



The REACTOR

*Retired Employees Association
California Teachers Association*

March 2018

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

By Dom Summa, President

REACTA would not exist without the amazing work of our volunteers who step up to serve our members. I am very pleased that we have new committee chairs and other volunteers willing to spend their retirement time organizing events, contacting members, and keeping members informed of the many activities we have organized. Let me highlight just a few:

Robin Rose recruited a dedicated team of retirees to contact cash payers and new retirees about joining REACTA. The work of this team has increased membership and moved many from cash payers to pension check deduction. Read Robin's article.

Bill Empey stepped up to chair our Pension and Benefits Oversight Committee. He contacted our Trust administrator to help insure that the Purchasing Power Adjustments were sent out earlier this year.

Marla Reyes chairs our Scholarship Committee and they are now evaluating the applications and will make recommendations to the officers in April.

Margaret Wallace agreed to serve as our REACTOR Editor and you are now reading the latest edition!

Alice Clement opens her home in Pacific Palisades, to host the REACTA-CSO Bar-B-Q at CTA's UCLA Summer Institute.

Dixie Ditsler works tirelessly to keep our membership roster and directory up to date.

Conrad Ohlson is the new chair of our Political Education Committee. He will be our link to CTA so REACTA volunteers can assist with political action and membership engagement campaigns.

Kathie Casas monitors our REACTA Facebook Page and also serves as our webmaster. These tasks can be very time consuming when lots of activities are going on.

There are many other REACTA members who also serve on our committees or volunteer for specific tasks. Thank you for your help. If you would like to volunteer for an existing committee or would like to help REACTA organize other activities, let me know. I may have the role of "Mayor," but our volunteers are the ones who make this village function!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Dom Summa and Bill Empey discuss the formation of the new REACTA Pension and Benefits Oversight Committee.



Many members chose to extend their REACTA 2017 annual meeting winetasting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 7 – Region 2 spring luncheon in Fresno. Contact Dick Sawtelle
sawtellerg@aol.com

May 22– Region 4 spring luncheon at South Coast Winery, Temecula (11:30-1:30). RSVP to Kathie Casas
kcasas@aol.com

May 30 – Region 3 spring luncheon at Chevy Chase Country Club, 3067 E Chevy Chase Dr, Glendale. RSVP to Marilyn Bittle
mmbret2002@aol.com

June ??? -Region 1 luncheon in Hillsborough. Contact Debbie Edginton
debbyedg@aol.com

June 19– Region 2 luncheon in Woodland area

July 31 – REACTA Bar-B-Q during the CTA Summer Institute. Alice Clement's home (Details to follow)

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



Dom Summa and Marla Reyes address members at annual meeting banquet.

Jim and Mickey Essman enjoy the wine tasting trip.



Craig Nelson, Theo Austin-Smyth, and Kerry Moriarty participate in the annual meeting in the Peacock Room.



Marianne McCarthy, Dixie Ditsler, and Maureen Keating attend annual meeting in Cambria.

Check website REACTA.org for updated details.

REACTA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

By: Marla Reyes, Vice-President

As of the printing of this REACTOR, the Scholarship Committee is preparing to review 4 applications for 2018. I am delighted that we have received these applications to review.

The committee will complete the process and present the outcomes to the REACTA Executive Board. That meeting is in Ontario on April 5. The Board will take action on the winners. Announcement will go out shortly afterwards, in early April.

Up to 3 winners may be awarded \$2,000 each-- money that will help pay costs at an accredited College. Applicants must be relatives of REACTA Members.

The Executive Board, led by President Dom Summa, is very pleased that the REACTA Membership voted a few years ago to create a Scholarship Fund. This is one way to give back to those who are members. Helping educate the next generations is a great way to promote the values of the Retired CTA Staff.

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

The book that we have chosen to read for our 2018 meeting is **A Gentleman in Moscow**, by Amor Towles. It begins with Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov, a Russian aristocrat who has never worked a day in his life, being summoned before a Bolshevik court and placed on trial for writing a poem with revolutionary overtones.

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.



HELP WANTED

Are you interested in volunteering to work with CTA staff on the upcoming political campaigns for the June primary and November general election? If so, please email Conrad Ohlson - ctaswede@aol.com. You will be assigned to work with staff at the CTA Field Office closest to your home. More information in the April HOT TOPICS!

Becoming a better quilter is a hobby that I have continued during retirement. I especially like to make art quilts. In 2005, my husband, Paul McKernan, and I spent a vacation with eight friends in a beautiful villa in Tuscany, Italy. I took a photo of the entrance to the villa. Twelve years later in 2017 I took a class from Rod Daniel, an art quilter at Empty Spools Seminars located at Asilomar.



In his class I reproduced the photo with fabric and made this art quilt. Its dimensions are 36" by 46". I am pleased with how realistic it turned out and how I was able to capture perspective, all with fabric. I especially love taking quilt classes at Asilomar. In my work life I went to Asilomar each year for the President's Conference. It is nice to return to this beautiful area as a quilter and not a "worker." It's like visiting an old friend, although without any stress!

By: Robin Rose

WHEN DID WE HAVE TIME TO WORK



Dale Morejon rests at Crater Lake, OR on his 1,500 mile tour of southern Oregon and northern California.



Ann Adler joins Alva Rivera at the LA Women's March on Jan. 20.



Needlepointing is a renewed hobby that Margaret Wallace continues to enjoy.



WHY JOIN REACTA?

By Robin Rose, Membership Committee Chair

REACTA seeks to represent the best interests of its members to the Pension and Health Trusts, within the framework of the needs of active employees and the financial stability of CTA and the Trusts. That should be reason enough...but there is more!

REACTA informs and keeps in touch with our members through:

- REACTOR newsletters
- REACTA member directory
- REACTA Facebook which only members can access
- Annual membership reunion in October held in beautiful Cambria
- Annual Regional Spring Luncheons
- Annual Regional Caucus Meetings as needed

To learn even more about REACTA and its activities, you can visit us at our Web Site, REACTA.ORG where you will find updated information at your fingertips. Our REACTA Membership year is January through December. If you are a new retiree and you join through payroll deduction (highly recommended) your dues will be prorated.

At the time of REACTOR going to press we are **343** members strong! Welcome to the following new members (or those who have rejoined after a hiatus): Bill Davis, Carolina Monroy, Demetrios Smirlis, Owen Waters, Doug Appel, Mark Miller, Diane Ross, Danita Keefe, Bruce Colwell, Karyn Ferrera, Comson Suvimonvong, Sing Vannithone, Boon Thongma, Adela Amaya, Davina Kurzius, Paul and Paula Scott, Ann Adler, Linda Gray, Sherry Goodwin, Joella Aragon, Paula Guaraglia, Lorraine Lerner, Lynne Faulks, Dale Morejon, Vivien Tay, Andy Witholn, Steve Kaplan and Justo Robles.

The following newer retirees have not yet joined, although some have said they are waiting until they back out their accumulated vacation. **If you know any of these folks, please encourage them to join you as a REACTA colleague:** David Souza, Manager, Membership Accounting; Brenda Sutton-Wills, Attorney, Legal Dept, SFS; Kimberly Hansen, Field Services Specialist, Union City; Kathy Gonzales, Reprographic Technician, Office Services Burlingame; Estelle Lemieux, Governmental Relations Department, Sacramento; Gerry Fong, Asst. Exec Director, NODD, Burlingame; Ranny Kravetz, Field Services Specialist, SFS; Patricia Bailey, Regional UniServ Staff, Murrieta RRC; Eileen Feters, Regional UniServ Staff, Puente Hills UniServ; Cindy Ensworth, Regional Organizer; Bob Lindquist, Attorney, Legal Dept. SFS; Alan Frey, Regional UniServ Staff-Community Colleges, Natomas.

Feel free to contact any of us on the REACTA Membership Committee. Also please welcome Joella Aragon and Ann Adler as new Membership Regional Contacts. If you would like to join our regional teams, please let us know. All are welcome!

Region 1 – **Maureen Keating**, Theo Austin-Smith, Craig Nelson

Region 2 – **Joella Aragon**

Region 3 – **Robin Rose**, Patricia Williams, Ginny Jannotto, Davina Kurzius

Region 4 – **Ann Adler**, Conrad Ohlson, Gary Campbell, Merri Boston

Statewide (UniServ Units) – **Kerry Moriarty**

REACTA BUDGET REPORT February 7, 2018 (October thru December)

Expenses				
News Letter		Budget	2000	
		Actual		956.72
Executive Board		Budget	6000	
		Actual		2985.52
Committees		Budget	2500	
...Trust meetings				345.76
...Membership				166.28
...CAS/CSO				345.58
...Scholarship				248.75
Total committee expenses				1106.37
Annual Meeting		Budget	500	
...Hospitality				612.56
...Dinners, Room Subsidies, room rentals				1766.25
		Actual		2378.81
Mailings/ directory		Budget	684.5	
		Actual		489.76
Unallocated		Budget		0
		Actual		1000
Scholarship Award				2000
Total Expenses				10917.18

Income		
	10/4/2017-12/31/2017	\$3,960
previous balance	previous balance	6094.11
	Total Income	10054.11

Assets		
Checking Accounts		35938.34
		10879.49
	Total	46817.83
Savings Account		30
	Grand Total	46847.83



Notes:

1. Unallocated expense was for fire relief efforts.
2. Wine tour expenses were a "break even event".

REACTA OFFICERS



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Not An Easy Job

By Margaret Wallace, editor

We have lost such a good friend and great co-worker. Susan Popovich was the editor of the REACTOR after she retired from CTA. It was so like her to step up to the plate and volunteer her time to REACTA, just as she always did with CTA. She has been missed on so many levels.

When Dom Summa called and asked me to follow in her footsteps, I felt that I owed it to Susan. She taught me so much in NODD. I felt a strong responsibility to honor her efforts and hard work.

Let's make 2018 a year of picking up the torch and honoring the memory of so many friends by walking in their footsteps of making a difference. We can. Susan did.



REST IN PEACE

Carolyn Hodel

Tony Leon

Steve McDonald

Helen O'Donnell

Susan Popovich

Mary Wilhelm

Committees

Membership Promotion Team: Robin Rose, Chair – Region 1, Maureen Keating; Region 2, Steve DePue; Region 3 and Chair, Robin Rose; Region 4, Gary Campbell; UniServ Units, Kerry Moriarty. Pension & Benefits Oversight Committee: Bill Empey, Chair - Felice Strauss, Clyde Williams, Jim Essman, Marilyn Russell Bittle. Board Liaison Political Education Committee: Conrad Ohlson, Chair. Health & Welfare Trust Liaison: Roseanne Becher. Retirement Trust Liaison: (vacant). Pension & Benefits Oversight Committee: Bill Empey, Chair. REACTOR Newsletter: Margaret Wallace, Editor. Scholarship Committee: Marla Reyes, Chair. Nominations & Elections Committee: Margaret Wallace, Chair -Dixie Ditsler. Web Site & Facebook: Kathie Casas