

REACTOR

Retired Employees Association of the California Teachers Association

September, 2013

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President's Report

Dear Mr. King,

Several weeks ago, I opened up my email to find that you, or at least the California Staff Organization - CSO, had electronically sent me the CSO Communique. Later, I was made aware that this same document was sent to a number of other members of the Retired Employees Association of the California Teachers



Teacher's Association (REACTA) of which I am President. This letter is sent to you in response to that "outreach" and with a couple of purposes in mind.

First of all, I want to thank you and CSO for what we are assuming to be an effort to directly communicate with REACTA and its members. As you are well aware, many of our REACTA members were once members and, indeed, many were leaders of CSO and its predecessor, PSO. As such, we have a sincere interest in the ongoing affairs and activities of the current staff unions...not only CSO but also CAS. We don't know whether you intend to continue this effort to communicate, but we would hope so. As I'm sure you and all CSO members realize, our organizations hold many interests in common and one day you will be us. While we probably should acknowledge that some of our interests are slightly divergent, we should never the less be mutually supportive whenever possible. I would urge that we make every reasonable effort to this end and REACTA stands ready to engage in discussions/activities directed thereto.

Next, along the lines of the foregoing, I believe you are aware that I contacted your office by phone to extend an invitation for you to attend our annual Reunion/General Membership Meeting to be held at the Cambria Pines Lodge in Cambria, CA. on October 8-10, 2013. Just to make clear, our offer was to be at REACTA expense for travel, food and lodging and included either the entire or any part of the meeting. We would simply like to have the opportunity for our members who are present to meet and exchange views with you. The response that I got was that a scheduling conflict would not allow you to accept this invitation. We were and remain sorry to hear this. If there is any change in your schedule that would allow you to join us, please let me know immediately. If not and it is possible for one of your other elected officers to join us as a representative of CSO, please inform me of that. We will welcome them on the same basis as described above. Finally, we congratulate you and the other recently elected officers of CSO. The burden of leadership you have accepted is substantial and we wish you every success as you approach the challenges ahead.

Members To Determine REACTA Direction

According to unofficial DRAFT minutes of the August 12, 2013 meeting of the REACTA Executive Board, a motion was introduced by Vice President Lloyd Roberts as follows:

“That there be a discussion held during the morning session (10:30 AM) at the 2013 General Membership meeting at Cambria to be entitled “Wither Goeth REACTA” with Lloyd Roberts to introduce his concepts on changes in direction with full and open discussion to follow. Motion seconded by Bittle.”

Discussion of the motion made clear that the Board was not endorsing or recommending a new direction as suggested by Roberts but that there is interest in hearing the points of view that might be expressed by the members present. Further, the President was directed to secure a moderator who would ensure that the discussion would be held in a “fair and balanced” fashion. Motion passed.

In informal discussions during a break in the meeting prior to the foregoing action, Roberts noted that the issue is whether REACTA should continue with the “advocacy” posture that it has assumed over the past several years, including an organizing committee, or if its emphasis should be primarily that of a “social” organization for members. This should make for a lively and meaningful discussion. All members are encouraged to be present and participate. It may well set the organization’s direction in the months and years ahead.



Doggett Retires—New Member ?

Light, airy, dignified and hugs galore are the words of reflection by this attendee at the Retirement Reception for outgoing CTA Executive Director Carolyn Doggett. Held in the courtyard of CTA's Burlingame headquarters on the afternoon of Friday September 6th, current staff, retirees and elected leadership intermingled and shared stories of remembrance both with and about Carolyn and others who served the organization now celebrating its 150th Birthday.

One of Carolyn's celebrated achievements was the beautifully landscaped gardens on the property, a portion of which were set aside as a memorial remembrance of her service to the educators of California.

Did I mention that there was no need to stop for dinner on the way home as the Stammtish was overflowing with sandwiches, crudités, fresh fruits, nuts, olives, cheeses with crackers and a selection of mini desserts including chocolate covered brownies topped with caramel.

And yes, as REACTA Treasurer, I did remind Carolyn that her membership is anticipated.

Arthur McLoughlin

Do You See Someone You Know?

Jeanne Akins	Janis Baer
Marilyn Bittle	Kathy Casas
Alice Clement	Donald Crawford
Connie King-DeCoud	Dixie Ditsler
Bill Empey	Geri Gonzalez
Larry Harlan	Aleita/Gene Huguenin
Carol Kangas	Maureen Keating
Kathy/Matt Krier	Dale Mauer
Kevin McCallum	Marianne McCarthy
Art McLoughlin	Kathy O'Neil
Bob Persky	Lloyd Roberts
Dick Sawtelle	John Smith
Bob/Lillian Stahl	Dom Summa
Laura Terman	Margaret Wallace
Clyde Williams	Priscilla Williams
Martin Worth	

Join them at the

Annual REACTA Membership Meeting,
October 8 – 10, 2013

Cambria Pines Lodge

2905 Burton Drive, Cambria, CA

1-800-966-6490

REACTA Contact: Art McLoughlin 831-206-5138

REACTA Secretary On Road to Recovery

In line with another article appearing in this issue of The REACTOR, we wanted to let you know, if you hadn't heard, that the Association's newly elected Secretary, Marla Reyes is on the road to recovery after having to undergo a mastectomy on July 25. (Please be assured that REACTOR did not publish this information without first getting Marla's approval. That will be our policy for any such story.)

Marla was first diagnosed with breast cancer, (the BIG C) in late June and, at first, was hopeful that she could get by with a "lumpectomy." She was working with what she described as "a great oncologist and an oncology surgeon in Santa Monica" and had initial surgery on July 11. Unfortunately, it was determined that the more radical surgery would be necessary.

We'd like to share that, upon being informed of this turn of events, fellow REACTA Board member, Marilyn Bittle (who had already been down this road) called Marla, not only to wish her well, but also to share her experiences. Marla says that the call was "enormously helpful and deeply appreciated." All this speaks to why, as REACTAns, it's a good idea to stay in touch.

Marla is currently undergoing follow-up chemo therapy that will last until late in October and will then undergo radiation treatments, five days a week well into December. All this is taking place in Bakersfield, but she and husband Ed commute from their home in Visalia in order to get the job done. If you'd like to wish this "very special lady," your colleague, well...you can do so at marlaed@earthlink.net or with a card or note to 31100 Mt. View Drive, Visalia. CA 93292

Foreman Flies To Wild Blue Yonder

Herb Foreman, 36-year veteran of CTA, passed on Sept 2 at his home in Millbrae. He was 87. He was a devoted husband to Margaret his wife of 65 years.

Herb was born in Clear Lake and attended school in Nevada City. He enlisted in the Army during WWII and served with valor in the Pacific. He taught school for several years before joining the staff at CTA.

Herb was a passionate pilot and owned several planes. He helped start the San Carlos Pilot's Assn. He wrote over 700 biographies of local pilots which appeared in "Flight Magazine" monthly for 16 years.

A memorial will be held October 3, 2-5 PM at the Hiller Aviation Museum, San Carlos.



Lou Boitano and fellow volunteer take a break before going back to help neighbors.

DEVASTATING RIM FIRE NEAR & IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

REACTA members may be aware that several of our members live in the Sierra foothills, near the area impacted by the devastating "Rim Fire" that has recently been so much in the news. Among them are Linda and Lou Boitano whose home is in Copperopolis up in the forty-niner gold country. According to Lou, "We had some serious concerns for all of Tuolumne County and especially for the Pine Mountain Lake area where Browns, Romeos, and Roberts have a vacation cabin. Luckily, most all of the homes in PML were spared, including the Browns! We have had heavy smoke and ash in Calaveras County but no damage. So far, it has burned 255,858 acres and is 80% contained. It has burned into Yosemite National Park and is the 4th largest wild fire ever in California and at one time, there were over 5,000 personnel on the fire. It is still burning and will probably continue on into the winter months."

The Boitano's worked the emergency evacuation center at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds with the Red Cross and three Lions Clubs. Their club, Lake Tulloch Lions Club, had members help cook and serve the evacuees and firefighters along with the Sonora Lions Club and Oakdale Lions Club. "It was heart wrenching to see not only the people who were displaced but also the animals and it was heartwarming to see the huge numbers of donations of food and clothing. Our communities, along with businesses, really pulled together to help those in need."

