



# The REACTOR

Retired Employees Association  
California Teachers Association

April, 2021



## MEDICARE ADVANTAGE UPDATE

By Dom Summa, President

Your REACTA officers along with Health Trust Liaison Merri Furler, Membership Chair Robin Rose, and REACTOR editor Margaret Wallace have been spending many hours dealing with the proposal by the Health Trust consultants to explore shifting from Medicare to an Anthem Medicare Advantage Plan. Since we became aware of these discussions last October, we have researched the difference between Medicare and Medicare Advantage, opened a dialogue with Trustees, and gathered as much input as possible from retirees about their concerns.

We participated in a virtual meeting with trustees and consultants on April 13 and it still leaves us with many concerns about the impact of making this change. Following the meeting, your officers met, compared notes and discussed next steps. On April 19, I sent the following email to Carole Anne Luckenbach on behalf of REACTA:

*Hi Carole Anne,*

*On behalf of REACTA, I want to thank you for making the arrangements for us to participate in the meeting with Trustees and consultants last week. Please forward this email to all who were on the call.*

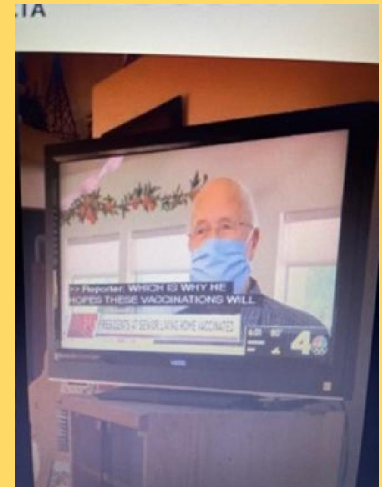
*We appreciated the response from John but do not believe his presentation satisfied the concerns expressed by retirees about moving to an Anthem Medicare Advantage plan. John admitted that provider networks are not identical to our current plan. He mentioned that Anthem was only in fourteen states. Prior authorization for medical procedures presents a potential roadblock for retirees in accessing needed health services. Financial stress will occur since current providers may now collect up front payments from retirees. Anthem's system of payment is far from efficient! Our retirees rely on Earhart to intercede with Anthem because of billing problems that often occur. Medicare has always spent less on administrative costs than private insurance companies such as Anthem.*

*I would like to remind you that REACTA is an organization with CTA retirees who worked as members of CAS and CSO, as well as Supervisors, Confidential and Management. (See **MEDICARE**, page 2)*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Record number of REACTA members join Zoom meeting for a Medicare Advantage discussion.



Lloyd Roberts makes the news getting his COVID vaccination.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 27-28** - Benefit Committee and CTA Trust meeting.

**April 28** – REACTA Zoom Book Club at 5:00 p.m.

**May 24** – REACTA Virtual Cocktail party for Region 1,2, and HQ. at 5:00 p.m.

**May 25** – REACTA Virtual Cocktail party for Region 3 and 4 at 5:00 p.m.

**Oct 3,4,5** – Annual Meeting. Cambria is still an option if safety procedures are in place, if not, then Virtual.



### WE'RE DOING IT AGAIN

By Kerry Moriarty

Last spring we substituted virtual “cocktail parties” for our regional, in-person luncheons. The parties were well received so we will do it again this spring. Hold the dates!

May 24<sup>th</sup> 5:00 p.m. Region 1, Region 2, and Headquarters Virtual Cocktail party

May 25<sup>th</sup> 5:00 p.m. Region 3 and Region 4 Virtual Cocktail party.

The Zoom link to our parties will be included in the May Hot Topics.

*(MEDICARE continued from page 1) The concerns expressed about provider networks, prior authorization and financial stress represent all employment classifications and they are steadfast in their opposition to the Anthem MA plan. The late Vince Amendola, former Region 1 manager, had this sage advice for his staff. When faced with making a decision to change something, Vince would say "If it ain't broke, leave it alone!" This is not the time to consider changes to the health care benefits for retirees. If or when that time comes, Trustees should look at all possible options, focusing on those that have the least impact on benefits for all plan participants. REACTA would like to be "in the room where it happens."*

### REACTA BOOK CLUB By: Margaret Wallace



Join your fellow book lovers to discuss **The Midnight Library** by Matt Haig . The Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday, April 28, at 5:00 p.m

Between life and death there is a library, and within that library, the shelves go on forever. Every book provides a chance to try another life you could have lived. To see how things would be if you had made other choices . . . Would you have done anything different, if you had the chance to undo your regrets?"

Please email Margaret Wallace at [marwall@aol.com](mailto:marwall@aol.com) to register and receive the Zoom link.



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Robin Rose

What a year it has been. After receiving both doses of the Pfizer vaccine, I am starting to slowly venture out into the world again. Although I am not quite ready for indoor dining, large groups or getting on an airplane, it still feels good to be semi-normal again. And membership growth in REACTA did not stop during the pandemic. CTA continued holding all of its meetings and conferences virtually and so did REACTA. It was fun seeing so many people at our Zoom events. Even when everything returns to its new normal, I imagine Zooming will continue to be a viable mode of communication for many of us.

Welcome to our new REACTA members who have joined since our last REACTOR Newsletter. Shirley Avila, Alice Lee, Lynne Noll, Karen Kyhn, Patricia Fuentes, Ramon Gomez, Susan Midori Jones, Sandra Jackson, Katherine Hertog and spouses Rob Tranter (Felice Strauss) and Joanne Summa (Dom Summa). We are happy that you have joined and look forward to your participation in REACTA activities.

Congratulations also to members who have made the switch from cash dues to automatic pension deduction: Shirley Horn, Donald Moore, Carolyn Doggett, Sue Schlegel, Debra Leonard and Jeanne Azen. If you are a cash paying member, please consider switching to automatic pension deduction. It is an easy and effortless way to remain a member, and you are never behind in your dues. Currently, automatic pension deduction is the only option for new membership enrollments.

Recent retirees who have not yet joined REACTA include Ismael Torres, Eliyahu Rabin, Curtis Lyon, Jim Scholtz, Jackie Hidalgo, Mark Herrmann, Tricia Papapieto, Bonita Lovell and Nancy Stinson. If you know any of these retirees, please reach out to them, ask them to join and share the great REACTA accomplishments.

Finally, it is always sad to lose some of our colleagues. This past year we lost Bill Davis, Michael Fox (husband of Sue Schlegel), Vince Amendola and Rose Marie Nichols. May these CTA warriors rest in peace. They will live on in so many of our memories.

Membership Committee: *Region 1: Maureen Keating, Theo-Austin-Smyth, Shirley Horn, Craig Nelson, Karyn Ferrar. Region 2: Annie Aquino, John Stevens, Marla Reyes. Region 3: Robin Rose, Patricia Williams, Gary Campbell. Region 4: Ann Adler, Merri Furler*

**If you would like to join our Membership Committee, please contact Robin Rose at**

**818/433-2778 or [rrmcrose@gmail.com](mailto:rrmcrose@gmail.com)**

**2021 REACTA  
INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT**



	Adopted 10/5/20		3/16/21
<b>INCOME</b>			
Members	16,500		6560
Annual Mtg	2800		
Additional Scholarship Donations			0
Other	50		60
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>19,350</b>		6620
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Executive Board</b>	<b>5000</b>		149.9
<b>Committees</b>	<b>8350</b>		105
Elections	200		
Membership	2000		105
Nominations	300		
Political Education	200		
Scholarship	2000		
Trusts	5000		
Other	100		
<b>Communications</b>	<b>3650</b>		234.88
Directory	100		
Facebook	100		
Hot Topics	100		
Newsletter (REACTOR}	100		
Web Site	100		179.88
CAS/CSO/CTA	500		
PrintingMailing/Supplies	2500		55
<b>Membership &amp; Advocacy</b>	<b>16,750</b>		316
Annual Meeting	7000		
Member Assistance	2500		216
Legal Expenses	4000		
Regional Activities	500		100
Scholarships	2000		
	<b>50</b>		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$33,300</b>		805.78
<b>Transfer in from carryover</b>	<b>\$13,780</b>		13780
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$33,000</b>		20400
			<b>2/28/2021</b>
Convenience Checking			51772.12
Prime Checking			11839.21
Association Savings			28.07
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>48,574</b>		63,639

# REACTA Officers



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## A Little Horse With A Big Heart Meets REACTA Member With An Even Bigger Heart

By: **MARGARET WALLACE, Editor**

People have commented that this has been a wasted year, but that's not the case for Pam Bowen. REACTA members, who know Pam, would tell you that she is an avid animal lover. This story tells it all.

"Chocolate Chip is a five year old brown and white mini horse that was used as a stud. He somehow ended up in a pen where he was brutalized and starved. This little horse fought for his life and fortunately was noticed by a Norco rescue organization called Merk's Mini Horses and Friends Sanctuary. They rescued this severely undernourished little guy from the kill pen and started working on healing him."

"I had contacted this rescue. I was

looking for a mini horse. They were not planning on letting him be adopted, due to his poor health. But the owner of the rescue decided to get married and move to Texas. She felt that Chip's ill health precluded him from making that long trip."

"The Rescue Sanctuary contacted me to see if I would be interested in adopting him and helping him heal. I adopted this sweet boy and he came home to my little farm on April 9th."



"I contacted my veterinarian to assess him and give advice on how to best help him. From the very first day my life is enriched by his presence," said Pam Bowen.

Congratulations Pam and congratulations Chocolate Chip.

## Committees

**Membership Team:** Robin Rose, Chair – Region 1, Maureen Keating, Theo Austin-Symth, Craig Nelson, Karyn Ferrera, Shirley Horn; Region 2, Annie Aquino, John Stevens; Region 3 and Chair, Robin Rose, Patricia Williams, Gary Campbell; Region 4, Ann Adler, Merri Furler; UniServ Units. **Health & Welfare Trust Liaison:** Merri Furler. **Retirement Trust Liaison:** Alan Frey. **REACTOR Newsletter:** Margaret Wallace, Editor, Dixie Ditsler, Pam Bowen, Kathie Casas. **Scholarship Committee:** Marilyn Bittle, **Web Site & Facebook:** Kathie Casas. **Legal Expense Fund and Member Assistance Fund:** Felice Strauss, Chair