



The REACTOR

*Retired Employees Association
California Teachers Association*

May 2022



Update on 2022 Annual Reunion and Business Meeting

By: Dom Summa, President

The dates for the 2022 REACTA Annual Reunion and Business Meeting have been set for October 3-5. However, the location of our meeting has not yet been confirmed. Those of you who attended the 2021 Annual Reunion and Business Meeting at Cambria Pines Lodge are aware of some of the issues we faced with this facility. Many of the rooms were located in buildings that required staircases to enter. We also had issues with CPL management about “un-reserving” rooms, failing to properly set-up our meeting space and a lack of communications with our officers about other logistical matters. We met with their sales reps after the meeting and explained the problems. We expressed a willingness to return if there was assurance these issues would be resolved. Since January 2022, many attempts have been made to contact their staff. Our previous rep no longer works for Cambria Pines Lodge, and they have not responded to numerous emails and calls from Felice.

For all of the above reasons, the officers have decided to explore other locations. We found two properties in the Paso Robles area that are interested in hosting our meeting. The officers reviewed both proposals at our April 13 meeting and will make a decision by the end of May. Information will be sent to all REACTA members about our choice. Our plan is to have our reception on Monday, October 3 and our Hot Topics, Business Meeting and Banquet on October 4. Check-out will be October 5 or later for those wishing to spend extra time on the Central Coast.

Please circle these dates on your calendar for our reunion and meeting. This is the only opportunity to re-connect with many of your former colleagues from throughout the state. Those who have previously attended had a wonderful time. I hope you can join us in Paso Robles!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Wiley Jones was a trainer in the Survive and Thrive Program. His insight was greatly valued by his fellow trainers and the participants.



Manzanar is a history that many do not know much about, but all should never forget.

REACTA NIGHT WITH THE ANGELS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 10 – Region 4 Luncheon, Temecula, RSVP **Kathie Casas** KCasas@aol.com

May 17 – Region 3 Luncheon, Los Alamitos, RSVP **Patricia Williams** pawmeow@aol.com

July 26– Annual Staff Summer BBQ, RSVP **Alice Clement** aliceclement@me.com

August 30 – Angel vs. Yankee game. Send check to **Felice Strauss**

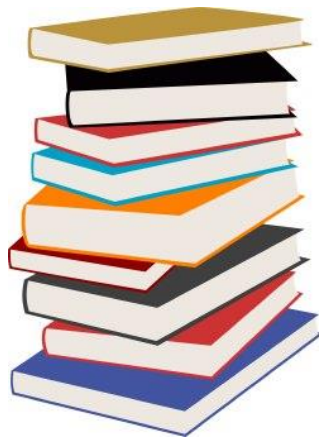
Oct 3-5 – Annual Meeting Paso Robles. Details to follow soon.



VS.



Join your former colleagues for an evening of excitement. Watch the L. A. Angels play the New York Yankees at Angels Stadium in Anaheim on August 30, 2022, at 6:45 p.m. We have purchased a block of Club Level MVP seats which include food delivery at your seat! Tickets are priced at \$50. To reserve your seat, please send a check to Felice Strauss, 2049 National Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627.



WHAT IS YOUR BOOK CLUB READING?

My Book Club meets once a month and its May selection is, What Alice Forgot by Liane Moriarty. Other REACTA members shared book club recommendations on Facebook including The Last Days of Ptolemy Gray by Walter Moseley and Pachinko by Min Lin Lee. Share what your book club is reading on REACTA's Facebook page.

IN MEMORIAM

Farewell to the Colleagues that we recently lost. Your leadership and friendship will always be remembered. Wiley Jones, Marjorie Baldwin, Tommy Hutto, Peter Haberfeld.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

By: Robin Rose



It seems like it was just yesterday that we were all housebound due to Covid. Now with multiple Covid variants, multiple vaccines and boosters, we are starting to travel and mingle again in person. What a great feeling. We held an in-person Annual Reunion/Business Meeting in October, some Regions are having Spring Luncheons again in May, and our annual Summer BBQ (to correspond with the Summer Institute) is back again on July 26th at the home of **Alice**

Clement. It is so nice to see folks again.

REACTA is 381 members strong, and we continue to welcome new members and spouses/domestic partners. Our newest members include Qujinnetta Gill, Denise Correia, Terry Skotnes and Diane Borst. Welcome to REACTA and we hope you will get involved in our activities and committees.

Fifteen current members have made the switch from paying their annual dues by cash to automatic pension deduction. As an incentive, new members and those who switch to automatic pension deduction in 2022 will be reimbursed for this year's dues.

The REACTA Membership Committee is working on several initiatives. We are developing a Buddy Program so that new and continuing members may have a REACTA Buddy to serve as a resource regarding REACTA's purpose, events, and general CTA retirement issues. We also are developing a checklist so that members understand what should be done in case they or their loved one passes. Finally, we are working on tips and suggestions for soon-to-be-retirees. Retirement is a significant event in our lives and your Membership Committee is working to make the transition go smoothly. Stay tuned for more information as we finalize these projects.

Listed below are our newest 2022 retirees who have not joined REACTA. If you know any of these retirees, please reach out and invite them to join. Everyone is a recruiter!

Region 1: **Patricia Alvarez, Sophia Georgiadis, James Tom, Craig Hamilton**

Region 2: **Tammy Brooks, Isabelle Garcia, Mary McNulty, Kim Cheney**

Region 3: **Dawn Murray, Susana Salas**

If you have ideas that would help welcome retirees to REACTA please feel free to contact any one of us on the Membership Committee. Your input is valuable and appreciated.

A COLLEAGUE, A MENTOR WITH AN IMPORTANT HISTORY

By Bill Harju

Many of you will remember **Dennis Bambauer**, a CTA Training and Bargaining Specialist out of the Redding CA office. While Dennis was a spectacular colleague and served as a mentor to many of us, he had a childhood that was both chilling and, in some ways, rewarding.

Born in 1934 to a Caucasian father and a Japanese mother who were young and unmarried, Dennis was sent to an orphanage called Children's Home Society for Caucasian children in Los Angeles. He remained in this home until the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, when because he was half Japanese, he was removed from the Children's Home Society and moved to Shonien, a Japanese home for orphaned children in Los Angeles. After Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 in February 1942, Dennis and his fellow Shonien orphans were sent to Manzanar Internment Camp a few miles north of Lone Pine, California in the high desert. Dennis was 7 or 8 years old.

During the years in the Children's Home Society, with all of the Caucasian orphans Dennis believed that he was Caucasian as well. In 1993 Dennis was interviewed at Cal State Fullerton where he recalled 40-50 Caucasian children and no people of color. Moving to Shonien, and then shortly thereafter, to the Manzanar Camp, Dennis began to develop awareness of his half Japanese heritage.



In the CSUF interview, Dennis remembered being with Japanese American kids on a big, grassy area where they were boarded on two buses and shipped to Manzanar. Because he had assumed he was Caucasian, like all the others at the Children's Home Society in Los Angeles, it came as a surprise to him that everyone wasn't like him. He had not had experience with Japanese children before Shonien and Manzanar. Because Dennis was tall for his age, half white, and with the surname of "Tojo" the name of the General and Prime Minister of wartime Japan, Dennis was teased by the other children. Perhaps this was where he learned his basic advocacy instinct, as he was required to defend himself.

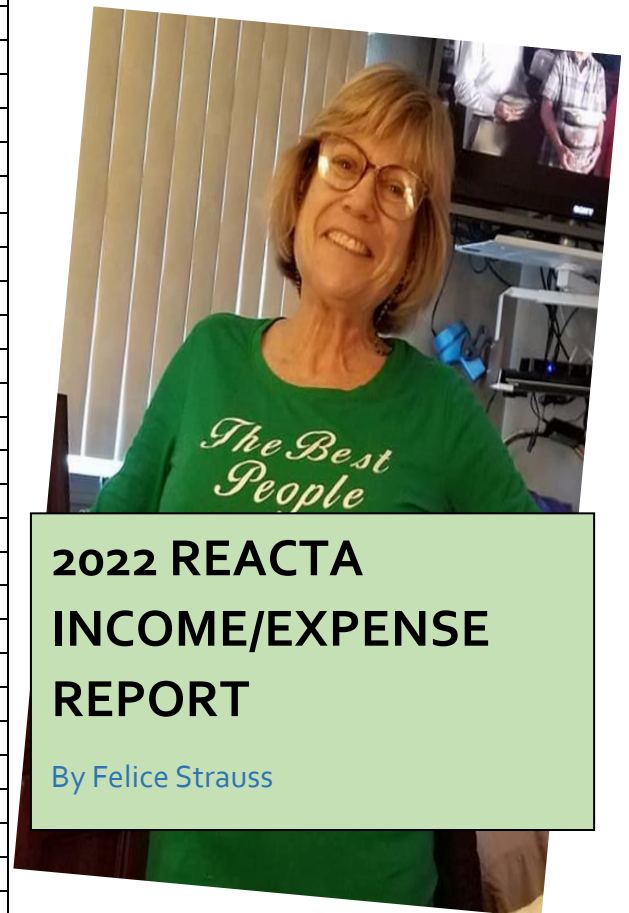
Adults in charge of the Manzanar orphanage, came from the Shonien orphanage in Los Angeles so for the most part, they adapted the routine from the previous experience in



Los Angeles to the Camp at Manzanar. In the camp at Manzanar, orphans were housed in a separate set of buildings, referred to as "Children's Village." Children stayed in large rooms with beds up to fifteen all around. Food apparently was plentiful, particularly servings of rice and brown gravy. Blackouts in the camp were common, where all lights were turned off. Internees were required to stay in the buildings while security people would patrol around the orphanage. In the CSUF interview, Dennis said it was a way of intimidating people.

Dennis was in the camp for about one year, when he was adopted by the Bambauer family and moved to Bishop, CA to begin a totally new life experience. Reflecting on his internment camp experience in 1993, Dennis felt that the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII was one of the worse things ever done to a group of people, but the experience for him was positive in that it introduced him to his Japanese side, which probably would not have happened had he not been sent to Manzanar.

| | 2022 Budget | 2022 Actuals |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| INCOME | Adopted 10/5/21 | March 31, 2022 |
| Members | 16,000 | 4,642.50 |
| Annual Mts | 3,000 | 0 |
| Add'l Scholarship Donations | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 50 | |
| Total Income | 19,050 | 4,642.50 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Executive Board | 3,000 | |
| Committees | 7,100 | |
| Elections | 200 | |
| Membership | 2,000 | |
| Nominations | 200 | |
| Political Education | 500 | |
| Scholarship | 2,000 | |
| Trusts | 2,000 | |
| Other | 200 | |
| Communications | 2,300 | 95.74 |
| Directory | 50 | |
| Facebook | 200 | |
| Hot Topics | 50 | |
| Newsletter | 50 | |
| Web Site | 200 | |
| CAS/CSO/CTA | 750 | |
| Printing Mailing/Supplies | 1,000 | |
| Membership & Advocacy | 19,250 | |
| Annual Meeting | 8,000 | |
| Membership Assistance | 3,500 | |
| Legal Expenses | 5,000 | |
| Regional Activities | 750 | |
| Scholarships | 2,000 | |
| Other | 100 | |
| Total Expenses | 31,750 | 95.74 |
| FFCU | Adopted at AM | 3/31/2022 |
| Convenience Checking | | 58,027.46 |
| Prime Checking | | 12,562.46 |
| Association Savings | | 28.07 |
| Total Assets | 48,574 | 70,618 |



2022 REACTA INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT

By Felice Strauss

A JOYFUL MEMORY OF WILEY JONES (And a nod to Milton's Sonnet 19)

By: Darrell Gifford

REACTA OFFICERS

Dom Summa
President
dsummacal@aol.com
760-567-1358

Robin Rose
Vice President
rrmcrose@gmail.com
818-433-2778

Felice Strauss
Treasurer
Felicecso@gmail.com
949-742-0377

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

Marilyn Bittle
Director-At-Large
Mmbret2002@aol.com
562-434-7113

Wiley Jones was a rarity among his colleagues at the California Teachers Association. He was respected by all as evidenced by many tributes. Not least among Wiley's talents was a wholesome sense of humor. I believe he would not object to this story about the time he channeled an Old Testament character.

The year was 1988. The location was the board room of the California Teachers Association headquarters. The occasion was a marathon bargaining session between CTA and the Professional Staff Organization – predecessor to CSO. Wiley Jones was a member of the PSO bargaining team headed by Judy Thomas. The time was about three a.m.

Bargaining had reached a critical juncture. Agreement was in sight if remaining issues could be resolved, but table negotiations were stuck. The PSO team authorized Judy to sidebar with Walter Denny Combs, Deputy Executive Director of CTA, and head of the CTA bargaining team.

The sidebar took place in WD's office down the hall from the board room. Left in the board room in the middle of the night after hours of exhausting effort, Wiley succumbed to sleep. Soon, he was sawing logs. As he sank deeper into sleep, his snoring increased in loudness. It became audible in WD's office. Before long, it achieved sufficient force to rattle the windows.

When he could no longer ignore it, WD asked, "What is that noise?" "That," replied Judy, "is our secret weapon. It has the strength of seven trumpets and the force of Joshua at Jericho. Either we get an agreement, or the walls of this edifice come tumbling down."

Straightaway, all issues were resolved, and an agreement was signed. It laid the groundwork for the joint trusts that govern employee benefits. It was the start of an era as golden as Joshua's trumpets. I always think of it as "Wiley's ZZZidebar." It is a reminder that they also serve who only sleep and snore.

Committees

Membership Team: Robin Rose, Chair – Region 1, Maureen Keating, Theo Austin-Symth,, Shirley Horn; Region 2, John Stevens, Marla Reyes; Region 3 and Chair, Robin Rose, Patricia Williams, Gary Campbell; Region 4, Ann Adler, Merri Furler, Craig Nelson **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, Joe Colton, Alice Clement, Jim Gutman **Web Site & Facebook:** Kathie Casas. **Legal Expense Fund and Member Assistance Fund:** Felice Strauss, Chair