

# The REACTOR

Retired Employees Association  
California Teachers Association

March 2026

## BACK IN THE SADDLE

By Robin Rose, President



CTA recently asked me to work part time for three months (November through January) to cover a vacant manager position. As a loyal supporter I agreed and worked as the Interim Manager for the Center for Organizing and Bargaining (C4OB) Department. During this time there was a realignment of some key departments with C4OB now renamed Training & Strategic Initiatives which will provide action-oriented labor education training for members and staff and coordination support for strategic projects and campaigns. Under the realignment, the organizers and bargaining specialists have moved into the regions under the supervision of the Regional Managers. The realignment also establishes regional PCS lead assignments and an additional PCS to each region. The Instruction & Professional Development Department and Human Rights Department have merged into a new Equity and Justice Department; and research and school finance expertise is consolidated into the Communications and Research Department. Some of the changes are subject to the collective bargaining process.

It was interesting returning to CTA, even for a short period. Many of the same individuals that I worked with in the past are still there, yet there are SO many newer employees. What was especially rewarding was participating in current CTA programs and projects designed to support chapters in the field. Some of those highlights include:

### We Can't Wait Campaign

CTA educators across the state are organizing together to say "We Can't Wait" for the resources and support students and communities need. CTA's efforts in bargaining campaigns are leading to job actions and strikes across the state. The members of United Teachers of Richmond (UTR) went on strike and won. Also United Educators of San Francisco (UESF) recently concluded a 4-day strike. San Diego Education Association (SDEA) averted a one-day strike. Twin Rivers United Educators (TRUE) and Natomas Teachers Association (NTA) are continuing to organize and build power along with Oakland Education Association (OEA), United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) and West Sacramento Teachers Association (WSTA). The "We Can't Wait" initiative is an ongoing program to train and assist chapters to organize for improved salary, benefits and working conditions for educators, and programs for student success. *(Continue on Page 3)*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



REACTA member, **Alva Rivera**, was one of many retirees that won more than a fair share of the prizes at the Region 4 Holiday Party.



Region 3 retirees attend the CTA Holiday Party on December 11. They encourage all REACTA members to mark their calendars for next year's party.

## CALENDAR

### OF EVENTS

**March 30** – Membership Committee Meeting

**March 31** – Board Zoom Meeting

**May 14** - Region 4 Spring Luncheon, South Coast Winery, Rancho California Rd, Temecula, CA, 11:30-1:30. CASH Only to cover meal and drinks. RSVP to **Kathie Casas** at [kcasas@aol.com](mailto:kcasas@aol.com) or on our Facebook Page under Events. RSVP no later than May 11

**May 26** – Board Zoom Meeting

**June 11, 2026** – REACTA Taco Fiesta, **Felice Strauss** House, 2049 National Ave., Costa Mesa, 11:30. All regions invited. Plan a little mini vacay to SoCal and join in the fun. \$15 per person (Checks payable to REACTA sent ahead of time) to **Dick Gale**, 11895 Evergold St, San Diego, CA 92131. RSVPs must be received no later than June 4 to **Kathie Casas** at [kcasas@aol.com](mailto:kcasas@aol.com) or on our Facebook Page under Events.

**October 18** – REACTA Board Meeting Atascadero

**October 19-21** – REACTA Annual Meeting Atascadero



### REGIONAL HOLIDAY PARTIES

...are a big deal in Regions 3 and 4



**Margaret Wallace** wins one of the many gifts at the Region 4 holiday party. **Dom Summa** thanks Region 4 Manager, Heather Carol-Fisher for inviting REACTA. Region 4 Retirees gather for the annual holiday party. **Karen Kyhn** wins one of the holiday gifts. Robin Rose maintains connection with CTA Executive Director, **Jeff Good** at the Region 3 holiday party.

**VOTE LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDED ON IT...  
because it does.**



## **POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

By: Arleigh Kidd-Chair

As we begin 2026, CTA is actively collecting signatures from members to get an extension of Prop 55 on the ballot. It will have a new Prop number once it makes the ballot.

Prop 55 currently will end in 2030. If not extended this will mean a loss of 15% for most school districts and community colleges.

CTA is also paying signature gatherers to collect signatures from the general public. One complicator is that SEIU is pushing to get a "Wealth Tax" on the ballot and it has significant opposition, but it is not related to CTA's efforts to get Prop 55 extended.

If the Prop 55 extension makes the ballot, REACTA members will be encouraged to vote for it and to possibly volunteer with your CTA locals where they live (If you live in California).

We are also fast approaching the midterm elections and the stakes for REACTA members have never been higher. We will continue to monitor and inform REACTA members on the issues and candidates.

*(Back In the Saddle Continued from Page 1)*

### **Prop 55 Permanent Extension**

Signature gathering to qualify a permanent extension to Prop 55, *The California Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act of 2026* is in full swing. Failure to extend Prop 55 before it expires in 2030 would mean an immediate and devastating \$14 billion cut to public schools. Locals across the state, are gathering signatures to place this initiative on the November ballot. The on the ground signature gathering campaign at school sites is laying the groundwork for organizing successful campaigns in the future. Stop by your local Association Office and sign a petition today!

### **Ice Out of Our Schools**

CTA continues to offer resources, so educators know their rights and options if ICE agents show up in their schools and communities. CTA has contributed to the *Minneapolis Families for Public Schools*, a fund to go directly for mutual aid support and a proactive safety presence for impacted neighbors and school communities.

During the time that I was back with CTA, I was reminded how passionate our educators and leaders are, and how tirelessly CTA staff work on their behalf. Some things in CTA just don't change. CTA is positioning itself to take on the big fights ahead during these unprecedented times. Retirees should be proud of our legacy and the building blocks we put in place for which CTA can build an even stronger union moving forward. And now, back to retirement life.....

**REACTA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE- February 2026**

<b>Total REACTA Members</b>	<b>437</b>
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<b>By CTA Employment Category</b>	
Associate	113
Supervisory	25
Professional	159
Confidential	18
Management	38
Leadership	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>356</b>

<b>By CTA Retirement Decade</b>	
1970's	2
1980's	9
1990's	31
2000's	109
2010's	121
2020's	84
Unknown Date	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>361</b>

<b>Spouses &amp; Domestic Partners</b>	<b>83</b>
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<b>REACTA Cash Dues Payers</b>	<b>34</b>
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WHO  
ARE  
WE?  
WHO

WHO,  
WHO  
WHO

7.78%



**BOOK CLUB READING LIST**

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Buckeye: A Read with Jenna Pick by Patrick Ryan

The Book Club for Troublesome Women by Marie Bostwick

West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge

My Friends by Fredrik Backman

A Boy and His Dog at the End of the World by C. A. Fletcher

*Help us expand our book list for the next REACTOR. Send your book recommendations to Margaret Wallace, marwall@aol.com*



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

### Be Well and Keep in Touch

By: Ann Adler, Membership Committee Chair

The Membership Committee put the fine touches on membership enrollment. We reached out to new retirees and many joined our voluntary organization. My sincere thanks to the 2026 Membership Committee: **Jackie Butler, Gary Campbell, Kathie Casas, Tamara Conry, Sydney Greenberg, Susan Midori-Jones, Alva Rivera, Barbara Smith, John Stephens, Patty Taylor, Patricia Williams, and Board Liaison Merri Furler. THEY ROCK!**

In truth, we are all recruiters and "mouthpieces" for our organization. Many people, who are not on the Membership Committee, also draw colleagues in. To assist everyone, your Membership Committee has come up with some myths to debunk fallacies and to assist you. Please read on to be smarter about your organization as you share information with your retired non-member colleagues.

1. Can I join before my vacation days run out and I am "officially" retired? Yes. You can join, and your dues will not be deducted or your official membership started until your days are gone. It is ok to turn in the form early.
2. What if I work another job? Can I still join REACTA? Yes. Once you are "officially retired" from CTA, you can be a member of REACTA and have your dues deducted.
3. Can my spouse/partner be a member too? Yes. Spouses/partners can join and come to events and meetings. They are non-voting members but very welcome to take part in committees, etc. Their dues are less, and if you pass away, they continue to be a member (gratis) and receive REACTA information about benefits and other retiree issues.
4. When will my dues stop? Unless you specifically ask to stop being a member, your dues will automatically continue to be deducted from your CTA pension. When you no longer receive a pension, your dues will automatically cease.
5. Is REACTA divided by previous job descriptions? No. We are wall to wall regardless of what we did in CTA. All persons who receive benefits from at least one of the Trusts are welcome to join as per the Bylaws which can be found on [www.REACTA.org](http://www.REACTA.org).
6. I heard that REACTA is just a social club. Is that accurate? No. REACTA is much more than a social group. Our major purpose is to support, protect and enhance the California Teachers Association (CTA) Employee's Retirement Benefits Plan and the CTA Employee's Health and Welfare Benefits Plan. We do this through liaisons to the Trusts and by keeping in close contact with CTA, CSO, and CAS leadership and management. In addition, REACTA provides scholarships for continued education.

REACTA is able to communicate on various matters with its members issues via mail, email, publications, a webpage, Facebook, meetings (physical and zoom), luncheons, and more, many of which are determined by the members. Socially, it is often fun to see our retired colleagues while engaging in member activities.

**Welcome to New Members** since the October Meeting!

**Tamara and spouse Tom Conry, Vernon Gates, LaChester Green, Lisa Edelheit, Tim Luckinbill (spouse of MaryAnn)**

**Condolences** to the family and friends of the CTA warrior **David (Wayne) Johnson** who passed in December of 2025.



## CTA HEALTH & WELFARE BENEFITS TRUST

MERRI BOSTON FURLER, REACTA Liaison

The CTA Health and Welfare Benefits Trust meeting was held via Zoom on January 29th. At that meeting, the Investment Consultant reported that as of 12/31/2025, the current investment balance was \$11,271,299 with net assets of \$14,190,992. The Investment Consultant is projecting a 4-5% rate of return for 2026 and will bring a report to the April Trust meeting to show projected changes in equity.

The Benefits Consultant is projecting a deficit of \$4.2M by the end of 2025/26. In the current CTA/CSO/CAS Contracts, language calls for the bargaining parties to direct the Trust to make benefit plan modifications **and** increases to the employer contributions, when the reserves/investments start to reach \$10M. Due to the continuing decrease of assets, the Tri-Partite bargaining has begun. To date, I am not aware of any results or agreements from this bargaining, but from past experience, the Trustees and Bargaining parties will be looking at a “menu” of items that can save the Trust money and not substantially cut benefits.

As a matter of historical record, after the Tripartite bargaining in 2014, some of the changes implemented by the Trust to increase the assets included: changing the in and out of network deductibles; imposing out of network limits (including dollar or visits); reduction of an Rx fill amount from 34 to 30 days at retail; increasing the age and number of years for retiree eligibility; and increasing the employer payroll contribution rate from 8% of payroll to 16%. (In 2001, employer payroll contributions were 2% and increased to 8% in 2006.)

As soon as REACTA is aware of any Tripartite bargaining agreements, we will inform our members.

Other items on the Trust agenda included a report from the Trust Legal Counsel indicating that they have been in contact with Zenith and will continue to pursue legal avenues regarding the discrepancies between Zenith’s reported claims data vs what was paid out, and other large expenses charged to the Trust with no explanation.

For Anthem plan participants, Anthem ID cards with Express Scripts plan details and Anthem Telehealth contact information will be sent out in the Spring. Delta is also working on a Webex or Zoom seminar regarding Medicare and procedures.

I encourage everyone to set up their member portal on the Delta Health Systems website ([www.deltahealthsystems.com](http://www.deltahealthsystems.com)). Not only is it an easy way to access your claims/eligibility/benefits information, but you also have the ability to download various forms and documents. It is also a good way to communicate with Delta Representatives without having to make a phone call. The response time is fast and you will have a paper trail.

The next Health and Welfare Benefits Trust meeting will be April 17, 2026 via Zoom.

<b>REACTA</b>	<b>2026 Adopted</b>	<b>2025 Actuals</b>
	<b>Income</b>	
Member Dues	18,296	13,045.75
Annual Meeting	2,600	2,950
Add'l Scholarship Donations	800	2,375.000
Other	50	3,600.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>21,746</b>	<b>21,970.75</b>
	<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Executive Bd &amp; Committees</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>1,571.75</b>
Elections	200	0
Membership	2,000	179.03
Nominations	100	0
Political Education	300	0
Scholarship	2,500	0
Trusts	2,500	1,392.72
Other	100	0
<b>Communications</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>628.96</b>
Directory	50	0
Facebook	200	0
Hot Topics	50	0
Newsletter (Reactor)	100	0
Web Site/Zoom	300	468.06
CAS/CSO/CTA	500	0
Printing/Mailing/Supplies	300	160.90
<b>Membership/ Advocacy</b>	<b>32,600</b>	<b>24,357.93</b>
Annual Membership	14,000	17,557.93
Member Assistance	5,500	3,000.00
Legal Expenses	6,000	0
Regional Activities	1,000	0
Scholarships	3,500	3800
<b>Other</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>41,900</b>	<b>26,558.64</b>
	<b>Assets/FFCU</b>	
Convenience Checking		62,347.38
Prime Checking		8,900.90
Association Savings		28.07
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>71,276.35</b>



## TREASURER REPORT

By: **DICK GALE**, Treasurer

Last year was a continuation of REACTA's pattern of "living within its means." The positive annual cash flow has enabled our account balances to grow modestly year-by-year.

REACTA's total income is derived from dues received per payroll deduction from you through our pension administrator, BeneSys.

In addition, we received many donations from REACTA members to assist our colleagues or provide funds for our dependent scholarship recipients.

## REACTA OFFICERS

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### Shirley Horn

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## Committees

**Scholarship Committee:** Anita Benitas Gardella (chair), Ginny Jannatto, Debbie Diaz, Sydney Greenberg, Frank Wells, Susan Midori-Jones (Board Liaison).

**Health & Welfare Trust Liaison:** Merri Furler. **Membership:** Ann Adler (Chair), Merri Furler (Board Liaison); Gary Campbell, Kathie Casas, Jackie Clark, Sydney Greenberg, Susan Midori Jones, Alva Rivera, Barbara Smith, John Stephen, Tamara Conry, Patty Taylor, Patricia Williams. **Retirement Trust Liaison:** Alan Frey. **Fiscal Oversight Committee:** Dick Gale (Chair), Felice Strauss. **Nominations & Elections Committee:** Dom Summa (Chair), Kathy Schlotz, Marilyn Aden

**REACTOR Newsletter:** Margaret Wallace (Editor), Dixie Ditsler, Kathie Casas, Shirley Horn. **Social Media Specialist:** Kathie Casas.

**Database and Directory:** Kathie Casas.

**Facebook:** Kathie Casas. **REACTA**

**Webmaster:** Kathy Schlotz. **Legal**

**Expense Fund and Member Assistance**

**Fund:** Susan Midori-Jones. **Political**

**Education Committee:** Arleigh Kidd, Felice

Strauss, Ed Sibby. **Fiscal Oversight**

**Committee:** Dick Gale, (Chair)



## All IN THE FAMIY

By: MARGARET WALLACE, Editor



After 32.5 years, working for CTA, **Kathie Casas** retired in 2007. With that longevity she touched many lives. This is no surprise since her computer knowledge played an instrumental role in rolling out the computer age to CTA employees.

She got her CTA feet wet working in San Diego where she improved her computer skills taking computer classes early on. She was quickly encouraged to apply for the new statewide IT position and ended up doing statewide training in Burlingame, Orange, Norco and Temecula. "I helped roll out computer training with only one computer in each office," said Kathie. "My goal was to get help to anyone that showed an interest back then." Many CTA employees owe their computer skills to **Kathie Casas**. When **Kathie** jumped in the water she held our hand into the computer era.

**Kathie's** computer skills continued to be of good use upon her retirement, especially for one of her favorite hobbies, genealogy. She takes a yearly trip to Salt Lake City to work on her family tree. One of her favorite sites is [familysearchcenter.org](http://familysearchcenter.org).

**Kathie** now has even more time for her family and their love for baseball, especially the Padres. Spring training is an annual adventure to Peoria, Arizona.

Quilting is another love than she started before retirement and continues even more so with her free time.

REACTA appreciates the time that **Kathie Casas** has provided in her communication role for REACTA's database, directory, and FACEBOOK. She also coordinates the Region 4 luncheon each year.

No matter what the interest, **Kathie** jumps in with both feet and is there for others who share her interest.