

REACTA HOT TOPICS

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Keeping Our Members Informed

Welcome to the third edition of REACTA HOT TOPICS. This is my attempt to keep our members informed of actions that not only have the potential to impact our pension and health benefits, but also other topics that promote some of the social interaction REACTA is trying to establish. The recent edition of The REACTOR went into deeper coverage of our trusts. This issue will update you on the following Hot Topics:

- Bargaining surrounding the Red Zone status of our Pension Trust
- Implementation of the 2017 Purchasing Power Adjustment
- An Update on our Health Benefits Trust
- Latest News From Our Membership Promotion Committee
- Information about the remaining REACTA Spring Luncheons
- Planning information so you can attend our Annual Reunion and Meeting in October (same article as last month's HOT TOPICS since nothing has changed since then!)
- A list of active staff who have given notice of retirement

Please share this with your former colleagues who are not REACTA members.

Bargaining Continues on Pension Trust

The headline is the same as last month, but the content is different! The parties did meet and negotiate in April but there still is no agreement in how to move our Retirement Pension Trust out of the red zone. Future bargaining sessions have been scheduled in hopes of reaching an agreement. The Trust may not make any improvements to the pension plan while it is in the red zone. REACTA will keep you informed of the results of any future bargaining.

Purchasing Power Adjustment Delayed

REACTA found out in mid-April from some of our retirees that the purchasing power adjustment they were entitled to was not yet implemented for 2017. I contacted our pension trust administrator and was told that the adjustments could not be made until the books close for 2016. When I asked when that would happen, I was told that someone else at the trust would call me back. A few days later, I received a call from the trust that the adjustments were made and would show up in the next (May) pension check. The amount would be retroactive to January 1, 2017. Our trustees need to work with the trust administrator to develop a better plan for distribution. Even though the amounts are retroactive, this still creates a cash flow problem for some of our retirees. If you know of any pre-1989 retirees who have not received an adjustment, let me know and I will contact the trust.

Recent Retirees

*Anne Aquino,
Reg. 2*

*Lorraine Lerner,
Region 1*

*Eileen Fetters,
Region 3*

Health Trust in Good Shape

At the Region 4 REACTA Luncheon, it was reported that our Health Trust is doing well. There is currently no need to change any benefits. The trustees have also decided not to look further into an arrangement with the California Value Trust (CVT) to administer our health plan. There continues to be complaints about the way Express Scripts is managing our prescription drug plan. The trustees are considering issuing an RFP (Request for Proposal) to see if other options exist.

Membership Brochure Created

Our Membership Promotion Committee continues to organize and develop new ways to contact past CTA retirees and new CTA retirees to ask them to join REACTA. Robin Rose and her committee worked with the officers to design a new membership promotion brochure that was distributed at the Region 4 REACTA Luncheon. Our regional contacts for membership will soon receive copies to help them approach potential members. Our regional contacts for membership promotion are Maureen Keating (R1), Steve DePue (R2), Robin Rose (R3), and Gary Campbell (R4). Board liaison is Art McLaughlin. We are emphasizing not only our role to work with employee unions and management, but also our goal to promote more social interaction among CTA retirees. If you have any suggestions, please contact Robin at rrmcrose@gmail.com.

REACTA Spring Luncheons

By the time you receive this issue of Hot Topics, the Regions 4 and 2 Spring Luncheons will be history! I attended the R4 luncheon and had a good time visiting with former colleagues. The food was also very good! We still have the Regions 1 and 3 luncheons ahead of us. Information is as follows:

- **The Region 1 and Headquarters Luncheon** will be in early June. We are still waiting for a firm date. As soon as it is set, an email blast will go out and information posted on our Facebook page. .
- **The Region 3 Luncheon** will be at Maggie's Pub in Santa Fe Springs on Tuesday, May 23 at 11:30 a.m. Please contact Marilyn Bittle at mmrbret2002@aol.com.

Annual Reunion and Business Meeting

The REACTA Annual Reunion and Business Meeting will be on October 2-5, 2017, at the Cambria Pines Lodge. ALL retired CTA employees are invited to join us in Cambria. Our program will start with a reception on Monday afternoon, October 2. Our Book Review and Hot Topic Forum will be on Tuesday morning, October 3 with our business meeting the same afternoon. Our group dinner is Tuesday night. We are scheduling tour options for those that want to stay on Wednesday, October 4. So far the options include a wine tasting tour with lunch or tours to Hearst Castle. Lunch and dinner are on your own.

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 and registration material will be available in June.

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!