



May, 2020

The REACTOR

*Retired Employees Association
California Teachers Association*

IN THE RED ZONE

By Dom Summa, President

Our CTA Retirement Trust is now in the "Red Zone." This should not be a surprise. On March 12 we received a notice from the Trustees that provided an overview of why the Trust is in the "Red Zone." I recommend you go to the website www.CTApension.org and look for the video under "Documents." This brief video should help you understand why we are "Red." As stated in the video, any plan changes would be "prospective" and not impact benefits earned before the changes.

The last mailing from the Trust in April 2020 gives more details about our funding level. Additional information is provided about our investment performance. The figures used are based on December 31, 2019. We all know performance in 2020 has further declined.

Our pension trust has had three trips to the Red Zone since 2009. All three trips were partially caused by the drop in investment performance. Another major factor has been the increase in the number of retirees relative to the number of active employees. We now have 460 current employees, 730 retirees collecting benefits and 74 retirees with a right to future benefits.

Our Trust previously exited the Red Zone due to a plan negotiated with CTA Management, CAS and CSO. Funding modifications were made and benefit levels were adjusted. This year tri-partite negotiations have started. We are hopeful that the parties will reach an agreement to move us out of the Red Zone. Any plan changes would be "prospective" and not impact benefits earned before the changes. REACTA will continue to monitor this situation and keep you informed

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



REACTA members joined in the pandemic jigsaw fad. Dom and Joann Summa circled around their dining room tables with one goal – find the edges first.



Venturing out with homemade mask on, Robin Rose follows county rules to pick up lunch at Blaze Pizza.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April – We did not receive any qualified scholarship applications. No scholarships were awarded for 2020. Funds will be carried forward to 2021.

May Luncheons

Region 1 - cancelled

Region 2 - cancelled

Region 3 - cancelled

Region 4 - cancelled

May 31 – Angels vs Yankees
Baseball (unless cancelled)

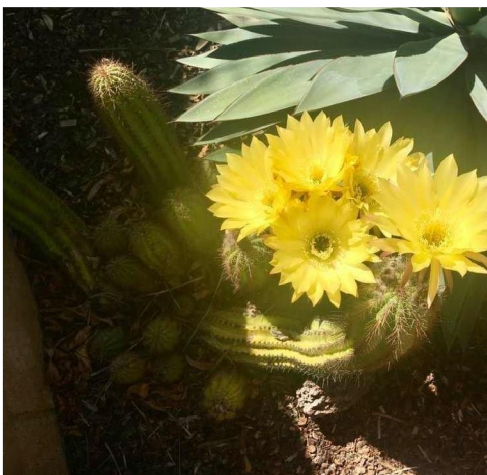
June 2 – REACTA officers
meeting

July- REACTA Bar-B-Q
CSO/REACTA Cancelled

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.

HAVING TIME TO SMELL THE ROSES



Facebook is full of photos of how our members are filling their days while in isolation, from food to hobbies. But some are walking and playing in the dirt. Alice Clement spots daisies on a neighborhood walk. Barbara DePrete finds orchids in Irvine Park. Kathy Casas grows zucchini. Bill Harju enjoys the ocotillos blooming in the desert. While Mark Young notices the cactus flowers.



REACHING OUT TO REACTA MEMBERS

By ROBIN ROSE, Membership Committee Chair

Like many of you, during this unprecedented stay at home edict, I have had a chance to catch up on many unfinished and new projects, such as taking an online Smartphone photography class, analyzing stocks with my Women's Investment Club, watching Suits beginning with Season 1, walking every day in my beautiful neighborhood, having Zoom virtual gatherings, and making quilts and masks. Before the pandemic one of my 2020 resolutions was to make a dent in my fabric stash. I also have taken this time to communicate with many REACTA members with personal texts, emails and telephone calls. It has been great catching up and seeing how others are handling these challenging times.

We have had ten REACTA members take the challenge and switch from paying their dues by pension deduction rather than paying by check. As I've said before, paying by check can be time consuming and an extra expense for REACTA as we send out reminder letters (usually two) and then the Membership Committee follows up individually with those who don't renew their membership, and you are never behind in your dues. Thank you to Lisa Longabaugh, Craig Nelson, Jane Robb, John and Karen Stevens, Debbie Diaz, Dick Gale, Susan Merlot, Steve Kaplan and Justo Robles for making the switch!

Speaking with REACTA member, Mona Marra, this is what she had to say: "Recently, I became a member of REACTA's Financial Oversight Committee. Participating on this committee has been an eye opener! Those who are continuing to pay by check create more time and expense for REACTA. I'M ONE OF THEM! I don't even know why I originally decided to check the 'cash' option when I retired and joined REACTA. Truthfully, if I didn't get a reminder every year, I would completely forget to pay my dues. I'm changing to automatic monthly deduction in January when the new year begins. I hope all of you who still pay by check will consider making the change. Let's make the job easier for those who volunteer their time for us."

Welcome to our newest REACTA members- Angela Boyle Julie Nissen, and Cindy Heller. REACTA looks forward to your involvement and support for CTA retirees.

We recently lost more of our REACTA family – Jack Cowan, Philip Schneider, and Raymond Hansen. 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, Don Hillman, Chris Ballentine, Sherri Scott, Bruce Berg, Mark York, Barbara Smith, Phil Brown, Chuck King, Karen Kyhn, Marilou Romero

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

Catch and Kill: Lies, Spies and a Conspiracy to Protect Predators

The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See

The Woman in the Window by A J Finn

Witch Elm by Tana French (stick with it!)

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins

The Home for Unwanted Girls by Joanna Goodman

The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

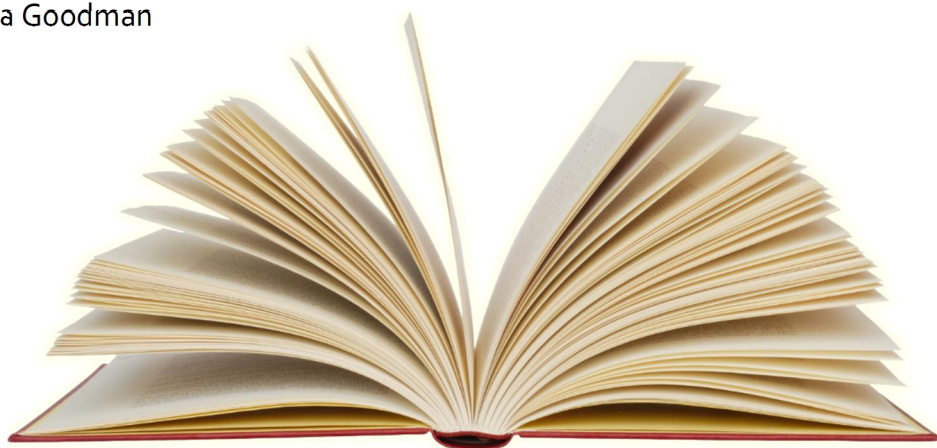
Red Notice by Bill Browder

In Pieces by Sally Field

The Alice Network by Kate Quinn

Blowout by Rachel Maddox

HAVE YOU READ THESE YET



REACTA Treasurer's Report
By: FELICE STRAUSS, Treasurer

REACTA submitted the 990-N (e-Postcard) form to the IRS and it was accepted on 3.24.20.

Our membership is currently at 348 members: 81 cash payers and 230 on pension deduct. We have had 3 deaths and only a couple of people have not paid their 2020 dues. The membership committee has been doing a great job and we have 10 people eligible so far for the free year dues raffle.

We have sold the required 20 tix for the Angel-Yankee game. Now we wait to see if there is going to be a game on May 31. If you are interested, drop Felice a note, but do not send money. If it is a go, we will contact those that have only made a reservation.

A copy of the 2020 REACTA Income/Expense Report is provided. Because of inactivity, due to the Covid-19, we should have sufficient funds to carry over to next year. We currently have over \$47,000 in total assets in FFCU.

2020 REACTA Income/Expense Report						
	Date	1/1/2020		4/9/2020		4/9/2020
INCOME		Adopted Budget		Bd Mtg		Balance
Members		16,000		4008.75		11,991
Annual Mtg		4000				4000
Additional Scholarship Donations		2000		300		1700
Other		50		850		-800
Total Income		22,050		5158.75		16,891
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		447.59		2552.41
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		264.28		1735.72
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				-970
Scholarships		2000				2000
Other		50		1020		-970
Total Expenses		\$24,000		2257.03		21,743
Transfer in from carryover		\$1,950		0		0
Total Income		\$24,000		5158.75		\$18,841
FFCU						3/31/2020
Convenience Checking		30,000				35187.99
Prime Checking		10,000				11828.32
Association Savings		30				28.07
Total Assets		40,030				47044.38

REACTA Officers



SEWING SKILLS SO SUCCESSFUL



Dom Summa
President
dsummacal@aol.com
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
Mmbret2002@aol.com
562-434-7113

Many REACTA members have stepped up to the volunteer role during this crisis. Some are helping to get food to those in need while others are taking care of grandchildren while their grown children are working or are quarantined with COVID-19.

Kathy Casas, Robin Rose and I are sewing masks. It is finally a chance to use up all those fabrics buried in the closet from unfinished projects.

Marla Reyes has connected with a mask source. Free protective masks are available to members. We have already distributed 12 masks. Email your requests to Marla Reyes marlaed@earthlink.net.



Margaret Wallace uses up her old Christmas material while Robin Rose uses quilting squares. Kathy Casas pulls out Raider print for some very popular masks.

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**