

The REACTOR

*Retired Employees Association
California Teachers Association*

February, 2020

MAKING THE CONNECTION

By Dom Summa, President

Several years ago, at a REACTA Annual Meeting, there was a lively discussion about whether REACTA should make political recommendations. It was mentioned that if REACTA did so, it would probably have to register as a Political Action Committee and file a lot of forms with the state. Rather than create a PAC, it was decided to establish a Political Education Committee to inform our members about political recommendations made by California Teachers Association. Our success in carrying out our purpose is closely tied to CTA's success in the political arena. Let's review the purposes of REACTA:

1. To support, protect and enhance the California Teachers Association (CTA) Employees' Retirement Benefits Plan and the CTA Employees' Health and Welfare Benefits Plan.
2. To communicate with members on matters of interest.
3. To perform tasks, functions, and activities as determined by the membership.
4. To provide social contact between members.

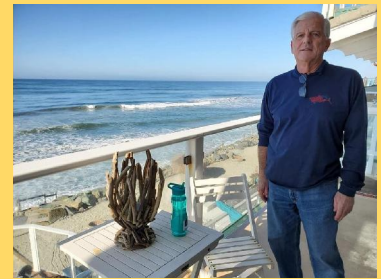
What is the connection?

Proposition 13 is on the March Presidential Primary Election ballot. It is a bond measure that will allow the state to reduce the cost of borrowing for public school districts. If approved, schools could see an increase in students acquiring additional teachers. If this is not approved, district borrowing costs will increase and it is likely that needed construction and renovation of public schools will be delayed. Faced with deteriorating

conditions, parents could pull their students from public schools and place them in private schools. The loss of students translates into the loss of district revenue leading to a reduction of teachers. Fewer teachers reduces CTA membership and leads to a reduction of CTA staff. When CTA staff is reduced, payroll decreases and contributions to our trusts declines. This downward spiral has the potential to reduce our benefits.

REACTA is committed to informing our members of political positions adopted by CTA. We obviously cannot tell you how to vote, but "communicating with members on matters of interest" is one of our core purposes.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Craig Nelson and Felice Strauss meet at Mona Marra's house for the first REACTA Fiscal Oversight Committee meeting.



Hugh Boyle passes but leaves a legacy of union rights. Hugh and SDTA/SDEA established protections for educators' rights around strikes that we still enjoy today.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 28 – Scholarship applications are due

April – Scholarship results are announced

April 9 – REACTA officers meeting Ontario

April and May Luncheons

TBA- Region 1

TBA - Region 2 North

TBA – Region 3

May 4 - Elbow Room Fresno Region 2 South

TBA – Region 4

May 31 – Angels vs Yankees Baseball

July- REACTA [Bar-B-Q](#)
CSO/REACTA TBA

Oct 4-6 – Annual Meeting in Cambria

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.



VS



ANGELS VS. YANKEES MAY 31

REACTA has purchased a block of tickets for "Day with the Angels" on Sunday, May 31 at 1 p.m. "The baseball game between the LA Angels and NY Yankees should be exciting," said Dom Summa, REACTA President.

Seven tickets are still available from our initial purchase and with an option to buy another 20. There is still time to reserve tickets. (Club Level MVP with food delivery service).

If you are interested, send your \$50 check to Felice Strauss. Make your check payable to REACTA..

[Felice Strauss, 2049 National, Costa Mesa, Ca 92627](#)



CHOC FOLLIES Barbara DePrete has been participating in the Follies since 2008. Her journey was inspired from the loss of her niece's child. CHOC covered over 70% of the hospital costs.

Mark your calendars for "The Great Chocsby" Saturday, March 27. There will be two performances 1:00 & 7:00 PM. <https://chocfollies.org/bdeprete>

PM Kathy Casas, Barbara DePrete, Alice Correa, Debbie Atkinson, Pat Fuentes, Dixie Ditsler are CHOC "groupies." They have attended this very important event for many years.



REACTA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Due February 28, 2020

By: MARLA REYES

The Deadline for the 2020 REACTA Scholarship is fast approaching. Applications MUST be received on or before February 28, 2020. If you know students who are applying, please remind them of this upcoming deadline.

The application process takes time and effort to complete. All sections of the required application must be included in the application packet, and received by the deadline. In the past, many applications have **not** been considered because one or more sections were not included, or received, by the deadline.

Applications need to be sent via email or US Postal Service, to:

Marla Reyes

31100 Mountain View Dr.

Visalia, CA 93292

marlaed@earthlink.net

If you have questions or concerns, please call Marla at 559-250-6610.

"When I first came to Macalester I was originally planning on majoring in international relations and linguistics. Now almost two years later, I have found that my studies have significantly changed. I will leave college with a degree in classical archeology and a minor in religious studies having dug at sites in Israel and hopefully in Greece which is where I am planning on studying abroad next spring.

I have since made numerous friends with my peers as well as with my professors who have supported me in all of my endeavors both academically and personally. However, none of this would have been possible without the support of the REACTA scholarship, which has allowed me to alleviate some of the costs of tuition and in doing so means I have had more freedom to explore my interests than I would have had otherwise. I truly appreciate REACTA for its support. "

Lanae Caldwell, Marilyn Bittle's Granddaughter, received the REACTA Scholarship two years ago.

IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO REPOST ?



The Presidential Primaries are not top two elections. They are party elections to select convention delegates pledged to the candidates on the ballot.

- Only registered Republicans can vote in the Republican primary
- Registered Democrats can vote in the Democratic primary
- Voters who are registered as No Party Preference (NPP) may also vote in the Democratic primary if they ask for a Democratic Party ballot from their county Registrar of Voters.
- People registered as Independents cannot vote in the Democratic or Republican primary. If you need to register to vote or change your registration, you have several options.

FAREWELL FRIEND Submitted by: BILL HARJU

Long Time Teacher Advocate, and a great friend, passes. Hugh Boyle, was president of the then San Diego Teachers Association in the late 70s. Under his leadership, we negotiated our first contract soon after state laws allowed for collective bargaining.

Under Hugh's leadership the union went on strike in 1977. This was uncharted territory as such a strike had not taken place before under California's then new collective bargaining law. Despite a court order that put an injunction on the strike, Hugh persisted and continued to lead the strike work. For this he was convicted of contempt of court, with a fine of 40 days in jail and a fine equal to about 70% of a teacher's salary. SDTA/SDEA fought this decision all the way to the California Supreme Court which eventually invalidated the previous contempt convictions. With this win, Hugh and SDTA/SDEA established protections for educators' rights around strikes that we still enjoy today.

Last year, the SDEA Representative Council established the Hugh P. Boyle Lifetime Service Award, with Hugh as the very first recipient.

He was my golfing buddy in retirement, and great friend. Hugh, you will be remembered by many.

2020 MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT

By now you should have received a letter from William C. Earhart Company regarding the reimbursement for Medicare Part B contribution for 2020. They are requesting a photocopy of your Social Security statement that outlines your Medicare costs with your new monthly benefit. This statement comes at the end of year, late November to mid-December. If you haven't received it, you should contact the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or visit any Social Security office.

You need to mail in this copy to the William C. Earhart Company, P. O. Box 4248, Portland, Or, 97208-4248.



By: CONRAD OHLSON, POLITICAL EDUCATION

What is the Voter's Choice Act?

The California Voter's Choice Act (VCA) is a new law (PDF) passed in 2016 that will modernize elections in California by allowing counties to conduct elections under a new model which provides greater flexibility and convenience for voters.




This new election model allows voters to choose how, when, and where to cast their ballot by:

- Mailing every voter a ballot
- Expanding in-person early voting
- Allowing voters to cast a ballot at any vote center within their county

Vote-by-Mail Ballots

In all VCA counties, except in Los Angeles County, every registered voter will receive a ballot in the mail one month before the election. In LA County, voters will receive a ballot in the mail only if they have requested one.

Voters will have three ways to return their ballot:

-  1. Mail the ballot;
-  2. Drop the ballot in a secure county ballot drop box; or
-  3. Visit any vote center in the county.

Vote Centers

Traditional polling places will be replaced by vote centers. Voters will have the freedom to cast a ballot in-person at any vote center in their county instead of being tied to a single polling location. Vote centers look and feel like polling places, but provide additional modern features to make voting easy and convenient.

All vote centers will be open from the Saturday before Election Day through Election Day at 8 p.m. Some will be open a full 11 days, including the two weekends before Election Day.

At any vote center in a participating county, a voter may:

- Vote in-person
- Drop off their ballot
- Get a replacement ballot
- Vote using an accessible voting machine
- Get help and voting material in multiple languages
- Register to vote or update their voter registration

Which counties will be involved?

Amador, Calaveras, Butte, El Dorado, Fresno, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sacramento, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Tuolumne

California's other counties may choose to implement the VCA in the future.

More Information is available at voterschoice.org



MAKING YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNT

By ROBIN ROSE, Membership Committee Chair

Belonging to REACTA provides you with many opportunities. REACTA provides you with an annual Directory so that you have personal contact information for other REACTA colleagues. You also receive the quarterly REACTA Newsletter and regular Hot Topics flyers. These benefits, in addition to the Regional Spring Luncheons and our Annual Reunion in Cambria, provide you with the ability to stay in contact and stay abreast of issues affecting CTA and retirees. And, if you haven't done so already, make sure to check our REACTA's Facebook Page and webpage at Reacta.org for timely information.

Welcome to our newest REACTA members – Kathy Hill, Georgina Tomasi, Mike Myslinski, Mary Jordan and Norma Potter. REACTA looks forward to your involvement and support for CTA retirees.

We have 7 REACTA members who have made the switch from paying their dues by cash to automatic pension deduction. Thank you to Lisa Longabaugh, Craig Nelson, Jane Robb, John and Karen Stevens, Margaret Thayer and Debbie Diaz. Your names will be placed in a drawing for a year of free membership. The drawing will take place at the Annual Reunion in Cambria. If you are a cash payer, consider paying your dues through automatic payroll deduction. It simplifies our accounting process, creates financial sustainability for the organization and helps our Membership Committee focus on recruiting new members.

We recently lost more of our REACTA family – Cathy Harrell, Evelyn Galland and Robert Stahl. May these CTA warriors Rest in Peace.

Following are recent retirees who have not yet joined. If you know any of these retirees, please reach out and ask them to join. We are all recruiters.

Linda Virden	Sheri Scott	Cindy Heller
Don Hillman	Bruce Berg	Phil Bowen
Angela Boyle	Mark Young	Chuck King
Chris Ballentine	Barbara Smith	Karen Kyhn

Membership Committee:

Region 1: Maureen Keating, Theo Austin-Smith, Shirley Horn, Craig Nelson, Karyn Ferrera

Region 2: Annie Aquino, John Stevens

Region 3: Robin Rose, Patricia Williams, Gary Campbell

Region 4: Ann Adler, Merri Furler

UniServ: Kerry Moriarty



INCOME

Members	16,000
Annual Mtg	4000
Additional Scholarship	
Donations	2000
Other	50
Total Income	22,050

**REACTA 2020 Adopted Budget**

Submitted by FELICE STRAUSS, TREASURER

EXPENSES

Executive Board	5000
Committees	5950
Elections	50
Membership	1500
Nominations	50
Political Education	500
Scholarship	750
Trusts	3000
Other	100
Communications	3000
Directory	100
Facebook	100
Hot Topics	100
Newsletter (REACTOR}	100
Web Site	100
CAS/CSO/CTA	500
PrintingMailing/Supplies	2000
Membership & Advocacy	10000
Annual Meeting	5000
Member Assistance	1500
Legal Expenses	3000
Regional Activities	500
Scholarships	2000
Other	50
Total Expenses	\$24,000
Transfer in from carryover	\$1,950
Total Income	\$24,000
Convenience Checking	30,000
Prime Checking	10,000
Association Savings	30
Total Assets	40,030



FISCAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (FOC) REPORT

By: **FELICE STRAUSS, FOC CHAIR**

The newly formed committee is composed of Felice Strauss (BOD), Chair, Craig Nelson (CSO) and Mona Marra (CAS). We met on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 in Oceanside. Felice explained the BOD rationale for creating the committee. The initial issues the committee would be working on include: 2018 reconciliation, 2019 reconciliation, 2020 documents, legal documents, REACTA By-Laws, and recommendations to the BOD.

The committee reviewed the documentation from **2018** from FFCU and Felice Strauss. The Committee agreed that REACTA spent \$18,443.50 in 2018 and deposited \$15,333.25, using \$3111.05 in carryover funds from 2017. The FOC agreed on the 2019 Expenses to be \$19,733.68 with the majority of the costs going to 4 categories: the Exec Board (\$2907), scholarships (\$4000), trust meetings/legal fees (\$3374) and the Annual Meeting (\$5684). The FOC agreed that the 2019 deposits totaled \$18,145.75. The BOD used carryover of \$1588 from 2018 to cover the added costs.

The Treasurer brought copies of the newly formatted 2020 adopted budget, 2020 expense reimbursement form, 2020 Income and Expenses and Membership payment list for 2020. No FFCU Statement for January 2020 was available at this time. We need to collect about \$500 more in member dues to make our \$16,000 dues projection. Other Income will include money collected for Angel tickets (\$50 each) and Other Expenses will include the deposit paid for the 20 purchased tickets.

The FOC made 12 recommendations to the REACTA BOD. These items were presented to the board at the 2/6/20 Conference Call Meeting. The board will continue to look at the recommendations and discuss them at their April Board meeting in Ontario.

The committee's next meeting is on Wednesday, April 29 at 10:00 in Oceanside. Felice provided committee members with a document to read on fiscal policies and procedures for organizations and showed 2 other documents on creating a template and guidelines.

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2020 CENSUS

By: MARGARET WALLACE, EDITOR

As we all know, the United States conducts a census every ten years. This April you will receive a mailing asking you and your family members to submit your census information.

The census results have a significant impact on many aspects of our lives receive each year for programs and

from number of house seats allocated to each state to the federal funds that communities services that are critical for schools, students, and younger children. Special education, Head Start, after-school programs, and classroom technology are just a few examples.

So this April let's pick up the challenge of "Count me in" on the 2020 Census. Remind your family members, neighbors and friends to complete their responsibility by filling out the census.



Ed and Mary Romeo met in 1949 in Pearl Harbor, when Ed was in the Navy. Married now for 70 years, they live their retired life in Corona del Mar. They have participated in over 7 U.S. Censuses as a married couple.

Committees

Membership Team: Robin Rose, Chair – Region 1, Maureen Keating, Theo Austin-Symth, Craig Nelson, Karyn Ferreira, 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, Kathy 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*