

Past President Report Charleen Silva Delfino

I have been working with Liz on plans for the 2015 Convention in San Jose. We have been given a high bar to meet by Carole and her committee, as well as by those of the previous committees. We will give you more information when we give the Convention Report.

Since the last meeting I have worked on getting information out about the awards, making sure that everyone is aware that **all nominations** for awards are turned in at the beginning of the meeting on Saturday morning. Those nominations must be submitted on a proper form (see attached forms) and must be completely filled out. Remember that nominations that are not turned in at the beginning of the meeting and those that are not completely filled out will not be accepted.

Also, please note that it is important that each council make an effort to honor teachers and those who support CATE by submitting nominations for the Classroom Excellence Award and the Award of Merit. Many people have stated that the award portion of the convention is one of their favorite activities.

This information and the forms were sent to you at the time of the September meeting; however, I know that in our busy lives things get misplaced. However, I know that you have heard this information from me and Liz on several occasions and that you are not being given less than a week to get this information together. If you do have a question, you can call me at 408-238-3844. Will each of the Council Presidents send me an email stating that you have received and read this report.

Vice President Report Susan Dillon

I worked on setting up this meeting, ever grateful to Anne Fristrom who catches my errors. I also contacted the CATE 2015 facility in the hopes we can meet there in May, but they cannot accommodate us. I will be working on our next meeting as soon as this one is over. I like suggestions!

CATE Secretary Carrie Danielson,

Since we last met, I have published the minutes for our September meeting, sent around a request for updates and changes to the CATE Board roster which can be found on www.cateweb.org in the Board Only section of the website. Please let me know if you have further changes. I have updated the policies but have not yet posted them. I will do so before the meeting. I just finished making Anne some new business cards with the Fristrom's new contact information and will make them for others if they care for any more. I have a new a improved method, so they will be a little better quality than those I have given out before. I had to repair the CATE computer as the battery died again but it is up and running for use in the CATE Membership Booth for CATE 2014. Thanks to Michelle's reminder I have now registered for the convention and look forward to the event.

I have been more active in GSDCTE and have assisted Jeannine Ugalde as she prepares the many things required for the awards that GSDCTE is responsible for this year. It has been a big job, and she has worked hard to pull it all together. We also had an event, Our Stories Unite Us, and I want to commend Jeannine for her effort to guide GSDCTE through tough times.

Small Councils Rep Report Jill Hamilton Bunch

I have been busy this Fall semester!

I was able to attend the CWP 40th Anniversary event in Davis in October. What an amazing day! I have reflected upon and used much of what I learned as I have taught my literacy class this semester. Thanks Jane Marlink for this great event!

Led by our Kern Council President, Kim Flachmann, Kern CATE offered a professional development opportunity and will offer another in February. Kim will share the details in her President's report. Have been busy publicizing the upcoming convention in San Diego.

MAL - Elementary Report Denise Mikkonen

Just got back from NCTE. My suitcase weighted exactly #50, which means I bought #50 of picture books. I was inspired as usual by Georgia Heard, Lester Laminak, and Lucy Calkins. Got some great ideas on how to use poetry to develop close reading skills. Tried some lessons this week, each day a student will choose a poem to read aloud then I can use the poem later for reading lessons from the book Falling in Love with Close Reading. Great discussion today – students were thinking about a text! Poetry is a great vehicle to help teach Common Core Standards.

Encouraged my staff at Stone Ranch to submit presentations for CATE. We have a first grade team presenting and four of our fourth grade team will be presenting a session on writing throughout the day with the Common Core. The loved the conference last year. It is a good opportunity to work together on a project. And.... Our PTA/Foundation paid for all 6 of our 4th grade team to attend the conference.

Busy passing out the “Volunteer at CATE” cards from Carol LeCren and encouraging folks to attend CATE

I continue to keep on working on helping folks of all grades to **read the common core standards**, not only for your own grade but for the grade below and above before they start doing stuff to their curriculum. Great metaphor –they are like building codes, not building plans.

TUCATE Council Carol Surabian

Most of our time since the last meeting has been devoted to the Yosemite conference. Things went well, for the most part, and we look forward to sharing our experiences with the board.

We had a few entries for the writing contest and are always eager to see students getting excited about writing (their teachers get excited, too!)

Looking forward to seeing everyone this weekend.

Central Council Report Susan Dillon

Our council was very pleased with the strong turnout at Asilomar this year, and the great response to our Chiyo basket raffle, which raised \$600 for new teacher scholarships. We also met to plan a spring event, which will feature technology integration and the Common Core . We will hold the event at well-wired middle school in Alameda County. We so enjoyed rereading our writing contest entries and look forward to honoring them in the spring at Mercy High School.

GSDCTE Report Jeannine Ugalde

Just returned from an inspiring NCTE Convention.

Received suggestions for improving membership.

1. Twitter is big. At the Affiliate Breakfast, I sat next to the Student Affiliate winners. I asked them to describe people who Twitter vs. people who FB. Their reply? The only people who FB are those who don't know about Twitter, yet. (This does not include people who fb to keep up with family and friends.)

Get connected to a university. I am going to contact several universities in the area and request partnership where someone from the university serves on our local council's board.

3. Don't ask, "Why should they join?" – ask "What can we create together?"

We ran our second Our Stories Unite Us event. Scholastic donated 50 books; Scripps Chiropractic came with free massages; Our restaurant host donated \$50 to our council + 2 gift certificates. Attendees left happy.

Capitol Council_Report Angus Dunstan

We recently (Nov 23rd) held an excellent Saturday morning workshop: "The Poem's Heartbeat." This was a presentation by Josh McKinney, our CSUS English Department resident poet focusing on meter and rhythm and old fashioned scansion. Always wonderful to be in the company of smart, thoughtful teachers learning something new....so unlike district-led workshops, as all participants noted!

Kern Council Report Kim Flachman

We have some new board members that are real go-getters, and we just hosted Jim Burke for a full-day workshop on Writing and the Common Core State Standards for 80 (!!) participants. From that activity we got 10 new memberships.

Meetings

We had a Board Meeting on October 21, 2013, at which we revised our list of activities for the entire year.

Membership Drives

On February 16, Jim Burke did a full-day workshop on writing and the Common Core State Standards that drew 80 participants. We offered CSUB credit for the activity and had the publisher of his new book (*The Common Core State Standards*) present to sell books to the participants.

One Book/One Bakersfield

We are starting to work with the CSUB First Year Experience and One Book/One Bakersfield in preparation for next year's local read.

Upcoming Events

Feb 1, 2014: Doug Fisher and Nancy Frey

Mid February: Debriefing after state CATE

Redwood Council of Teachers of English Bob Chapman, Acting President

Since September, Redwood Council has had one meeting – a group of us met in October at Chapala Café (our regular haunt) and we honored new student teachers, reviewed our financial status, nominated our awardees (Classroom Excellence), pitched the CATE Convention, and began planning for the year. We have hopes to have an author’s meeting in January and get Jim Burke to join us later in the spring. Tom Gage also shared with us his newest publications. Between our October and December meetings, RCTE helped to host a visiting speaker from Turkey, Ali Aydin, at my high school (Eureka High) and Humboldt State, where there was also a reception. We are currently putting together the final plans for our December meeting – a holiday meeting at Joan Williams’ house (dinner and our own white elephant gift exchange – planned for next Thursday). We especially need to get our own local writing contest planned and organized (we hope to meet after school today to cinch this), as well as plan any shared events with the Redwood Writing Project. Humboldt County is officially experiencing winter – as I am writing this, it’s 27 degrees outside, and I am bundled up in fleece (it’s a mostly rainless winter so far – clear skies means COLD!).

Membership Report Joan Williams

CATE MEMBERSHIP REPORT

December 2013

# COUNCIL	2/12	5/12	9/12	11/12	2/13	5/13	9/13	12/13	+/-	
1 Redwood	25	29	24	24	25	22	22	31	+9	
2 Upper		7	12	13	13	7	19	19	23	+4
3 Capitol	21	28	32	66	61	82	80	68	-12	
4 Central	177	207	203	203	168	303	299	326	+27	
5 Fresno	15	31	32	36	17	27	26	27	+1	
6 TUCATE	8	16	51	51	47	48	16	17	+1	
7 Kern	49	78	73	69	34	43	39	46	+7	

8 Southland	250	470	466	415	189	216	221	234	+13
9 San Diego	68	82	81	77	65	63	66	67	+1
50 Out-of-state	11	17	16	17	8	12	13	13	--
55 Libraries	17	17	16	15	15	15	15	15	--
99 Comps	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	--
TOTAL	648	988	1008	987	638	852	818	869	+51

- As approved by the Board, I discussed with Cindy Conlin the proposal to put together an email membership renewal reminder system. After a discussion of how it would work, I agreed to have her proceed with the plan. She has been testing the system. I hope to send an updated progress report prior to this weekend's meeting or as soon as I have an update so that we know when it will be operational.
- I have followed up on bad addresses. I would like to commend the work of Precision and their responsiveness in keeping our mailing list accurate. Please check over your council rosters and forward any updates or errors to me. Also please try to secure accurate email addresses for your councils. Our renewal system will require good email contacts for our members.
- I have updated rosters available for board members. Please email me to let me know that you would like a roster.
- I would like to congratulate the Yosemite conference for bringing the event back to the FACET/TUCATE region. Of concern to me as membership chair is the fact that while there were over 60 people in attendance, the two sponsoring councils only gained 2 members. I strongly encourage local councils to make joining CATE a requirement for local conferences in order to have the future ability to contact those individuals. We need members. Remember that your local council receives part of the membership fee. If you don't want to charge for membership for your event, consider just charging what CATE keeps and forfeiting your council's portion. This way we would still have those individuals as members.
- I participated in the Advisory Board conference call on December 1 and discussed my concern about the membership issue at local events.

CATE 2014 Convention Chair Report Carole LeCren

Since the board meeting in September, I have been working mostly on logistics and sessions. Program Chair William Foreman vetted all the proposals and narrowed down the acceptances. He then sent e-mails to all the submitters. At that point, he went on maternity leave (welcome baby Ian) and I took over editing, placing sessions, and verifying AV. The result? We have 8-10 presentations per time slot (Sessions A-G) and over 85 presenters and co-presenters, all of whom must register for the convention. I will continue to nail down AV and coordinate with Michelle about which rooms will get internet/screens,

etc. Sometime in January, Bill will take back the reins of Program Chair, and especially work with presenter check-in on site.

I also developed a business card for people to hand out to potential volunteers. I previously snail-mailed these to board members and GSDCTE board members who are most likely to encounter student teachers who may be interested in volunteering. I will have a few extra available this weekend. If you have extras you may want to bring them to the meeting to redistribute to other board members.

I have been responding to the e-mails that come through CATEWeb directly. So far, there haven't been too many.

I am gathering more people for my convention committee, including Felicia Heck, longtime enthusiastic convention attendee, for Autograph/Book Signing Chair. I also had my Centerpiece Chair resign (Kathleen Daley Obrist); I believe she may be enjoying her retirement way too much. I also have a few more people to contact who previously mentioned that they wanted to help out; I want to confirm that they haven't changed their minds.

There are a few things I haven't done yet, but I hope to consult with Michelle so I can get back on track. I am also concerned that the Winter Olympics are taking place the same week/weekend--will that prevent people from signing up for the convention? Or do we advertise the fact that there is a lovely sports bar at the hotel with plenty of room for watching the events with a wonderful crowd of people?

Immediate future duties include starting work on the 50-page program. I will be soliciting information from everyone; in particular, I (as well as Charleen) will need to know your award-winners THIS WEEKEND, since I list them in the program. I will also be reminding those of you who volunteered to give a "Two Minutes for CATE" speech or to introduce a major speaker.

I absolutely could not do the convention without Nancy Himel; she actually likes talking to people on the phone and talking them into things--two skills that are my un-favorites.

I look forward to this weekend's meeting; especially since I am inbetween due dates for my 144 seniors in Writer's Workshop to turn in an assignment. Woo hoo! No stacks of papers to grade; although I'm not off the hook for proofing 60+ pages for yearbook.

Exhibits Manager Nancy Himel

I can happily report that we already have as many vendors this year as we did last year, and more are coming. I cannot thank Michelle enough for all of her help. I am definitely learning as I go, but I am having a lot of fun. Diane and Lynne Curtin have been wonderful too. I spent at least 9 hours in the NCTE exhibit hall talking to vendors. Five have joined us, and more are coming. I cannot get any tech co. people to even return my calls or answer my emails, which is very frustrating. We will have mini-sessions in the hall for most of the time we are open. I have not been able to get a bookstore to commit, but I am working on it...with good advice from Punky.

I spent a day with Cindy Conlin, our web-mistress while in Boston. We walked around in 4 degree weather.

Convention Coordinator's Report Michelle Berry

Since the September meeting, work has continued for our 2014 convention in San Diego. Carole LeCren and Nancy Himel, especially, have been working with great diligence, and each will report their progress to the Board. No one will be surprised that Punky and Anne continue to be a great source of wisdom and guidance.

Contracts have been signed by our convention registrar and new exhibits manager.

Thanks to Nancy's hard work on sponsorship, convention bags and neck wallets are being ordered and paid for by two generous publishers, and the exhibit hall plans are really coming together.

Audio-visual and Internet negotiations commence in earnest now that presenters and their needs are known.

Rooming for convention will be handled by me, with the hopes of getting the majority done this month. You will be asked during the Board meeting to make the commitment to rooming alone or with whom, and which nights you'll need.

If you haven't already done so, please register for convention as soon as possible.

Facebook and CATEweb will be updated regularly to consistently advertise convention and membership. Here's hoping all Board members have distributed their extra flyers, and are talking it up at department meetings and other functions.

Member at Large Middle School Kristy Orona-Ramirez

However, I am happy to report that while in Boston, I was able to professionally connect with YA author Ellen Hopkins. Wonderful lady and very inspirational... Maybe a future CATE keynote? Also, while in Boston, I was able to attend the affiliate award breakfast where I received, thanks to your nomination and support, the SLATE Intellectual Freedom Award for California. What an honor.

I am also happy to report to you that I have been notified recently that I have been nominated to receive CTA's Jim Clark American Indian/Alaskan Native Human Rights Award and the California Indian Teacher of the Year Award for 2014. I am hoping to help make some lasting connections and bring in new membership to CATE through these two speaking engagements/conferences. The California Indian Education Conference happens in March and will be in Sacramento and I will find out more information about the CTA conference as time progresses.

I was just appointed to be on the District Site Plan Committee for Alvord Unified School District, where I will work closely with our superintendent, community members, parents, and other stakeholders to develop the district's strategic plan for the next 3 years. The superintendent has three priorities... Students, teachers and curriculum/common core. (Thank goodness... FINALLY!)

I am also trying to get our English Dept. to attend the SD CATE conference... I keep pestering. Hope they say yes, just to shut me up!

Last but not least... Billy Mills, Native American Olympian, is an author! And he lives in Sacramento! Keynote for future??

The last issue of California English included the program for CATE2013. Many thanks to Carole LeCren for getting the information to me in time to publish the magazine well in advance of our convention. The hope is to promote attendance by providing teachers with clear evidence of the quality, complexity, and range of presentations on offer at the conference.

I was able to include not only the CATE professional writing contest winner, Tom Roddy's article but also the three essays that tied for second place. All seemed in keeping with the issue's theme, "Keep Calm and Read On."

The focus for the September 2013 issue was inspired by the debate that continues to simmer about the inclusion of nonfiction in the English curriculum. It will be interesting to see what CATE members submit in response. Our journal can be a clearing house for reporting what is actually happening in schools in response to Common Core State Standards "alignment."

At the CATE2013 editor's session I am looking forward to garnering from attendees additional ideas for future calls for manuscripts as well as new reviewers for the journal.

Ad sales continue to be a challenge. I have had good luck approaching Heinemann with an idea – for example we published an article by Penny Kittle in the January issue – and then suggesting that they take out an ad for her new book, Book Love. I will put on my thinking cap for future issues. I have always felt that quality advertising helps the magazine look more professional.

Below is the current call for manuscripts. Please help me circulate this invitation to submit to members of your local councils.

California English

Call for manuscripts

May 2013

Feedback That Matters

(deadline April 1)

Teachers sacrifice swathes of their lives to grading papers yet student writing often doesn't seem to improve. What kind of feedback do you employ that actually makes a difference in terms of student performance? What kinds of responses or procedures help students reflect upon their work and revise effectively? Let's put our heads together as professionals and share best practices for feedback that matters.

September 2013

Literary Nonfiction in the English Classroom

(deadline August 1)

The Common Core calls for the inclusion of literary nonfiction in the English Language Arts curriculum. The document defines literary nonfiction as personal essays, speeches, opinion pieces, essays about art or literature, biographies, memoirs, journalism, and historical, scientific, technical, or economic accounts

(including digital sources) written for a broad audience. How are you incorporating literary nonfiction into your lessons and units of study? Which works have been a hit with your students? How have these texts enriched your curriculum?

Manuscripts are peer reviewed. Please send submissions to California English editor, Carol Jago. Articles should be limited to 2,500 words. Please submit manuscripts via email to jago@gseis.ucla.edu.

CCSS liaison

Bill Younglove

Presentations on the CCSS:

October 12th SCTE/Whittier: Expanding Literary

SCTE/Whittier: Expanding Literary Nonfiction Incrementally; Not Excrementally

October 18-20 Asilomar (with Liz): How the Implementation of the Common Core State Standards Promises to Improve Education—or Not

Beyond these fun romps, I have responded to, or taken part in, some two dozen blogs about implementing the CCSS. Most enlightening, however, has been seeing exactly how my CSULB student teachers—and their cooperating teachers—have been phasing the CCSS into their daily lessons, in the Long Beach USD, the Los Angeles USD, and the Anaheim Union High School District. I would say that, generally, instruction ranges from well-outlined quarterly thematic Scope and Sequence units (with lots of teacher flexibility)—unto a pacing guide (“You had better be on page...”), depending upon the school site.

I still submit letters to various newspapers/publications about the CCSS; am taking the liberty of excerpting from my latest to the Long Beach Press-Telegram (in response to two recent front page articles done on the LBUSD CCSS implementation):

Letter to the Editor: Nadra Nittle’s excellent overview about just how the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are being implemented locally left me with just a few lingering questions:

- If the CCSS were just freely adopted by those 45 states, why were federally funded Race To The Top monies linked to states’ developing and adopting common standards for K-12 schools? Some 11,000 of us managed to provide feedback during the narrow window, electronic access, time period for commenting on the two CCSS drafts. How many millions of stakeholders might have weighed in had a realistic time frame been provided? (See the AP article excerpt further on.)
- Why does college ready precede career ready? Is every student really college-bound before being work-bound?
- “In college [professors] don’t care what your opinion is. sounds very much like CCSS co-architect David Coleman’s assertion to the New York State Department of Education in April 2011, “As you grow up in this world, you realize people really don’t give a s__ about what you feel or what you think
- How can we reconcile this CCSS “biggest shift” in the last 20+ years with the fact that California demographic student composition has had its most dramatic change during the exact same period?

CTA Representative Debra Martinez

Bond Measure

California's state schools chief is backing a \$9 billion bond measure in 2014 to build up the technology infrastructure at K-12 campuses.

State Superintendent Tom Torlakson said Tuesday that California's schools must be prepared and outfitted to handle a dramatically new standardized testing system that will eventually require all students to be tested on computers rather than with pencils and fill-in-the-bubble sheets.

Bond money would not be used for devices like iPads, he said, but would focus on expanding and improving connectivity for all campuses. Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan (D-Alamo), is expected to sponsor the bill.

California prepares for Common Core standards

45 states and the District of Columbia will share K-12 goals set in the Common Core, which challenges teachers to offer more relevant, practical and rigorous lessons, and students to solve problems and think critically.

New standardized tests will debut in spring, so schools are training teachers, educating parents and purchasing materials and technology for the computer-only tests.

Fueled by \$1.25 billion from the state for the transition, a cadre of consultants and innovator teachers is showing colleagues how to rethink lessons and methods.

The standards cover only English and math, but spread responsibility for literacy to teachers of other subjects. Schools are free to decide what and how to teach, but their success will be measured on tests common to many states.

But in California, parents won't know how schools do, because for at least the first, and perhaps later, years, the state will not publish results of the successor to STAR exams, known as Smarter Balanced tests.

CTA Strategic Long-Term Planning

In early 2012 The California Teachers Association embarked upon a strategic planning process at the direction of its State Council of Education, and under the guidance of the Labor Education and Research Center (LERC) at the University of Oregon. The process – called “Your Voice, Our Union, Our Future” – has been designed to build a long-term plan for CTA that will engage all members and staff, look at what we are doing now and where we want to go, embrace new ideas, set priorities and focus organizational resources, and build the CTA we want for our future. The resulting strategic plan will be a “road map” for CTA’s future and will be voted upon at the January state council meeting.

CTA Sponsorship

CTA has approved \$4,000 sponsorship to CATE to help support a conference meal where needed. The check should already be in the mail. Also the Jim Clark award is given during The Equity and Human Rights conference which will be at the Marriott Hotel in Irvine, February 28-March 2, 2014.