

# The REACTOR

*Retired Employees Association  
California Teachers Association*

August, 2019

## STAYING CONNECTED IN RETIREMENT

By Dom Summa, President

The decision to retire is often made after lengthy consideration of your previous work experience, financial security for the future, and activities to enjoy during your retirement. When there is a belief that the above three considerations are properly aligned, CTA is informed of your decision. But what happens next? CTA will likely post your position and you will embark on a journey that has many streets and avenues to follow. Some retirees start a second career. Others pursue sports or hobbies that were dormant during their working years. Other retirees reconnect with family members and become involved with their children or grandchildren. Travel seems to also be a popular activity given the posts I read from my Facebook friends! Yet the one area we sometimes have difficulty with is staying connected with previous colleagues. This is made more difficult since some retirees locate to different states and countries to enjoy their retirement years. One way to help facilitate this contact is to stay connected to REACTA.

REACTA, with the support of our Facebook page, Hot Topics, REACTOR and website, serves as a clearing house for information about our colleagues, pensions, and CTA actions. I know you are thinking, "I am already a member so why are you telling me this?" I bet some of you are in touch with former colleagues who are not members of REACTA. Wouldn't it be wonderful if those retirees joined, to stay connected with the rest of us? Certainly, they are interested in the security of our pension and health trusts. They might even be interested in attending a luncheon or our annual meeting in Cambria. I doubt the cost of the dues is keeping them away.

Our membership promotion committee has done a fantastic job signing up new retirees. However, we have a significant number of retirees who either don't know how to join or are consciously deciding not to join. I encourage you as members of REACTA to reach out to your former colleagues who are not members. Let's try to stay connected through REACTA.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Kenny Kim and Robin Rose share stories from years working together in Montebello and then as Region 3 colleagues.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**October 1-3** – REACTA Annual Reunion and Business Meeting at Cambria Pines Lodge



Regional Holiday parties

**April and May 2020** – TBA  
Regional Lunches

**July** REACTA Bar-B-Q  
CSO/REACTA Alice Clement  
House - TBA

**DATE EXTENDED TO SEPTEMBER 1**



It is time to register for the REACTA annual meeting in Cambria. Registration form is included in this newsletter.

For those of you that would like to extend your stay and participate in a wine tasting tour, REACTA has organized a tour on Thursday, October 3.

The shuttle will pick you up at the Cambria Pines Resort hotel, take you to Tablas Creek and Peachy Canyon wineries for tasting and then lunch.

Tasting fees will be applied, but may be waived if you purchase wine. The 4-hour tour requires an 8 person minimum. The shuttle cost is \$500 divided by the number of participants, plus the \$10- \$20 lunch, and possible tasting fees, thus more people will bring the cost down.

Please let Felice Strauss know no later than September 1 by filling out the registration form for the annual meeting.

The REACTA Book Club will meet once again at the annual meeting in Cambria, Oct 1-3. We will meet on Wednesday after breakfast. The time and place will be posted in the hotel lobby.

This year we will be discussing Rabih Alameddine's novel *An Unnecessary Woman*. She has constructed a celebration of literature, a miniature history of Lebanon, and most importantly the remarkable story of Aaliya, an unmarried, childless misanthrope, a translator of great novels, whose life slowly (and thankfully) takes the shape of the very kind of corny storyline she detests.

For anyone who has never participated in a book club, it is easy. Just read the book and join us for an interesting discussion among fans and friends. Join us even if you haven't read the book.

## UNION MEMBERSHIP IN THE US

*By Marla Reyes*

As Union Membership in the US dwindles, it is our responsibility to make sure that we are doing our part to keep the Unions in our country vital, strong, and essential. By attending our REACTA Meetings, we are saying to those who know us that we believe and support Unions. Without the Union, we would not be where we are today: personally, and socially. It's not ALL about economic well-being. It's also about political voice, control over our life, a sense of belonging, safety and security, and recognition.

If our friends and family know we are active in our Union's Retirement Organization, they will be excited about Unions. We must stay active in the Union for our entire life.



Bill Riblett, Dick Gale, and DeDe Deatrick join Region 4 Reacta colleagues for the regional luncheon.

Region 4 attendees at the South Coast Winery.

Region 3 Reacta members enjoy coming together at their luncheon.



**REACTA RETIREES COME TOGETHER WITH CSO FOR BARBEQUE, CONVERSATION, AND TOASTS TO COLLEAGUES GONE**





## REACTA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By: Robin Rose

**Time flies when you are retired.** I recall previous retirees saying that their calendars are so busy that there is just no time! Well, I didn't believe it until it happened to me. After finishing up my last Emeritus assignment with the Lynwood Teachers Association, my calendar immediately filled up with quilting groups and projects, travel, volunteer work, clubs, social activities, and on and on.

**However, there is always time in my calendar to recruit new retirees to REACTA.** And, along with our Membership Committee, we leave no stone unturned. **Welcome to our newest REACTA members!**

Susan Sanz, Diane Morte, Donald Moore, Sherri Miyamoto, Karen Stevens, Diana Lavigne

**However, with sadness we continue to lose our friends and colleagues along the way.** Each time we lose one of these incredibly special people, it feels like a gut punch. And this time is no different. During times like this we realize how much our wonderful CTA family means to us. No one ever doubted that these courageous warriors were supremely dedicated to the work of the Union.

**Dennis Bambaure** indeed lived a wonderful life. From Internment Camp Survivor to Redding philanthropist, Dennis was kind and funny and a friend to everyone in CTA who knew him. He understood that the key to "the powerful CTA" was staff. His generosity with time, knowledge, and lasting friendships to many helped shape how CTA advocated for its members, especially with the growth of collective bargaining. **Jim 'Father' Essman** was the person who you always wanted to work with on a job action. He was a Bronco fan, friend and a mentor to many. Jim was instrumental in introducing one-on-one relational organizing to CTA and he always showed up! **Bob Asnard** was a fiscal genius and whenever someone needed to know anything about school finance, he had the answers. **Del Gardner** was a bleeding heart for the underdogs of the world. He would rescue teachers 24/7, even in the middle of the night. He never forgot a name, a face, a story, or a case. He was a compassionate, empathetic and caring advocate.

**Following are colleagues who have not joined YET or are newly retired.** If you know someone on this list, please reach out and ask them to join. We are all recruiters.

Vernon Gettone, Mike Myslinski, David Araiza, Ken Burt, Scott Day, Debra Leonard, Terri Pinkney, Jayme Merritt, Mark York, Chuck King, Joe Nunez

**If you need a membership form or brochure, please contact one** of the following dedicated and passionate members of your REACTA Membership Committee and remember to notify REACTA with any change of address or contact information, including phone number, address, and email.

Region 1: Maureen Keating, Theo Austin-Smith, Shirley Horn, Craig Nelson, Karen Ferrera

Region 2: Annie Aquino, John Stevens      Region 3: Robin Rose, Patricia Williams, Ginny Jannott

Region 4: Ann Adler, Merri Furler      UniServ: Kerry Moriarty

# REACTA 2019 Income/Expense YTD Report

Submitted by Felice Strauss



		Projected	Actuals 2/7	Balance	Actuals 4/11	Balance	Actuals 6/5	Balance
<b>Income</b>		<b>16000</b>	<b>4983.76</b>	11516	1432.50	10084	3216.25	6868
<b>Expenses</b>								
	Newsletter	1500		1500		1500.00		1500
	Hot Topics	50		50		50.00		50
	Exec Board	6000	<b>837.51</b>	5162.49	49.50	5112.99	291.46	4821.53
	Committees	3000	<b>796.70</b>	2203.03	1411.46	791.84	1178.44	-386.60
	Trust		<b>622.74</b>		1237.50		337.50	
	Membership		<b>173.96</b>		173.96		242.10	
	CAS/CSO						438.21	
	Scholarship						160.63	
	Regional							
	Annual Meeting	1000		1000	366.64	633.36		633.36
	Website	250		250		250.00		250.00
	Mailings/ Directory	700	<b>117.11</b>	582.89	235.80	347.09	80.55	266.54
	Scholarships	4000		4000		4000.00		4000
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>16500</b>	<b>1751.32</b>	14748.68	2063.40	12685.28	1550.45	11134.83
<b>Check #s</b>			<b>#1580-87</b>		<b>#1588-99</b>	<b>#1591-98</b>	<b>#1591-98</b>	<b>#1599-1602</b>
<b>Assets</b>		<b>12/31/18</b>	<b>1/7/19</b>		<b>2/28/19</b>		<b>4/30/19</b>	<b>5/31/19</b>
	Convenience Checking	<b>32827.29</b>	<b>42032.57</b>	49.50 check fee	<b>36608.36</b>		<b>38240.26</b>	<b>35791.17</b>
	Prime Checking	<b>10895.88</b>	<b>1000</b>	Transfer in 9000	<b>10000.80</b>		<b>10003.32</b>	<b>10005.84</b>
	Association Savings	<b>30.00</b>	<b>30.00</b>	No change	<b>30.00</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>28.04</b>
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>43753.17</b>	<b>43062.57</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>46639.16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>48273.58</b>	<b>45825.05</b>

# REACTA Officers

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## LET THEM KNOW NOW

By Margaret Wallace, Editor

We have said goodbye to far too many colleagues this year. All of us can tell stories of how these men and women made a difference in our lives as colleagues and friends.

Jim Essman was one of these individuals for me. His wing span guided me through that moment in my career when I seriously considered quitting and going back to the classroom. He helped me find the proactive purpose of advocacy through organizing.

Many of us were lucky enough to spend time with our mentors and personally thank them for that difference they made.

I think the message here is, "Don't wait to tell our mentors how they influenced our career and our lives."



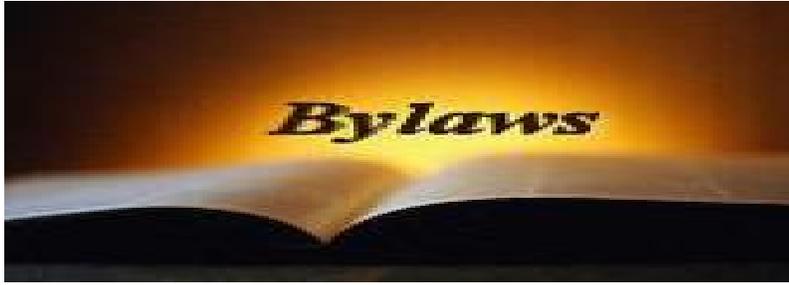
Felice Strauss, Rob Tranter, Dixie Ditsler and Pam Bowen attend Jim Essman's memorial service. Attendees raised their glasses and toasted with Jameson

Pick up the phone and call. Or even better, drive over and visit, have lunch and raise your glasses and toast with some Jameson Irish Whiskey.

**Your family is more important than your job.** *Unsolicited observation and advice from Jim Essman*

## Committees

**Membership Team:** Robin Rose, Chair – Region 1, Maureen Keating, Theo Austin-Symth, Craig Nelson, Karyn Ferreira, Shirley Horn; Region 2, Joella Aragon, John Stevens; Region 3 and Chair, Robin Rose, Patricia Williams, Ginny Jannotto; Region 4, Ann Adler, Merri Furler, Gary Campbell; UniServ Units, Kerry Moriarty.  
**Pension & Benefits Oversight Committee:** Bill Empey, Chair - Felice Strauss, Clyde Williams  
**Board Liaison:** Marilyn Russell Bittle. **Political Education Committee:** Conrad Ohlson, Chair. **Health & Welfare Trust Liaison:** Roseanne Becher. **Retirement Trust Liaison:** Alan Frey. **REACTOR Newsletter:** Margaret Wallace, Editor.  
**Scholarship Committee:** Marla Reyes, Chair. **Nominations & Elections Committee:** Chair - Barbara DePrete, Ann Adler, Dixie Ditsler. **Web Site & Facebook:** Kathie Casas



## REACTA EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDS BYLAW CHANGES

The REACTA Officers voted to recommend a bylaw amendment submitted by a member. This amendment will provide flexibility for general meeting dates, time and place. Membership will vote on the bylaw change at the October meeting.

### Article VII MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

~~Section A. A General Membership meeting shall be held annually. Such meeting shall be scheduled to occur on a date during either October or November at a location to be determined by the Executive Board. on a date and at a place to be determined by Executive Board or General Membership.~~

~~Section B. Location of the General Membership meeting shall be determined by the Executive board. Convenience and centrality to all members shall be considered. The date, time and place of the General Membership meeting shall be published approximately ninety days prior to the meeting.~~

~~Section C. The time and place of the General Membership meeting shall be published in a REACTA newsletter to be mailed at least ninety (90) days prior to the date of the meeting. (Delete all)~~

Section D and E., re-number to C and D

### Article III

111.3.4 Treasurer: The Treasurer shall:

(e) File all taxes and other legal documents in a timely manner and report the action to the Executive Board.

Addition of line (e) only, no change to lines a,b,c,d