

**Past President** Charleen Silva Delfino

Since the last meeting, most of my CATE efforts have been centered on getting nomination forms turned and then completely filled in. This is not a new issue. I know as president I faced the same issues—late and incomplete forms. It is not fair to the president who wants to get the information out in a timely fashion or to the vice president who needs to make phone calls and many copies that are certainly time consuming and expensive. At the board meeting I will put forth some new steps that will be mandated in order for award nominations to be accepted. Thanks to those who did get their forms in on time and completely filled out. On a more satisfying note, I have also been working on the decorations for the convention. I am most grateful to those who have helped to make this a successful endeavor. Increased numbers have caused some concern that there will be enough but that is a concern that can be easily fixed.

**Vice President** Susan Dillon

I worked with the Board to prepare for the conference call, the submission of reports and to coordinate the meeting.

**Secretary's Report** Carrie Danielson

As CATE Secretary, I edited and published minutes from the December meeting, posted the newest resolutions, and have updated the roster. I am working with Cindy to make sure this is all updated on CATEweb.

I have also worked to make sure policies are accurate and I am focused on my responsibilities for the CATE 2013 Convention.

Many are working very hard to organize an exciting professional experience!

**MAL Small Councils** Jill Hamilton-Bunch

As the Kern Council's work, I have been part of accepting Purchase Orders for New CATE members attending the events Kim spoke about in her Kern Council report.

**MAL Elementary** Denise Mikkonen

Our district wide Professional Growth Day was a huge success. We collaborated across the grades to create a continuum of teaching and learning to share. Each grade level meet at a different site and as a whole group discussed the features of Opinion writing, next teams annotated a student sample of Opinion

Writing. Following this each person chose two sessions to attend fluency, conferencing and mentor texts. The feedback was terrific. It is exciting work....

I searched high and low and along with my colleagues managed to convince our school foundation to fund a grant for our 4<sup>th</sup> grade team to come to CATE! I'm so excited.

Lastly, I've been working on my presentation with my principal for CATE (and now the principal and our team will be here too.....craftyJ)

### **MAL, College Report** William Foreman

I have spent the time since our last board meeting working on my presentation for the 2013 Conference, coordinating with Angus Dunstan to prepare for our role as volunteer co-chairs, and distributing the resolutions from the December meeting, as well as promoting the Conference on my campus and recruiting student volunteers.

### **SCTE Board Report** Nancy Himel

I don't have much to report since we held no December meeting. We do have our main speaker for our Fall Conference. Leslea Newman, whose new book of poems, *October Mourning - A Song for Matthew Shepard*, will be our breakfast speaker. Hopefully, my new troupe of performance poets/actors/singers will present a performance of all the poems, since Leslea has granted us the rights gratis after her speech. We have not planned the rest of the day.

We were very disappointed that we only had 5 winners in the NCTE writing contest. I wonder if the new on-line format is to blame. We are therefore not holding our annual scholarship tea, which Joanne Fahey has been so superbly organizing for so many years. I will miss it!

### **Kern Council** Kim Flachmann

#### **Meetings**

We have a Board Meeting scheduled for March.

#### **Membership Drives**

On Jan 12, Kelly Gallagher did a full-day workshop on Critical Reading that drew 80 participants. We offered CSUB credit for the activity.

#### **One Book/One Bakersfield**

We continue to work with our community and with CSUB on One Book/One Bakersfield

## **Upcoming Events**

Feb 25, Carol Jago

### **GSDCTE Report                      Jeannine Ugalde**

We are trying something new. In mid-May we will have a celebration for all teachers of literacy in San Diego county called "Our Stories Unite Us." The San Marcos Writing Project has agreed to help host. Location is at a local restaurant. Rudy Francisco, a well-known spoken word artist, has agreed to speak and present. We'll have some music, too. My goal is to facilitate relationships and connections among teachers from across the county - to help them see that we are a means of connection with other teachers, resources, and professional development.

I joined an Ipad in the classroom group with the SMWP and am totally overwhelmed. Tried it today with students conferencing during reading, luckily my 9 year olds just jump in and tell me.... Just click here... go to the settings.....

### **TUCATE Report                      Carol Surabian**

We have begun planning for a spring event for our members and an end of year celebration for our writing award winners and our Classroom Excellence Award winner. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

### **Redwood Council of Teachers of English      Bob Chapman, Acting President**

Since December, Redwood Council has had one meeting – a group of us met in December at Joan William's house for a holiday themed meeting, and we honored new student teachers, reviewed our financial status, announced our awardee (Classroom Excellence), pitched the CATE Convention, and continued planning for the year. Sue McIntire, the Redwood Writing Project Coordinator presented her calendar, and as a group we pledged Redwood Council participation. We ended the evening with a RCTE version of the CATE gift exchange. I need to note that more than half our membership showed up at the last meeting! We have our next meeting planned to meet at my house in Blue Lake on March 5<sup>th</sup>. We need to get our own local writing contest planned and organized – as it is lagging. Humboldt County is having a strange winter – we have had little or no rain, and lately we haven't even had much frost.

### **FACET Report                      Megan Schimmel**

FACET has been very busy the past few months planning the Yosemite Conference in October. We developed a conference committee who has met twice to discuss and make decisions on various issues concerning the conference. A copy of our contract with Tenya Lodge was sent to CATE's Conference Chair for review. We are also receiving support from Carol and Jim with TUCATE as well as the San Joaquin Valley Writing Project to make this a successful and memorable conference. FACET successfully coordinated a social event in October to announce the dates for our Yosemite Conference to the members and recruit volunteers for our conference committee. We partnered with the San Joaquin Social Science Committee for an event in January to pay tribute and remembrance for Dr. Martin Luther King. Essay

contest winners from 2012 read their works to a mixed crowd of Social Science and English teachers as well as students from various high schools in the central valley at a local library. We are looking forward to continued planning on the Yosemite Conference 2013 and our spring event in April where author Jyothi Bathina will speak during a luncheon we are coordinating with the San Joaquin Valley Social Science Council.

**Central Council Report**

Susan Dillon

We are in the days of CATE 2013, and we couldn't be happier. We look forward to a successful convention.

**Capitol Council**

**Angus Dunstan**

After the Convention we'll be planning a Spring workshop trying the draw in the new members from the Gallagher workshop and from this convention.

Unfortunately, we now need a new Treasurer.

Bill and I have been coordinating the registration of student volunteers for the Convention.

**Membership Chairperson**

**Joan Williams**

**CATE MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

- Membership chair participated in the advisory board call on January 28.
- Membership numbers have fallen substantially, partially due to the move of the convention to the north and partially due to the renewals that will take place with convention registration. Notice the dip last February.
- Updated council rosters are available from membership chair upon request. Check to see who you have lost off your roster, and try to contact them.
- Membership chair is working with Precision and Cindy Conlin to look at feasibility of email reminders for online membership renewal.
- NCTE list of California members is still available for mailing—no emails.
- Thank you to councils that have reimbursed Membership for the council ribbons.
- Gifts for exhibitors will be distributed by membership committee me

**CATE 2013 Convention Coordinators Maggie Potter and Megan Petersen**

Well it is game time and WE appreciate all of you who have helped out in any way. This is going to be a great convention.

- 1) We have been finalizing our to do list according to the convention hand book.

2) The items for the bags have been pouring in and the bags are being filled today. Thank you all for your organization and donations. We realize there may be some last minute stuffing that will take place when we get to convention.

3) The signs have been made.

4) Local committee is set up for their responsibilities as we have been communicating with Michelle on the latest and greatest news with the Union Woes, speaker transportation, bags, signs, and many little details.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone. Keep Calm.... and hang on.

### **February, 2013 Board Report- Senior Convention Coordinator Punky Fristrom**

I have assisted Michelle Berry as she plans the 2013 convention with Maggie Potter, Megan Petersen, Susan Dillon and their convention committee.

As usual, Carole LeCren has done a wonderful job designing and editing the convention program. In addition she has taken on the job of program chair and coordinated the many workshop sessions. The sheer amount of detail she deals with in these tasks staggers the mind, and she has also added the position of 2014 Convention Chair.

I joined Carole and Michelle in negotiation meetings for 2014 at the Town and Country Hotel. It has been a slow and difficult process, as Michelle will report.

### **Convention Coordinator's Board Report Michelle Berry**

It has been a busy few months since December. Here are some notes on my three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle CATE life:

#### **CATE 2015**

This convention contract with the DoubleTree San José is being renegotiated to alter our 750 room block. We are presently in good contact with their senior sales manager, and expect to have a good report in May. I will request a vote to authorize me to sign a new contract that serves CATE's best interests.

#### **CATE 2014**

The Town and Country San Diego renegotiations are delayed once again after some six or seven attempts to resolve outstanding issues. We are hopeful for movement in the next month. Again, I will request a vote to authorize Punky and/or me to continue negotiations until a successful completion.

#### **CATE 2013**

Alas, we are here. Good news: beautiful programs, schedule/workshops coming together, collaboration of the committee, room pickup is met, registrations are strong, guestroom internet will now travel anywhere in the hotel, 23 exhibitors/38 booths. Not-so-good news: “challenges” -- like programs, costs, contractual discrepancies, to-go market not open in time, CWP’s precon, UniteHere’s activity. Regarding the last item, unfortunately CTA’s financial backing fell through. Nevertheless, we have received constant and strong reassurance from hotel regarding security (hotel and police), and we will be implementing some changes this year in response.

Blue “Events for Board” cards will be distributed and explained. We need everyone to help the CATE 2013 team. Be mindful of responsibilities, and don’t hesitate to ask me if you need information.

**CTA Representative** Debra Martinez

A. Funding for Education For the first time in five years, local school districts could see an increase in per-student funding based on Gov. Jerry Brown proposed state budget. However, overall funding is still about 10 percent lower than the amount districts received from the state in 2007-08.

B. CTA State Council Governor Jerry Brown spoke to State Council members on Sunday morning to thank teachers for all their help in passing Proposition 30 and defeating Proposition 32.

C. CTA Sponsorship

CTA did not approve sponsorship this year for the continental breakfast at the annual convention. Even after submitting another request, and trying to approve funding through another avenue, CTA did not approve it. CTA sighted its policy re: “CTA will Not Patronize any establishment or enterprise on the national AFL\_CIO’s Do Not Patronize list so long as the National Education Association does not reject or censure a specific boycott.

D. CTA Long Term Strategic Planning CTA is asking members to retrieve information on questionnaires about what outside members and organizations think of CTA. This information will then be used when talks of restructuring CTA take place.

**CCSS Liaison Report** Bill Younglove

There is SO much I *could* report on concerning the ever-evolving Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Suffice it to say that my breakout session will, I believe, be informative, in part because I have been able to get a handle on the organizations/entities that seem to provide the very best information about the CCSS saga. I shall bring at least one of those handouts to give to the Board members.

Meanwhile, SBAC's (SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium) has upped its FAQs to 75 in number; answers to them can be accessed via the URL link below:  
Bill Younglove, Common Core Curriculum Consultant liaison

**SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium 75 FAQs**

Frequently asked questions about the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) student assessments: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/sbac-faqs.asp>

- 1 [What is the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium \(SBAC\)?](#)
- 2 [What is California’s role in SBAC?](#)
- 3 [What does California's role as a “governing” state involve?](#)
- 4 [What will the SBAC provide?](#)

- 5 [What are summative assessments?](#)
- 6 [What types of items/questions will be on the SBAC summative assessment?](#)
- 7 [What are performance task items?](#)
- 8 [What are interim assessments?](#)
- 9 [Will there be a cost for the optional SBAC interim assessments?](#)
- 10 [Will there be SBAC formative processes and tools available?](#)
- 11 [Will students below grade three be assessed?](#)
- 12 [How does the National Assessment of Educational Progress \(NAEP\) compare to SBAC?](#)
- 13 [How will SBAC contribute to student success?](#)
- 14 [How many assessment consortia were awarded funds?](#)
- 15 [What is SBAC computer adaptive testing?](#)
- 16 [Will there be a performance component to the new assessment?](#)
- 17 [Why is the CDE switching to a computer adaptive test for grades three through eight?](#)
- 18 [How will we get school infrastructure/technology ready for the proposed assessments?](#)
- 19 [Are there consortium funds to upgrade district computers to handle computer adaptive assessments?](#)
- 20 [What time of year will the new assessments be administered?](#)
- 21 [How long will it take a student to complete the summative assessment?](#)
- 22 [What is the timeline for implementation?](#)
- 23 [How would a longitudinal academic growth model relate to the assessment development work under SBAC?](#)
- 24 [How will SBAC results be reported?](#)
- 25 [When will schools receive SBAC results?](#)
- 26 [Will the SBAC pilot and field test be in addition to the STAR Program?](#)
- 27 [Will California test performance-based questions before the official test launch 2014?](#)
- 28 [Will the new assessments replace the California High School Exit Examination \(CAHSEE\)?](#)
- 29 [If there are two pathways to higher-level mathematics, what is the plan for assessing grade eight students not enrolled in Algebra I or Geometry?](#)
- 30 [Will SBAC assessments be appropriate for students with severe cognitive disabilities \(also known as the 1% population\) currently taking the California Alternate Performance Assessment \(CAPA\)?](#)
- 31 [How can I prepare my students for the new assessment?](#)
- 32 [How can I get further information and updates regarding SBAC?](#)
- 33 [Is there a paper/pencil test option?](#)
- 34 [Will SBAC allow the use of calculators on the summative and interim assessments?](#)
- 35 [Why is SBAC creating performance tasks for grades 9 and 10 when the summative assessment will only be administered in grade 11?](#)
- 36 [How will school districts be chosen to participate in the pilot test?](#)
- 37 [When will SMARTER Balanced assessments be implemented in schools?](#)
- 38 [Will the SBAC interim assessments be compatible with existing curriculum and instruction system platforms?](#)
- 39 [How will teachers be selected to participate in the training cadres for formative assessment starting in 2012-13?](#)

- 40 [Will the results from the SBAC summative assessment include both a scale score and a performance category, such as “advanced” or “basic”?](#)
- 41 [Twenty states are working to develop next-generation science standards. Will science be incorporated into SBAC’s assessments?](#)
- 42 [How will scores on the SBAC assessment support differentiating student performance for the purpose of placement?](#)
- 43 [How are teachers involved in creating the SBAC assessment system?](#)
- 44 [How can educators get involved in the development and review of items/tasks?](#)
- 45 [How will scores on the summative assessment be comparable if some students take it at the beginning of the 12-week administration window, while others are tested at the end?](#)
- 46 [Has SBAC decided what proportion of time or number of points will be devoted to performance tasks on the summative assessment?](#)
- 47 [How is SBAC defining college and career readiness?](#)
- 48 [How flexible—in terms of timing and content—will the optional interim assessments be?](#)
- 49 [When will schools and districts know which existing computers will be eligible to be used on the SBAC assessments in 2014-15?](#)
- 50 [Will Smarter Balanced assessments be available for private schools in the 2014-15 school year in states that will be using the Smarter Balanced assessments to test public school students?](#)
- 51 [Does a shared assessment system require a shared or common curriculum?](#)
- 52 [How will teachers be involved in scoring the Smarter Balanced assessments?](#)
- 53 [How will states that have amended the Common Core State Standards assess students on these additional content standards?](#)
- 54 [How will SBAC validate its college- and career-readiness benchmark?](#)
- 55 [To what extent will the assessments measure 21st-century skills?](#)
- 56 [Will children with limited computer skills—particularly those in the younger grades—be disadvantaged by an online assessment?](#)
- 57 [What are test blueprints?](#)
- 58 [Will Smarter Balanced assessments be timed? If so, how will students with Individualized Education Programs \(IEPs\) or other special needs be impacted?](#)
- 59 [Will the Smarter Balanced assessment system be compatible or comparable to assessment systems from other consortia?](#)
- 60 [What support will SBAC provide to help states and schools interpret assessment results?](#)
- 61 [What is the appropriate use of the items and tasks included in the item specifications?](#)
- 62 [How will the performance standard be set for defining college- and career-readiness?](#)
- 63 [How will instructional practices and curricula be altered to align with new standards and assessments?](#)
- 64 [How will SBAC engage K-12 and higher education in the development of achievement level descriptors?](#)
- 65 [What is the schedule for additional data collections through the Technology Readiness Tool?](#)
- 66 [Will Smarter Balanced assessments be translated into other languages?](#)
- 67 [Will there be training available on the English language arts/literacy rubrics? Will “anchor papers” be made available to use when training teachers?](#)
- 68 [Will there be a standards-based report card for students, schools, and districts?](#)
- 69 [How can schools participate in the Pilot Test of the assessment system?](#)



- 70 [What are achievement level descriptors?](#)
- 71 [How will visitors access the sample items and performance tasks?](#)
- 72 [How long will it take students to complete the Smarter Balanced summative assessment?](#)
- 73 [Will the Smarter Balanced content specifications be updated?](#)
- 74 [Why are some of the English language arts/literacy sample items and tasks missing a reading passage?](#)
- 75 [When will Smarter Balanced release minimum technology requirements for the assessment system?](#)

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