

The REACTOR

Retired Employees Association
California Teachers Association

June 2023

SO MUCH TO DO...SO LITTLE TIME

By Robin Rose, President



I thought retirement would be filled with so much extra time. How wrong I was. As a retiree, I tend to fill up my time with so many other tasks. Like many of you, I am active in several organizations from quilting groups to investment clubs to service organizations and REACTA. I still feel rushed, but in different and less stressful ways. It is gratifying to continue using the skills I learned in CTA to accomplish other goals.

But, onto REACTA....

There continue to be new changes with the Health and Welfare Benefits Trust. The Trust has conducted an RFP (Request for Proposal) for a new third-party administrator due to retirements of key personnel at W.C. Earhart and numerous complaints from trust participants. The process has been completed and Zenith American Solutions ("Zenith") was selected as the new third-party administrator. According to the Trustees, Zenith will begin the process of assuming Earhart's role and will fully transition by September 1, 2023. REACTA learned that a key advantage of selecting Zenith is that Zenith will process trust claims, rather than Anthem, which should result in both better savings for the Trust as well as simplified processing for Trust participants. Zenith came highly recommended by both the Trust professionals and other clients of Zenith. We should be receiving more information as it gets closer to the transition date. Stay tuned....

Your REACTA Executive Board and Membership Committee are working to make our Annual Reunion and Business Meeting a success. We will return to the Oxford Suites in Paso Robles on October 3-5, 2023. Our general session and business meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4th. That morning CTA Executive Director, Joe Boyd, along with Labor and Management Trustees and CSO/CAS Leadership will be in attendance to provide updates on various issues facing CTA and public education. Our business meeting will follow in the afternoon. Later that evening we will enjoy a banquet dinner. A

cocktail hour will also be hosted on both the evenings of October 3rd and October 4th. As an incentive this year, the registration fee will be waived for first time attendees and for committee members who attend and hold their meeting at the Annual Meeting. The Annual Reunion is a great time to catch up with fellow REACTA members, socialize and enjoy the relationships we have with each other in the beautiful Central Coast. **Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.**

I want to thank the Scholarship Committee for the work they have done to select two outstanding candidates for REACTA scholarships. The Scholarship Committee including **Alice Clement (Co-Chair), Ros Wolf (Co-Chair), Kelly Horner, Michi Higashi, Andy Witthohn and Joe Colton** (Board Liaison) received a record number of scholarship applications this year and made their recommendations with the utmost professionalism.

REACTA also held three successful Spring Luncheons in Regions 2, 3 and 4. A shout out to **Joe Colton, Patricia Williams, and Kathie Casas** for organizing them and to everyone who attended. If you are interested in setting something up in Region 1 next Spring, please give me a call.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." Eleanor Roosevelt



Robin Rose and Paul McKernan visit with Kenny Kim, the first Executive Director of the Montebello Teachers Association and one of the original Option 2 UniServ staff in Region 3.



Rose Luna presents information on Health Trust status at the Region 4 spring luncheon.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 11, September 5,
October 3, November 14 –
REACTA Board Meetings

October 3,4,5 – REACTA
annual meeting, Paso Robles,
Oxford Suites



REACTA members **Jim and Kathy Schlotz, Rob Tranter, Felice Strauss, Laura Terman, Alice Clement, Robin Rose and Paul McKernan** had a great evening watching retiree, **Laura Terman**, perform at the Comedy Chateau in North Hollywood. It is proof that there is life after retirement.



Region 4 lunch was held at the South Coast Winery. **Jim and Mary Clark, and Karen Bost** were among the new members attending.

Region 2 lunch had a new record number of attendees. It was held at Bennett's Kitchen.

Region 3 celebrated retirement on May 17 at Shenandoah at the Arbor. They welcomed new members, **Kathy and Jim Schlotz**.

Checklist for Epic Regional Lunches

- ❖ Greatest attendance ever
- ❖ Checking in on retired friends
- ❖ Welcoming new REACTA members
- ❖ Great food
- ❖ Drinking at lunch
- ❖ Worth the drive
- ❖ Opportunity to have great conversations
- ❖ Fun stories
- ❖ Memories old and new



REACTA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

By: Alice Clement and Ros Wolf, Scholarship Co-Chairs

The Scholarship Committee reviewed the applications from 9 relatives of REACTA members. Two of those applicants have been awarded with a \$2000 scholarship.

REACTA is pleased to present this year's scholarships to Julia Tranter, granddaughter of REACTA Members Felice Strauss and Rob Tranter, and Paige Cipollini, granddaughter of REACTA Member Sam Border.



Julia Tranter attends California State University San Bernardino. She starts her student teaching in the Murrieta School District this fall. She is working on her master's degree in education from San Bernardino as well. Julia, a single mom of her son, Alexander, made the dean's list with a 4.0 GPA.

Julia plans to teach English and AVID. She was inspired to work with AVID from her personal experience in high school. She credits her high school AVID teacher for the motivation that has directed her on her current path as well as the lifetime inspiration from her Grandmother Felice.

Paige Cipollini is a freshman at the University of Oregon in Eugene majoring in Business Administration. Her goal is getting a law degree following in the footprints of her grandparents. She plans to focus on Criminal Law.

Paige is in training as a residential advisor living on campus. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking and other outdoor sports in her new Oregon home.

Congratulations to Julia and Paige and thank you to all the applicants. Those that did not receive the award this year, are encouraged to apply again next year.

Thank you to the Scholarship Committee: Alice Clement, Kelly Horner, Ros Wolf, Andy Wittholn, Michi Higashi, and Joe Colton for their time reviewing all the applications.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Be Well and Keep In Touch

By: Ann Adler, Membership Chair

As your new REACTA Membership Committee chairperson, and on behalf of our awesome Committee, I welcome the challenges of increasing membership and member engagement. Your committee has already met twice this year and is off to a great start!

We are making immediate contacts, welcoming our colleagues to retirement and asking them to once again be our brothers and sisters. We continue to urge the last of the cash payers to become dues deduct payers. Since the January REACTOR, we can now WELCOME the following new members!

Michael Hersh and Rita Myers (spouse), Alice Correa, Jackie Hanna, Tammy and Tim Brooks, Barbara Morton, Jeffrey Virden (spouse), Kay Odgers (spouse), Kim Mina and Sam (spouse), Rita Guy (spouse), Kathy Schlotz, Karen Bost, Michael Dow (spouse), Lynne Faulks, Jackie Butler, Deborah Ford

As we continue to reach out, please know the resources created and people who can assist you!

- REACTA Yearly Calendar
- "Prospective Retirement Letter"/Collecting Social Security piece (which answers Medicare and other questions)
- "The Passing of a Retired Employee: Notifications"/Who do you contact, etc. (THIS HAS ALL THE CONTACT INFO FOR SOCIAL SECURITY, EARHART, ETC! VERY USEFUL!)
- Contact numbers for CTA Trusts, SS, STRS, etc./" The Passing of a Retired Employer" piece

Need a buddy, just contact Ann Adler@Adlermvea@aol.com or 951-990-4110

If you haven't done so, I encourage you to browse at www.reacta.org and if you use Facebook, search for "REACTA" where you can see the latest about REACTA members and issues. For questions, you can fill out the "Contact form" if you scroll down on www.reacta.com..

On a sad note, since our January REACTOR, CTA -Retired warriors and inspirations **Aleita Huguenin, John Smith, Mary John, and spouses Margaret Mahan, Mabel Kim and Alberta Rossi** have passed away. Rest in Peace friends and warriors...

Finally, we may be retired, but we still care about all our brothers and sisters in REACTA, and we hope new and continuing CTA retirees and spouses will join us.

Excerpts from John Smith's Retirement Party

"The News from Fort Burlingame" 2/24/96

Written By: Darrell Gifford



John Smith – past REACTA
President and Treasurer

John loved to laugh and was always looking for a good joke. We hope these limericks will put a smile on your face when you think of John.

At the January department meeting, the JAWS team, whelmed by the pressure of time, presented its final product — some anonymous limericks gleaned from telephone booths and restroom walls between Eureka and El Centro. There were several limericks, but some were eliminated because they were politically correct; others because they rhymed.

John's love of sports came in for some mention:

*He was born on the first down and five;
Played the Rose Bowl as a Bruin, no jive!
He went pro, not in sports,
But a union of sons,
Where the punt is a means to survive!*

The top vote getting limerick celebrated John's twofold contribution to the cause:

*Staffer John, with gusto each day
Went about both his work and his play.
The former's payola
Was a boost in the COLA
And the latter increased ADA*

And so we heard:

*There once was a staffer named John
Whose work left him quartered and drawn.
Though once he did love it,
Now, he says, "You can shove it!
"I'm home with my kids and the lawn."*

John's office management skills did not escape attention:

*Our brother and colleague called John
Kept an office quite the Paragon-
Of heaps of files
In stacks and piles –
An archival phenomena
"But it worked for him".*

John Smith's Celebration of Life will be held this July in Southern California.

For details, please contact O'Connor Mortuary
877-872-2736

You can also access more history on John Smith's career and contribution to CTA and public on the

REACTA Facebook page.

RETIREMENT TRUST MEETING REPORT

By: Alan Frey

The Retirement Trust met on Thursday March 30 at the CTA Headquarters in Burlingame. The Trust is now on a schedule of having every other meeting in person with the rest on Webex.

In attendance were all the official trustees and many of their alternates. Additionally in attendance were representatives from the Trust Administrators, Investment Advisors, Legal Counsel, Auditors, and the Actuaries.

A significant portion of each meeting involves routine business matters such as reviewing and approving the minutes of the previous meeting and housekeeping chores such as review of compliance audits, approval of new retirement resolutions, evaluations of trust professionals' overviews of new laws that might affect the trust and similar matters.

Early in each meeting a report from our investment advisor goes over the trends in all the markets from Treasury bills to real estate investment to common stocks.

The actual Trust Portfolio is very diversified throughout a large number of investment options. The theory behind this diversity is that while some markets may go up, and others may go down, we basically hedge our bets that the trust will continue to benefit from up markets and offset any losses on a downturn.

Another major report is given by the actuaries from Horizon, the firm the trust employs to perform the required federal reports all retirement trusts have to file.

The good news from the Actuaries is that while the CTA Retirement Plan was in the yellow zone in 2022, we will now move to the GREEN ZONE for 2023

While clearly this is very good news for the Retirement Plan, the Trust will still need to be cautious in future years to monitor the policies of the Plan to insure stability. As everyone knows the economy is subject to wild swings and these vicissitudes can have an impact on our trust.

All in all, your retirement Plan is in good shape and you can look forward to our next report after the June meeting.

JUST COULDN'T PUT IT DOWN

Here are a few book recommendations from our members.

Tammy Cole: Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Margaret Wallace: Tortilla Curtain by T.C. Boyle

Fight Night by Miriam Toews

Alice Clement: Julia Morgan: An Intimate Biography of the Trailblazing Architect by Victoria Kastner

Felice Strauss: Rogue Justice by Stacey Justice

Your reading contributions are always welcome. Simply contact Margaret Wallace at marwall@aol.com

	2023 Actuals 1/1/23	2023 Adopted Budget 10/4/2022
INCOME		
Members	5,840	15,000
Annual Meeting		2,500
Addl Scholarship Donations	645	500
Other	875	50
Total Income	6,485	18,050
EXPENSES		
Executive Board		3,000
Committees	1573.00	9,600
Elections		200
Membership	443.00	3,000
Nominations		100
Political Education		200
Scholarship	585.00	2,000
Trusts	545.00	4,000
Other		100
Communications	205.00	2,950
Directory		50
Facebook		200
Hot Topics		50
Newsletter (REACTOR)		100
Website		300
CAS/CSO/CTA		1,500
Printing Mailing/Supplies	205.00	750
Membership & Advocacy	232.00	22,000
Annual Meeting	172.00	9,000
Member Assistance		4,000
Legal Expenses		5,500
Regional Activities	60.00	1,500
Scholarships		2,000
Other		100
Total Expenses	2010.00	37,650
Total Income	6485.00	18,050
FFCU	45,046.00	
Convenience Checking	59,629.00	
Prime Checking	12,000.00	
Association Savings	28.00	
Total Assets	71,657.00	60,000



TREASURER'S REPORT

By: Felice Strauss

We have completed 1/3 of the year. Our expenses and income are all well within the expected amounts.

We have 413 members.

We are working with Oxford Suites on the October Annual Meeting in Paso Robles.

Pension Deduct forms are available on the REACTA website and Facebook.

REACTA Officers

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Committees

Scholarship Committee: Alice Clement and Ros Wolfe, (Co-Chairs); Joe Colton (Board Liaison), Andy Witthohn, Michi Higashi, Kelly Homer. **Health & Welfare Trust Liaison:** Merri Furler. **Membership:** Ann Adler (Chair), Merri Furler (Board Liaison); Region 1: Kerry Moriarty, Roseanne Becher, Danita Keefe; Region 2: John Stevens, Marla Reyes; Region 3: Patricia Williams, Gary Campbell, Penny Sevoian; Region 4: Alva Rivera, Barbara Smith. **Retirement Trust Liaison:** Alan Frey.

REACTOR Newsletter: Margaret Wallace (Editor), Dixie Ditsler, Kathie Casas, Shirley Horn. **Social Media Specialist:** Kathie Casas. **Legal Expense Fund and Member Assistance Fund:** Felice Strauss.

"NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD GO"

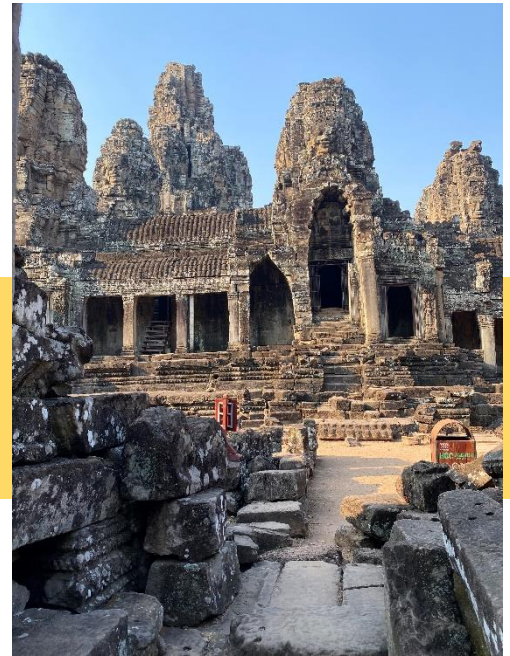
By: MARGARET WALLACE, editor

The travel bug is alive and well with REACTA retirees, especially for **Gail Boyle**. A simple phone call from a friend, inviting her to go to Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Viet Nam, set her out on an amazing 23-day adventure. "I never thought I would go," said **Gail**.

Overseas Adventure Travel provided a unique experience for a small group of ten people traveling by tuktuks, jumbos, and lambros.



They were immersed into the culture where very few people spoke English and found themselves welcomed everywhere they went.



They ate fried bamboo worms and tarantulas. "They tasted like escargot with garlic and butter," said **Gail**.

While in Saigon, Viet Nam, she participated in a progressive dinner. She was transported from course to course on motorcycle with a student driver. Saigon has 12 million people and 8 million motorcycles.

"The only scary thing we did was crossing the streets through the motorcycle traffic," said **Gail**.

Her adventure took her to the floating villages of Cambodia to meeting a Buddhist monk.

The REACTOR is always looking for personal stories of your adventures, involvements, and talents. Please contact Margaret Wallace, editor, marwall@aol.com and your retirement story will be in the an issue of the REACTOR.