

December 2012
January 2013

Reactor

Retired Employees
Association of the California
Teachers Association

2012 Officers

Jeanne Akins
President
Jakins80@yahoo.com

Ellen Greenhut
Vice President
ellen_greenhut@hotmail.com

Connie DeCoud
Secretary
Africanvioletofedh@yahoo.com

John Smith
Treasurer
jawscocp@hotmail.com

Art McLaughlin
At-Large Board Member
Mickey3643@aol.com

2013 Officers

John Smith
President
JAWSCCCP@hotmail.com

Lloyd Roberts
Vice President
berdolloys@aol.com

Marla Reyes
Secretary
marlaed@earthlink.net

Art McLaughlin
Treasurer
Mickey3643@aol.com

Marilyn R. Bittle
Director-at-large

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope that you are healthy and enjoying each day.

Our General Membership meeting in Cambria on October 10, 2012, was very well attended and even the weather cooperated and presented us with a beautiful three days. Our guest, CTA Staff Rose Luna, presented information on the Propositions (#30 and #32) that were on the November ballot. These two propositions were very important for financing education programs and for the health of the CTA organization as well as all service entities. I would like to thank Peg Butler and Connie DeCoud for taking the time to phone bank with me on this campaign. (see pictures in the newsletter)

We also were fortunate to have Les Frances in attendance and he shared his extensive political knowledge and predictions with us as well. I feel as if we all came away from the meeting far more informed than ever before.

The Organizing Committee is continuing their pursuit of identifying those members who are receiving a PPA (purchasing power adjustment). Again, if you are receiving this adjustment and **have not contacted the Organizing Committee yet**, please do so immediately so that we can be sure you are receiving the amount you deserve. You may email Larry Harlan at lkharlan36@aol.com and let him know when you began receiving this adjustment.

I would like to recognize the following Organizing Team: Larry Harlan, Linda and Lou Boitano, Dick Sawtelle, Bob Persky, Marilyn Bittle, Ed Foglia and Ed Hogenson. Your Executive Board: Ellen Greenhut, John Smith, Connie DeCoud and Art McLoughlin.

2013 Officers Announced

Congratulations to the new Executive Board!

There were 344 ballots mailed out; 223 were mailed back. Invalid ballots: 3. There were six write-ins. The following are the officers for 2013-2015:

President -	John Smith, 222 votes
Vice President -	Lloyd Roberts, 220 votes
Secretary -	Marla Reyes, 217 votes
Treasurer -	Art McLoughlin, 222 votes
Director at Large -	Marilyn Russell Bittle, 218 votes

Organizing Committee Report

The Organizing Committee has been focused on increasing REACTA membership and has been devising plans to reach out to non-members and secure their support. To date, this program has been quite successful in increasing REACTA membership, as is reported elsewhere in this newsletter. John Smith, Linda Boitano, and Marilyn Russell Bittle have been the driving forces in this campaign and deserve recognition for their efforts.

In other matters, the Organizing Committee has had a truly frustrating year. Shortly after the beginning of the year, REACTA requested information related to the third year implementation of "CTA's Career Based Retiree Benefit Plan for Pre-1989 Retirees".

This was information that had been routinely furnished from the Trust Administrator the previous two years and reported in THE REACTOR. After considerable wait, REACTA was informed that the Trust Operations Committee had instructed the Trust Administrator to withhold this information and to no longer furnish any information that was requested. Subsequent to this notification, REACTA President Jeanne Akins sent a letter to the Trust Chairpersons requesting that this directive be rescinded and that the information be furnished as in the past. No reply was ever received from these individuals and additional requests were similarly totally ignored.

Such disdain on the part of the Trust Officers and Administrator can only lead to speculation that they are:

1. Embarrassed by the fact that their plan has benefited so few of the 111 eligible pre-1989 Retirees. (33 in 2010; 45 in 2011 - ?? in 2012)
2. Hoping to avoid any questions that could arise about the implementation in year three such as percentage increase(s), etc.
3. Acting in "spite" toward REACTA for advocating on behalf of its membership and for wanting to keep the implementation process as transparent as possible.
4. Content to consider the past service of CTA Retirees to be de minimis and unworthy of any future consideration and/or respect.
5. (Formulate your own speculation.)

In year four and thereafter of CTA's Plan for pre-1989 Retirees, there is supposed to be a "Maintenance Factor of 2% to keep the Purchasing Power floor at the current levels. means that if the rate of inflation is such that the Purchasing Power floor should be eroded by more than 2% during any year, CTA will only fund a 2% increase".

This provision should apply to all 111 pre-1989 Retirees or their beneficiaries so if you are a member of this group, you should expect some adjustment to your monthly retirement allowance after January 1, 2013. It may take a month or two to make these calculations so be patient. However, if you do not see any increase, please notify REACTA and the Trust Administrator that no increase has been made. (Note: REACTA can be notified by e-mail or letter to the respective officers.) REACTA will make efforts to determine the cause of such non-adjustment. Further, if after notifying the Trust Administrator you receive information regarding this matter, please share it with REACTA. Let's all be in partnership to assure that CTA is honoring the Purchasing Power adjustment for pre-1989 Retirees.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry K. Harlan, Organizing Committee Chairperson

Newsletter Distribution

Please email Dixie Ditsler, ctadixie@verizon.net, for changes in your email address. We greatly appreciate those who receive your newsletter by way of email. It saves money and time. If you are not on the email list, please tell Dixie to add you to it.

President's Message Cont.



Region 3 Phonebankers

Linda and Lou Boitano have spent many hours pulling together names and phone numbers of those members who have not been contacted about joining REACTA. If you have a colleague that has not joined yet, please encourage them to do so and the enrollment form is on the web site – www.REACTA.org.

In reflecting back on the last 3 ½ years since I was elected President, I have made many friends and also lost a few as well. I wish the newly elected REACTA Executive Board good luck and hope that you-our members- become engaged in the association at your first opportunity.

A final 'thank you' to Dixie Ditsler and Kathie Casas who are always available to help keep us moving, and to Dick Sawtelle, without whose help I would not have been able to make it through all the meetings and paperwork.

Jeanne Akins, President

Change Is Inevitable

Les Frances left CTA in 1975 to work as Congressman Norm Mineta's Chief of Staff to President Carter's Deputy White House Chief of Staff and to be involved in ballot measure campaigns from CA to ME.

Frances took the audience down memory lane—a favorite pastime of all retirees. He recounted when NEA/CTA was transitioning from a professional society into an industrial-type union, Alinsky-type organizing, establishing bargaining rights for teachers and grassroots level political action. There was strong resistance to the movement but unionization won.

Pulling from his extensive experience in working in the political arena, Frances shared some conclusions he has made.

First of all, generally speaking initiatives are a shitty way to make public policy. Spawned by the Progressive Movement in the early 20th century, Initiatives, Referenda and Recall were designed as a curb against the

excesses of that era's special interests—the railroads (Southern Pacific) and other large corporations that owned much of the state, including the Legislature. Today, ballot measures have become political tools for a broader range of special interests—left, right and center.

Second, the legislative process—broken and disheartening as it may be, allows for policy measures to be debated, amended, altered along the way. Initiatives cannot be. In California, the combined effects of Prop 13—and I hate to say it—Prop 98 have so crippled the state's ability to adjust to shifting economic dynamics that the state is experiencing a budgetary death rattle.

There are certain things to keep in mind when sponsoring, supporting or opposing an initiative or referenda.

****Ballot measures are abstractions---** they are words on a piece of paper. Providing definition to those words is what a campaign--yes or no--is all about.

****Because they are abstractions,** ballot measures tend to generate or be subject to greater volatility as measured in polls. Framing the issue—pro or con (and starting that process with the actual ballot wording)---is a critical factor.



Initiatives are a shitty way to make public public policy

****Almost two thirds of all ballot measures fail. Why? Because the "no" side is almost always the preservation of the status quo option.** And as much as people say they want or are demanding change, when push comes to shove preserving the status quo is preferable to the uncertainties that accompany change.

****Advertising of all types is used in all the major ballot campaigns,** but don't discount the power of one-on-one conversations—in person, over the phone or on the internet. There may be no more effective single tool as the committed voter talking to family members, friends, colleagues, members or employees.

Francis continued

In June, the voters in San Jose—a city that is about 65% Democratic and liberal by any reasonable measure—voted 70/30 for a pension reform plan that will eventually lead, I believe, to an end to— or serious modification of— the city’s defined benefits retirement plan.

Why?

The current system is simply unsustainable, and the voters know it. They believe there ought to be a better way, and they want the public employee unions to work with their elected representatives to devise one.

The failure of the Wisconsin recall was not necessarily an embrace of Scott Walker or his ideology (15% of those who voted against the recall told exit pollsters they were going to vote for Barack Obama in November!), but rather it was an expression of the voters’ view that recall shouldn’t be the way we resolve policy disputes.

Finally, the polarization and gridlock we see in Washington, DC and in many state capitols represent not just a failure of political leadership, it is also a reflection of the failure of political followership, of the citizenry’s increasing division into two ideologically extreme and rigid camps.

If we want that to change, the diminishing center in American politics—including sensible union leaders—most change their orientation from “How do we beat the enemy?” to “How can we solve societal/economic or educational problems A, B, and C, etc.?” If we don’t, I think our republic is in peril, and I maintain that challenge is a lot more important than preserving Prop 98, killing standardized tests, or maintaining rigid seniority rights in the assignment and transfer of teachers.

How to do this, how to make the transition and adjustments is unclear, but it has to be done. And no group on the planet is better equipped than the people in this room to figure out the answer. You’ve been there and done it before. Deep down you know that it is time to change again.

Treasurer’s Report

With a little less than one month to go for the close of 2012, REACTA is in excellent shape concerning its’ finances. We have \$34,981 in the General Fund account; it is anticipated a payroll deduction check from December (in early January) of approximately \$772.00. Last year at this time, REACTA had a balance in this account of \$26,048 and banked \$796.00 from the December payroll deductions. REACTA also has \$30 in the Association savings account (required by the credit union) and \$1,519.00 in the former “Economic Justice Fund” to be transferred into the General Fund account after the first meeting of 2013 Executive Board. If you have any reimbursable expenses, please submit them so we can close the 2012 year in a timely manner. John Smith



Rose Luna, Negotiation Specialist, Negotiation and Organization Development Dept., explains CTA strategy for Props. 30 & 32 at Cambria.

It appears that Gov. Brown is going to keep the promise he made to fund public education this year. That is what convinced CTA to back support of the propositions. Rose Luna cautions thought that although there were no education cuts in the current year (or loss of membership). Next year may be another challenge.

Luna strongly advises REACTA members to review their benefits handbook for changes to our health benefits. There will be slow transitions. For example: There is a change in copays for prescriptions and preventive care; those who use out-of-network facilities and physicians should use caution in making their choices. Check the Anthem website for lists of approved facilities and physicians.

If you haven’t done so already submit billing for Medicare, Part B reimbursement. There will be no more retroactive reimbursements.

If you have extensive health care bills, be sure to consult with your tax preparer regarding possible changes in your tax ramifications.



Your challenge today: Name all the people in these pictures taken at the Cambria retreat. because the newsletter editor can't. There is no prize. Just feel smug yourself.

Hint: check the web site for pictures with names - www.reacta.org

**REACTA DIRECTORY ADDITIONS
and CORRECTIONS
June - December 2012**

New and Renewing Members:**Raymond Barney**

9505 Meadow Leaf Ct, Bakersfield CA 93311
Phone: 661/664-1372 Cell: 661/333-9021
Email: raybarney@sbcglobal.net
Professional Staff Retired: 2007
Location: Santa Fe Springs

Roseanne Becher

4312 Latimer Ave, San Jose CA 95130
Phone: 408/379-5028 Cell: 408/368-0991
Email: roseannebecher@sbcglobal.net
Associate Staff Retired: 2012
Location: Burlingame

Jimmy Ellis

25429 Bayside Pl, Harbor City CA 90710
Phone: Cell: 310/809-4078
Email: jellis7@aol.com
Professional Staff Retired: 2007
Location: Bakersfield

Mona Marra

133 N Florence St, Burbank CA 91505-3602
Phone: Cell:
Email:
Associate Staff Retired: 2012
Location: Glendale Uniserv

James Thrasher

9550 Lazy Saddle Way, Elk Grove CA 95624
Phone: Cell:
Email: drift30@gmail.com
Management Staff Retired: 2012
Location: Burlingame

Sandra L. Young

141 Houston Ave, Clovis CA 93611
Phone: Cell: 559/288-7320
Email: youngjay45@comcast.net
Associate Staff Retired: 2012
Location: Fresno RRC

Corrections & Additional Information:**Linda Antwine**

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Bill Bianchi

Home phone: 541/471-7027
Cell phone: 541/218-3449

Ernie Ciarrocchi

Address: 15908 Golden Lakes Dr
Wimauma FL 33598
Phone: 813/938-1875

Donald Crawford

Address: 107 Matamoros Ct
Solana Beach CA 92075

Savannah Crawford**Name: Savannah Sincoff**

107 Matamoros Ct, Solana Beach CA 92075
Phone: 619/871-8447
Email: ssincoff@gmail.com
Spouse (Donald Crawford)

Deborah Edgington

Address: 5065 Haven Pl #211, Dublin CA 94568
Phone: 925/640-5550

Bill Gibson

Address: 32353 San Juan Creek Rd #207
San Juan Capistrano CA 92675
Phone: 949/248-0221

Bobbe Godwin

12131 181st Dr SE, Snohomish WA 98290-8694
Cell: 425/308-7049
Email: bajabobbe@gmail.com

Supervisory Staff Retired: 1986
Location: Burlingame

Georgia Kennady

Phone: 951/927-9281

Mona Marra

Email: mmarra@aol.com
Cell: 818/406-1685
1859 E Serena, Fresno CA 93720
Phone: 559/940-7418

Pauline (Polly) Rink
Delete cell phone #

Bill Rogers
Phone: 808/345-7819

DECEASED**Bruce Matlock****Gerald Pearson**