



The REACTOR

*Retired Employees Association
California Teachers Association*

October 2021

Second Purpose of REACTA

To provide social contact between members

By Dom Summa, President

According to our bylaws, the first purpose of REACTA is to protect the benefit levels provided by our pension and health trusts. REACTA officers and chairs have worked diligently monitoring actions being considered by both trusts. We have established and nurtured relationships with labor and management trustees, and leadership of CTA, CSO and CAS so we are not surprised by items being discussed at their meetings. Our effort to push back on a proposed Medicare Advantage Plan was successful because of these relationships. Work in this area continues to be our top priority.

The second purpose of REACTA was on hold during the past 18 months of the pandemic. Our in-person interaction was limited, but our Zoom meetings were very successful in connecting members throughout the country for cocktails, discussions and our 2020 Annual Meeting. We moved forward with planning our 2021 Annual Meeting as a "live" event in Cambria. We believed a safe environment could be provided. We ended up with one of our highest registrations ever with 84 potential attendees, fulfilling our contract obligations with Cambria Pines Lodge. We did have a few cancellations close to our start date but ended up with more attendees than we had in 2019. It was obvious that our members were ready for some real "face-time" with former colleagues in the beautiful setting of Cambria. Many retirees commented that this was their first overnight trip away from home since March, 2020. Our members tend to be frequent travelers so it was nice to hear that REACTA helped kick-start their return to exploration. Emerging from the pandemic, REACTA needs to focus on our second purpose by providing more opportunities for social interaction. However, we need your help in finding the best ways to accomplish this purpose.

Are we ready for in-person holiday luncheons? Should we encourage more luncheons this Spring in locations with easy access? Should we plan another "Day with the Angels" or expand this to our other California baseball teams? Should we provide a forum for our members to share travel experiences? What else should REACTA do to promote social contact between members?

Please let me know your ideas and suggestions. Many of us are ready for more social contact with our former colleagues. Your leaders are committed to making this happen.



INSIDE THIS



Old friends Merri Furler, Gerri Gonzales, Dixie Ditsler, Roseanne Becher catch up on two years of stories since last annual meeting.



Practicing all the precautions, Susan McClure, attends her first Annual Meeting in Cambria.

PAVE PARADISE AND PUT UP A PARKING LOT.

Annual Meeting starts with a happy hour.



Marianne McCarthy and Edna Steele enjoy visiting with friends at happy hour in converted parking lot of Room 504. Dom Summa and Ann Adler welcome Sheri Miyamoto to her first REACTA Annual Meeting.



Don and Patty Taylor visit with retired colleagues at their first Annual Meeting. Robin Rose greets Patricia Williams and Susan Midori Jones. Annie Aguino and Kathy Malone set up the happy hour bar while Dom Summa and Rob Tranter, Felice Strauss' husband, wait their turn. Many members, like Merri Furler brought her significant other, Juan Furler.





COMMITTEE REPORTS Q & A

Submitted by: Merri Furler, Robin Rose, Alan Frey, Felice Strauss, Marilyn Bittle

Q: Who would be most affected if the CTA Health and Welfare Trust converted to the Anthem Medicare Advantage plan?

A: *Anthem/Medicare participants only*

Q: Why did the REACTA Officers request a virtual meeting with the Benefits Committee Trustees and the Trust Consultant?

A: *High level of concern and anticipated issues raised by REACTA members.*

Q: Will the Anthem Medicare Advantage Plan continue to be an issue?

A: *Yes, the Benefits Committee will Review the Plan proposal annually. REACTA will continue to monitor this issue.*

Q: What is the projected return rate on the Pension Trust?

A: *Based on reports from the trust professionals, it was lowered from 7.5% to 7.0% for future years.*

Q: What zone are we in and what is the projection on the zone issue?

A: *Red zone in 2020 but the actuaries project 3 improving years into the yellow zone, and green zone by 2024.*

Q: What caused the improvement?

A: *Improvements made in the last tri-partite bargaining were primary factors.*

Q: What is the charge of the Fiscal Oversight Committee?

A: *Create a monthly guide of the Treasurer's duties and Fiscal Policies and Procedures.*

Q: What are the goals of the Membership Committee?

A: *Make REACTA a "household" name with active CTA staff and, secondly, to encourage current members to switch from cash dues to automatic pension deduction.*

Q: What is REACTA's current membership?

A: *364 members*

Q: Are Student Scholarships still available?

A: *Yes. A new shorter application will be available on the REACTA.org website in January.*



This information was gleaned from Membership, Health Trust, Pension Trust, Fiscal Oversight Committees' Reports presented at the REACTA Annual Meeting in Cambria. Complete reports were emailed to each member in a packet sent by Dom Summa. Reports are also available on the REACTA Facebook page.

CTA IS IN THE HOUSE

As invited guests from CSO, CAS and CTA present current status



Attendance from CSO, CAS and CTA opened the door to REACTA's goal of full communication on issues near and dear to REACTA members.

Joe Boyd's, CTA Executive Director, opening message was a major thank you to the retirees in the room. He indicated that the experience in the room has been untapped and greatly needed with the new threat of vouchers.

Jill Coert, CAS President, shared the details of the new vaccination mandate going into effect on November 20. "We

will be losing some employees."

Wei Pan (Health and Welfare Trust Member) updated the attendees on the "Zone Status" of the pension trust. "The collective action of all parties included the change in the retirement age to 60 and increased employer contribution."

Jake Anderson (CSO Health Trust member) said that there were design changes and health plan is doing well.

REACTA thanked our presenters and welcomed them to join upon their retirement.

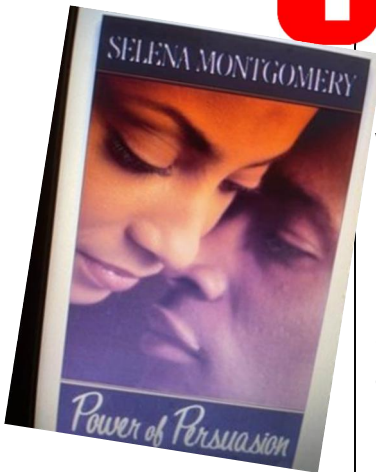


Bruce Saathoof, CSO president, indicates that teacher membership is impacted by COVID. **Kenya Spearman gave an uplifting report on the Pension.** Crazy teaching experiences have been shared during COVID, according to Joe Boyd. **Wei Pan states we should be back into the yellow zone by March 2022.**



REACTA BOOK CLUB

1



Join your fellow book lovers to discuss **Power of Persuasion** by **Selena Montgomery**. This novel will be discussed at the December 8th Zoom Book Club Meeting at 5:00 p.m. If you would like to receive an invite to attend this Zoom meeting please email Margaret Wallace at marwall@aol.com

When an anti-terrorist agency decides to use her groundbreaking artificial intelligence system to stop a dangerous threat against Jafir's monarchy, A.J. Grayson finds herself thrust in the middle of a political conspiracy that leads her into the arms of Damon Toca, the region's newly crowned king.

Stacey Abrams is an American politician, lawyer, voting rights activist, and author who served in the Georgia House of Representatives from 2007 to 2017. Outside of politics, Abrams has found success as a fiction writer under the pen name of Selena Montgomery and has sold more than 100,000 copies of her novels.

2

REACTA LOGO

REACTA is in search of a new logo. The current logo is an outline of the state of California with the letters "REACTA" inside.

Please tap your creative side and submit your entry for a new logo to Margaret Wallace at marwall@aol.com by January 1.

The Communication Committee will review the entries and make a recommendation to the Board. Winner will receive free REACTA dues for one year.



3

BY-LAW REVIEW

It is time to review the REACTA bylaws. A complete committee will be appointed. Thank you to those volunteers.

Any bylaw change suggestion will be presented to the Board to approve and then submitted to membership for a vote.

VP POSITION



The current vice president position is now vacant and according to the REACTA bylaws, the president may appoint someone to fill an incomplete term temporarily upon approval of the REACTA board.

Members will be notified of the appointment when the process is complete.

VACANCY

It is always heartbreaking to lose some of our colleagues. This year we lost Bill Davis, Michael Fox, Vince Amendola, Rose Marie Nichols, Charlie Hinton, Matt Krier, George William (Bill) Gibson and Gene Morgan. May these CTA warriors rest in peace.

2021 REACTA INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT



By: Felice Strauss, Treasurer

	Adopted 10/5/20	ACTUALS 10/04//21
INCOME		
Members	16,500.00	12,082.50
Annual Mtg	2,800.00	720.00
Additional Scholarship Donations		0
Other	50.00	-10.00
Total Income	19,350.00	12,862.50
EXPENSES		
Executive Board	5,000.00	248.43
Committees	8,350.00	105.00
Elections	200.00	
Membership	2,000.00	105.00
Nominations	300.00	
Political Education	200.00	
Scholarship	2,000.00	
Trusts	5,000.00	
Other	100.00	
Communications	3,650.00	532.90
Directory	100.00	
Facebook	100.00	
Hot Topics	100.00	
Newsletter (REACTOR}	100.00	
Web Site	100.00	179.88
CAS/CSO/CTA	500.00	
PrintingMailing/Supplies	2,500.00	353.02
Membership & Advocacy	16,750.00	496.00
Annual Meeting	7,000.00	80.00
Member Assistance	2,500.00	216.00
Legal Expenses	4,000.00	
Regional Activities	500.00	200.00
Scholarships	2000.00	
	50.00	
Total Expenses	33,300.00	1,382.33
Transfer in from carryover	13,780.00	
Total Income	33,000.00	12862.50
		8/31/2021
Convenience Checking		58520.92
Prime Checking		11845.21
Association Savings		28.07
Total Assets	48,574.00	70394.00



THE NEWS FROM FT. BURLINGAME written by Darrell Gifford in 1996 and read at State Council as a tribute to Charlie Hinton upon his retirement

Well, it has been a quiet week in Ft. Burlingame, the home office.

Autumn has arrived. We know this because the leaves in the Campaign 96 Handbooks are changing colors. Some of the leaves have a reddish tinge from blood, sweat and tears. Others are brown from coffee spills. A few leaves are yellow... stained from a considerable height.

Inside the moat, a lot of attention is being focused on the imminent renovation of and addition to the fort. Architects were called in to hear how CTA sees itself doing business over the next few years – presumably to get ideas for design. After listening to managers, officers, and staff, the architects are as befogged as before. To date they have but four ideas.

1. Build the right wing at least as high as the left.
2. Connect the left wing to the right wing with a wailing wall.
3. Increase the number of female bathrooms.
4. Move the paper shredder further from the staff activity report files.

There is a good deal of dialog about technology for the new fort. The recent survey by the Information Technology Department produced the following response which was forwarded to the architects.

Give me a WAN where lines intersect
Where microchips REACH OUT and connect
Where the P drive's unsevered 'til Emails delivered
And viruses don't ever infect.

The Executive Director is a bit impatient with the fort renovation. She put in a call to Charlie Hinton the

other day. She disguised her voice so that he wouldn't hang up. He refers to her as Columbo Doggett because she's always saying, "just one more thing..."

She suggested into the phone, "Charlie, you are known to be a master carpenter, plumber, electrician, welder, and mason. Might you be interested in a construction project as a 20% contract?"

But Charlie demurred. He's not a deconstructionist by any means, but he was reminded on his epithet against a superintendent from the halls of Jurupa many years ago.

He's not for students, teachers, or their necks

"Build!" is his motto even if the budget wrecks

Of walls, we've a plenty—

But of books, hardly any,

Cause the super has an edifice complex.

And besides, Charlie already has a 100% project underway. He is building a home away from home. It's a house; it's a train; it's SUPERVAN, the sequel.

Charlies' got his welder at full blaze;

His latest project's in its final phase.

One look-see reveals

A Westin on wheels;

Transport for his emeritus days.

So much more of this famous story can be found in REACTA.org. This edition of the news had special help from reporters June Stanford Clark, Mike Ford and Cloyd Masengill.

SIGNIFICANT STORIES, SIGNIFICANT TREATS, AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS



REACTA Officers

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

Kerry Moriarty
Vice President
Kmoriarty100@gmail.com
415-505-0738

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



If there is a prize for best story of “What you did this summer,” Craig Nelson wins spending weeks in Africa caring for chimpanzees and gorillas. **Dom’s wife, Joanne Summa’s adventure was closer to home as she prepares to move into a new house in Rancho Mirage.** Challenging year for Alice Clement as Paul McKernan (Robin Rose’s husband) checks in with her. **Sheri Miyamoto remains true to form sharing her beautiful and tasty Halloween cookies.** Margaret Wallace, Nick Capasso (Margaret’s husband,) and Felice Strauss arrive early in Cambria. **It’s been too long as Frank Burress’ wife, Karen Alexander, and Ernie Ciarrocchi catch up.**

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