



The REACTOR

*Retired Employees Association
California Teachers Association*

August, 2020



MEMBER ASSISTANCE

By Dom Summa, President

At last year's annual meeting REACTA adopted a budget that would provide \$1500 for member assistance and \$3000 for legal expenses. We learned from our experience with retirees, who had their pensions reduced, that it was important to provide more than moral support for our members. This year the officers, with assistance from two appointed committees, worked on developing guidelines for how to access these funds. After receiving their feedback the officers spent several meetings discussing the draft guidelines and on July 28 adopted two sets of guidelines for accessing the funds.

The REACTA Member Assistance Fund will provide up to \$500 to a member facing a personal hardship following incidents such as health emergency, fire, flood, or earthquake. You must be a member at the time the issue arose and at the time you request assistance.

The REACTA Legal Expense Fund will provide some funding for legal expenses incurred by members on issues dealing directly or indirectly with CTA, management companies that provide services to CTA retirees, retirement issues stemming from being a Retired CTA staff, or collecting CTA Retirement benefits. Assistance will also be granted for issues that could possibly affect other REACTA members. The REACTA officers may also use this fund for legal advice on the above issues.

REACTA will develop an Assistance Request Form for both funds. They will be available on our website this fall. If there is a need prior to the posting of the form, please contact me or another officer.

The officers will further discuss the funds and their guidelines at our virtual annual meeting on October 5. We believe these funds demonstrate a commitment by REACTA to support our members in time of need.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Zooming becomes the new norm for REACTA officer meetings.



It is that time again for REACTA members to express their interest in running for office.



Due to the pandemic, the REACTA annual meeting is going virtual on Oct 5 using Zoom.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 4 – Nomination Form Deadline for REACTA Officers

September 8 – REACTA Officers Zoom meeting

Oct 5 – Virtual Annual Meeting (see agenda)

Check out our newly designed website at www.reacta.org. You will receive a survey asking for your suggestions about how to further improve this site. Thanks for sharing your comments.

THE RETIREMENT TRUST

BY Alan Frey

The Trust held its last meeting in June using Zoom. The meeting itself was pretty much the usual business, setting up next year's meeting dates, reviewing the actuary and investment reports, finalizing evaluation timelines for the professionals, and committee reports. Everything the Trust does is totally dependent on what the parties come up with in bargaining. Many variables are under consideration. None of the contemplated changes will impact REACTA members as all changes are prospective and only impact active employees.



The REACTA Book Club will “virtually” meet during the annual ZOOM meeting on Oct 5.

(See meeting agenda)

This year we will be discussing two books.

The Dutch House by Ann Patchett: Cyril Conroy buys the Dutch House, a lavish estate in the suburbs outside of Philadelphia. Meant as a surprise for his wife, the house sets in motion the undoing of everyone he loves.

Caste by Isabel Wilkerson: The Pulitzer Prize–winning, bestselling author of *The Warmth of Other Suns* examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions.

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.

REACTA

MEMBER SUPPORT TEAM

Region 1/Headquarters

Bruce Colwell - brucectaz@gmail.com

Susan Sanz – 650-483- 1773

Region 2

Aleita Huguenin – 916-761-3374

Marla Reyes – 559-250-6610

Bobby Yates – rhyates@att.net

Region 3

Pam Bowen – 951-235-1722

Robin Rose – 818-433-2778

Felice Strauss – 949-742-0377

Region 4

Kathie Casas – 951-694-0711

Barbara De Prete – 714-743-1742

Bill Harju – 360-621-9083

Dom Summa – 760-567-1358

Margaret Wallace – 626-827-1461

If you would like to be added to this list, please send an email to Dom Summa dsummacal@aol.com.



MASKS STILL AVAILABLE

By: Marla Reyes

It looks as if masks are going to be needed for quite some time. If you need a mask, I am more than happy to send one or more to you. 559-250-6610

In the beginning, elastic ran out in most stores. The initial masks that I sent had ties. I actually prefer the elastic, so if you are interested, that is what is being produced at this point.

I can send gender specific masks out, and most of them come with a plain and design side. Let me know, female or male, and I will do my best to accommodate your wishes.

These are easily washed out by hand, and they dry quickly. The safest thing to do is to wash every time you use them.

Stay Healthy, and Vote!!

TENTATIVE AGENDA

VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 5, 2020

- 8:00 a.m. "Virtual No-Host Breakfast" - Join us on Zoom with your favorite breakfast drink and menu item and have a conversation with your former colleagues. Breakfast ends at 8:50 a.m.
- 9:00 a.m. "Virtual Book Club Discussion" - Margaret Wallace will lead a discussion on our 2020 book selections The Dutch House by Ann Patchett and Caste by Isabel Wilkerson.
- 10:00 a.m. "Hot Topics Forum" - Our first segment is a presentation about Covid's impact on CTA, our staff and our teachers. CTA management and representatives, from CSO and CAS, are invited as panelists. We will leave time for questions.
- 10:45 a.m. "Update on our Pension and Health Trusts" - We have invited one management trustee from the Pension Trust and one labor trustee from the Health Trust to provide an update on current issues facing the Trust.
- 11:15 a.m. "Election 2020" - We have invited a political organizer to do a presentation on Prop 15, the Schools and Community First initiative sponsored by CTA and the Education Coalition. If time permits, we will discuss other key state issues.
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch break until 1:00 p.m.
- 1:00 p.m. "REACTA Virtual Annual Meeting" – A final agenda will be sent prior to the meeting. Important action will include a 2020 financial report and the adoption of the 2021 budget. We will review the guidelines for our Member Assistance Fund and our Legal Expense Fund. We will also hear from our committee chairs and open the floor to nominations for REACTA officer positions.

At the close of the meeting we will have a five-minute break to allow participants to get a drink and return to Zoom so we can "toast" our departed members.

Members must register with Marla Reyes to attend the Virtual Meeting marlaed@earthlink.net. Your email address will need to be added to the participant list in order for you to join the meeting. Instructions on using Zoom will be sent prior to the meeting.

As you know, CTA makes recommendations for California elections. It is very easy to access their recommendations on your computer. Just follow these instructions

*Log on to: www.cta.org

*Go to the Upper right corner and click on **Election 2020**

* Scroll down to: **2020 General Election Recommendations**

*Find 3 Blue Rectangles and click on the information that you need

Initiatives

Candidates

Toolkit



LESS THAN 100 DAYS

By: Conrad Ohlson

One of the purposes of REACTA's Political Education program is to advise our members about CTA's recommendations for candidates and issues supporting California Public Education. The most important CTA recommended issue for this election is the passage of **Proposition 15, the Schools and Communities First Act**. Check out www.CTA.org for more information

All registered voters will be sent a vote-by-mail ballot for the Nov. 3 general election. Many of you reside in Voters Choice Act counties and are familiar with the vote-by-mail process. Nothing will change in these counties.

For those of you who reside in non- Voter Choice Act counties, you MAY vote using the vote-by-mail ballot. After you have voted, place the ballot in the return envelope (postage will be provided on the envelope) and provide all the required information on the envelope.

You can return your ballot by:

1. Mailing it to your county elections office on or before election day.
2. Returning it in person to a polling place or your county elections office before 8:00 p.m.
3. Dropping your ballot into one of your county's secure drop boxes before 8:00 p.m.
4. Authorizing someone to return the ballot on your behalf requires that you must fill out the authorization section on your return envelope.

You should receive your vote-by-mail ballot 28 days before the election. You may return at any time prior to the close of the polls on election day. **I would suggest you do so as soon as possible.** You may be aware that the current Postmaster General of the U.S.P.S is making changes that will delay the delivery of the mail (such as eliminating over-time for postal workers). Mail ballots are supposed to have priority but.... who knows?

REACTA Nomination Form

for

2021-22 REACTA Officers

(Elected Officers will serve from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022)

Nominee Name: _____

I place my name into nomination for the office of:

_____ President

_____ Vice President

_____ Secretary

_____ Treasurer

_____ Member at Large

Important: If nominating someone other than yourself, prior consent of nominee must be obtained.

With their consent, I nominate: _____

for the office of: _____

Date: _____

Mail nomination form by Friday, September 4, 2020 to:

**Pam Bowen, REACTA Nominating Committee
3465 Sierra Ave, Norco, CA 92880**



REACTA 2020 INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT

By: Felice Strauss, Treasurer

Date	1/1/2020 Adopted Budget	7/28/2020 Bd Mtg	7/28/2020 Balance
INCOME			
Members	16,000	10548.75	5,451
	4000		4000
Additional Scholarship			
Donations	2000	300	1700
Other	50	1870	-1820
Total Income	22,050.00	12,718.75	9,331.25
EXPENSES			
Executive Board	5000		5000
Committees	5950	464.95	5485.05
Elections	50		50
Membership	1500		1500
Nominations	50		50
Political Education	500		500
Scholarship	750		750
Trusts	3000	464.95	2535.05
Other	100		100
Communications	3000	675.03	2324.97
Directory	100		100
Facebook	100		100
Hot Topics	100		100
Newsletter (REACTOR}	100		100
Web Site	100	183.31	-83.31
CAS/CSO/CTA	500		500
PrintingMailing/Supplies	2000	491.72	1508.28
Membership & Advocacy	10000	324.49	9675.51
Annual Meeting	5000	324.49	4675.51
Member Assistance	1500		1500
Legal Expenses	3000		3000
Regional Activities	500		-1820
Scholarships	2000		2000
Other	50	1870	-1820
Total Expenses	24,000	3,334.47	20,665.53
Transfer in from carryover	\$1,950	0	0
Total Income	\$24,000	12,718.75	\$11,281
FFCU			
Convenience Checking	30,000	42,223.05	
Prime Checking	10,000	11,831.29	
Association Savings	30	28.07	
Total Assets	40,030.00	54,082.41	



FREE, FREE, FREE.....

By ROBIN ROSE, Membership Committee Chair

WIN
A Free Year of Dues
And
HELP
REACTA Save Money, Too!

According to our records 87 out of 362 members continue to pay their dues by cash every year. We are asking, if you are one of those members, to consider switching to automatic pension deduction.

By switching you will:

- Save REACTA money because stamps and envelopes won't have to be purchased for ANNUAL reminders that it's time to remit your dues.
- Save the Treasurer time spent processing cash dues.
- Save the Membership Committee time spent mailing reminders and follow-up contacts.
- Have a chance to have your name entered into a drawing to win a year's dues.

Rules to win:

- Download the Dues Deduction Form by clicking on the <https://reacta.org/> link or contact Robin Rose for the form if you receive the REACTOR via USPS.
- **BUT WAIT!** It gets even better! If you've already paid this year's dues and your Deduction Form is received by the Treasurer by September 15th **AND** you put in writing that the overlapping dues for the rest of the year may be used as a donation to REACTA, we will enter your name twice into the drawing. If you decide not to do this, the remainder of this year's dues will be refunded to you once the automatic deduction begins.
- Note: Beginning in January 2021, all new members joining REACTA will only have the option of automatic dues deduction.

If you have any questions, please contact Robin Rose at 818/433-2778 or rrmcrose@gmail.com.

IT'S A WIN-WIN-FOR EVERYONE!

Welcome New Members: Carla Dorn, Bill Guy, Deborah Leonard, Alva Rivera, Linda Virden, Barbara Smith, Tony Tong

We recently lost more of our REACTA family –Raymond Hansen, Sigrid Weir, Catherine Harrell, Mickey Bickett, Vicki Marien, Aileen Mason. May these CTA warriors rest in peace.

REACTA Officers



Dom Summa
President
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760-567-1358

Marla Reyes
Vice President
marlaed@earthlink.net
559-250-6610

Felice Strauss
Treasurer
Fsnod4u@aol.com
949-742-0377

Pam Bowen
Secretary
Pambow7@gmail.com
951-235-1722

Marilyn Bittle
Director-At-Large
Mmr Bret2002@aol.com
562-434-7113

Your Work, Your History, Our Gain

By: MARGARET WALLACE, EDITOR



I was hired as the Receptionist in Sacramento in 1983 for the CTA, Governmental Relations Office.

My husband found the job in the Sacramento Bee. I wrote a letter of intent and enclosed my resume.

I spoke with HR Manager, Bob Stenhouse. He arranged an interview with the Director, Joyce Fadem and I started on 01/05/1983.

I had 3 years of experience working for lobbyists. I knew the procedures on ideas becoming law. I knew players at the Capitol and the layout of the Capitol. I worked for another industry, but transferred my experience to public education.

We had three registered lobbyists, Bill Logan, Sharon Bowman and Owen Waters. We also had a Political Editor who wrote weekly updates on current legislation important to our CTA members throughout the entire State.

GR had staff members, Jeanne

Akins, Joyce Fadem's secretary, and Bill Logan. Flo Rice worked with Ken Burt the Political Editor. Cathy Harrell tracked all legislation pertinent to various CTA Committees. Cathy mailed hundreds of Legislative Bill copies to State Council teacher leaders. I rounded out the team at the reception desk along with Debra Henderson.

Throughout my career with CTA, we became a powerhouse at the State Capitol with Legislators both Senate and Assembly, leadership and Governors.

I was proud of my work for CTA. I felt that ALL CTA employees, whether we were in the field offices, Regional offices or in the Headquarters office made a huge difference for our teacher members from areas like class-size reduction, STRS benefits, to Prop.98.

Many thanks to all my colleagues for giving their heart and soul. We all had a common thread -- an education for ALL students without prejudice.

Linda Hale

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, 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, Dixie Ditsler, Pam Bowen, Kathie Casas. *Scholarship Committee:* Marla Reyes, Chair. *Nominations & Elections Committee:* Chair - Barbara DePrete, Ann Adler, Dixie Ditsler. *Web Site & Facebook:* Kathie Casas *Fiscal Oversight Committee – Chair – Felice Strauss, Craig Nelson, Mona Marra*