RSVP: Marilyn Russell Bittle mmrbret2002@aol.com

Region 1

June 4th at 12:00 p.m.
Ruth Mary and John Cradler's home
777 Broomfield Road
San Mateo, CA
Directions: 650-344-7046
cradler@earthlink.net
RSVP: Debbie Edginton 925-640-5550
debbyedg@aol.com

Region 2 North

June 19th at 11:30 a.m.
Sun City Roseville Clubhouse
7050 Del Webb Blvd.
Roseville CA 95747
RSVP: Bob Persky 916-771-8541 bolyn22@comcast.net

NOTE: Our new Newsletter Editor, Margaret Wallace is requesting that someone at each Luncheon take pictures and send them to her at marwall@aol.com

April 2018 REACTA Health & Welfare Trust Report

Roseanne Becher

At the CTA Employees' Health and Welfare Benefits Trust Meeting held on January 30, 2018, the Trustees received the customary reports from the Trust Consultant, Investment Advisor, Administrator and Committee Chairs.

The Benefit Consultant presented the Anthem Blue Cross and Express Scripts (Medical and Pharmacy) Utilization reports. For the period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017, the number of Active Employees decreased 4%, while the number of Retirees increased 4%. The "Total Expenses" for Actives increased 21% as the "Total Expenses" for Retirees only increased 8%.

For the current year September 1, 2017 to November 30, 2017, the number of Active participants continued to decrease as the number of Retirees increased by the same 3% or so. Additionally, even though this year's utilization trend shows a significant decrease of 29% in "Total Expenses" for Actives, there was a slight increase of 3% for Retirees.

The Benefit Consultant also reviewed the participant data as compiled by Milliman, Inc. Some of the highlights are as follows:

- The Demographics are 56% female and 44% male
- The average age of all members is 51
- Under the Employer Group Waiver Plan (EGWP), the CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) reimbursement totaled \$200,079.72 for 2016
- The Health Trust's Post Retirement Benefit Obligation was reduced from \$385,247,702 to \$377,345,897 due to an increase in the interest rate used in the valuation

As part of the Benefits Committee report, the SMM (Summary of Material Modifications) as of January 1, 2018 was to be distributed no later than March 29, 2018.

The Trust Investment return was 3.37% for the fiscal year, as of December 31, 2017, with the market value of assets totaling \$18.3 million.

The Trust Administrator reported the Trust's Total Assets were \$21,635,608.26 at November 30, 2017 and a Net Income of \$559,150.07 for year to date through November 2017. Trust participants total 1,144 with 562 Actives and 582 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.