

**Past President Report** Charleen Delfino

During this period I have worked on awards, purchasing plaques and getting information. I have also set up ballots for voting to take place at the Annual Business Meeting on Sunday morning.

I have also been working to get speakers for the 2015 Convention in San Jose. Tomorrow I am having dinner with Christina Garcia author of King of Cuba, Dreaming in Cuban and four other novels and a book of Poetry, The Lesser Tragedy of Death. In March I am meeting with Neil Gaiman author of Caroline, American Gods and many, many more.

We are still trying to finalize Poet Laurette Bob Hass and Pamela Michael director of "River of Words" the foundation founded by Bob Hass to promote the teaching of art and poetry and to increase awareness of Environmental Literacy.

**Vice President Report** Susan Dillon

I participated in the advisory call and the request for board reports. am grateful to Michelle Berry for handling convention accommodations.

**Secretary Report** Carrie Danielson

Over the past two months, I have edited the minutes for the December 2013 CATE Board meeting, updated the CATE Board Policies, and corrected the CATE Board roster on CATEweb. With the help of Cindy Conlin, those have all been posted to the appropriate locations on CATEweb. In the committees to which I am assigned (Policy/Executive), I take minutes and contribute wherever possible, particularly with CATE Resolutions. I repaired the battery on the CATE computer, distributed flyers for the CATE Convention, and have assisted the Greater San Diego President, Jeannine Ugalde when possible. I made new business cards for several of the CATE Board members and will continue to do so upon request. For the upcoming convention, I will assist Jeannine Ugalde in hosting a meeting for our local council attendees and will help wherever I can. In the fall, I will be helping to coordinate GSDCTE's next Promising Practices to be held on October 11.

**Member-at-Large, Small Councils** Jill Hamilton-Bunch

On Saturday, February 1, the Kern Council and RIAP hosted Doug Fisher and Nancy Frey (more details in Kim Flachmann's president's report).

My role in this event was to register the 250 participants from the community. The event was very successful and well attended.

**Member at Large Secondary.** Jim Kliegl,

Nothing to report except looking forward to helping at CATE 2014.

**Member At Large. Unspecified** Richard Hockensmith

During the last year, I worked a Chair of the Registration Booth for the convention. I have contributed to the workings of the Membership Committee. I was Registrar for the SCTE Fall Conference. And, have worked on numerous small projects for CATE and SCTE.

**Member-at-Large, Unspecified** Kristy Orona-Ramirez

WoW! Off and running! Literally! I have been assigned to a district oversight committee as a teacher representative to provide insight and input to a new AUSD vision statement, belief statements, and basically a whole new district plan, that has not been touched for the last 12 years. I am working with parents, community, administration and fellow teachers who have all been selected to work with our new Superintendent, Dr. Sid Salazar. We have met 3 times and have had wonderful things happen! I am honored to be part of this progressive team of people.

I will also be attending a "Common Core Black Belt" training for teacher leaders. This is in preparation to do some district trainings and site trainings for AUSD.

I am also happy to let you know that I will be this year's recipient of CTA's Jim Clark American Indian/Alaskan Native Human Rights Award which will be given at the end of this month at CTA's Human Rights Conference in Irvine CA.

This year has been particularly interesting teaching wise... I am back at Wells Middle School and teaching in a 6th grade, self-contained situation which is a Common Core utopia! Integration and process all day long! With the exception of PE, I have my group all day for History, Science, a double block of English Language Arts and Mathematics. It is the only model that I am aware of in my district where this is happening with a heterogeneous group of 6th graders. About 80% are EL kids and this is an exciting adventure that I would not trade for the world! This model has some logistical kinks, but hopefully the principal and I will make some adjustments for next year and continue to grow.

## Membership Report      Joan Williams

# COUNCIL	2/12	5/12	9/12	11/12	2/13	5/13	9/13	12/13	2/14	+/-
1 Redwood	25	29	24	24	25	22	22	31	27	-4
2 Upper	7	12	13	13	7	19	19	23	12	-11
3 Capitol	21	28	32	66	61	82	80	68	61	-7
4 Central	177	207	203	203	168	303	299	326	201	-125
5 Fresno	15	31	32	36	17	27	26	27	20	-7
6 TUCATE	8	16	51	51	47	48	16	17	9	-8
7 Kern	49	78	73	69	34	43	39	46	34	-12
8 Southland	250	470	466	415	189	216	221	234	183	-51
9 San Diego	68	82	81	77	65	63	66	67	66	-1
50 Out-of-state	11	17	16	17	8	12	13	13	8	-5
55 Libraries	17	17	16	15	15	15	15	15	15	--
99 Comps	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	-1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>1008</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>-232</b>

- I have been working with Cindy Conlin and Precision on the proposal to put together an email membership renewal reminder system. We will be meeting together on Wednesday prior to the convention to work on the system. The plan is to have it operational in March.
- I have followed up on bad addresses. I plan to check email addresses with as many people as possible at the convention. It would be great for board members to encourage attendees to stop by the booth to check the accuracy of their email because the system will only work well if we have accurate information.
- I have updated electronic rosters available for board members. Let me know if you would like one.
- I participated in the Advisory Board conference call on February 4
- I completed my Annual Report for Membership.
- Membership issues regarding change of address or name have been clarified and corrected.
- Ongoing communication with Precision helps to keep our data accurate.
- I continue to serve as secretary for Redwood Council.

#### **CCCTE Report**

Susan Dillon

The Central Council is looking forward to planning CATE 2015, our Young Writer Award Ceremony in April, a reception for department chairs in late spring, and an unconference in August.

#### **Capitol Council**

Angus Dunstan

Since December, I have nothing to report from Capitol, but as Volunteer Coordinator for the Convention I have been responding to almost daily inquiries and have assembled a list of some 45 student-teacher volunteers.

As Policy Chair, let me remind Policy Committee members to bring a draft of a resolution if you have one.

As PP (President of Presidents!!) I'm finishing the revisions to the handbook. I predict that the revision process will begin again as soon as the convention is over.

#### **Redwood Council of Teachers Report** Bob Chapman

Since December, Redwood Council has had one meeting – we had planned to have a Christmas meeting at Joan’s house but due to too many conflicts with our members, we cancelled that meeting. However, a group of us met January 30th at Joan William’s house for a dinner meeting, and we reviewed our financial status, worked on our annual writing contest, announced our awardee (Classroom Excellence), pitched the CATE Convention, and continued planning for the year. Sue McIntire, the Redwood Writing Project Coordinator could not attend, but we talked about the two conferences planned by RWP: the Literacy Conference on March 1st and the Young Writers Conference also on March 1st. The RCTE Writing Contest has the due date, for entries, on April 15th, and on May 21st we will have our awards ceremony at HSU. I need to note that eight members showed up at this meeting, and that’s nearly one-third of our membership! Our next meeting is scheduled for The Logger Bar in Blue Lake on April 10th, and Jeff DeMark, a local story-teller, will be our feature for that event. Our original plan to have Amy Stewart is on hold while she spends the year in New York City working on her new book, her first piece of fiction. We hope to have her join us in the coming year. Jessi Merrill, Joan’s former student and Bob’s former student teacher, created a Facebook page for Redwood Council and we hope that members of the CATE Board will “Like” us – we are listed as CATE Redwood Council. Currently we have 32 people liking us and that’s great, considering we only have 27 members. A new member, Nick Wilson pitched a journalism project and asked for help from Redwood Council, so we hope to see that as another opportunity for local Language Arts teachers to further involve their students in writing. As you have probably heard, Humboldt County is finally getting some rain and the salmon are moving upstream. The SCTE board met in January. We are rotating meeting locations among our board members in an effort to reach more of our region. Four more professionals have said they will join our SCTE board, but they were unable to attend in January.

**SCTE Report** Courtney Lockwood

- Our SCTE Fall Conference brought in fewer than 130 attendees, (fewer than last year,) and we broke even financially.
- SCTE is sponsoring a CATE board candidate representing CSU Channel Islands -- Mary Adler -- and we have both a college teacher and a secondary teacher receiving classroom excellence awards.
- We are planning a Spring Fling, and board members suggested many ideas, which we will look into after the CATE Conference.
- Our regularly-scheduled Spring Tea to honor the NCTE Writing Award winners (high school students) may not happen this year. The Council region had very few winners the past two years since the contest went completely on-line. Two years ago, many of us weren't aware of the change. We don't know what happened last year.

Courtney Lockwood

**Upper Council** Gina Cole

Since the December board meeting, the Upper Council has been attending county workshops for the Smarter Balanced Assessment. We will be attending another workshop on Tuesday,

February 11, in which I will take the opportunity to inform, or to remind, the English teachers about CATE. I will give them information regarding next year's convention so that they are able to plan well in advance to attend the San Jose CATE Convention.

**TUCATE Council**

Carol Surabian

TUCATE has not met since the holidays. We have been working with FACET on the Yosemite Conference. Will have more info at the meeting. Hope everyone plans to attend. It should be great.

**CATE 2014 Convention Chair Report** Carole LeCrenthe printed program went to the printers this afternoon  
the program of presenters and sessions, after many changes, cancellations, rearrangements, replacements, has been holding steady for at least a week or two (knock on wood).  
the sessions are posted on CATEWeb  
college credit is also posted on CATEWeb (thanks, Kim!)  
menus and room arrangements have been nailed down  
AV has been negotiated and confirmed  
my school has agreed to loan me the LCD projectors and a document camera for our presenters  
centerpieces are in the process of being created; so are signs  
a flower arrangement for the podium is being designed  
invitations for the President's Reception and thank yous for the presenters have been printed and are in the process of being stuffed into envelopes  
bags, nametag holders, and flyers and donated goods (all thanks to Nancy) have arrived at my school and will be stuffed into bags next week  
Jayne's precon is good to go; we've got the menu, room assignments and AV all set; however, she made the decision to cancel the CWP reception for this year  
the exhibit hall is full to the brim--every booth sold and some overflow tables in the foyer (all thanks to Nancy)  
the mini-demo-lessons in the exhibit hall are set and ready (all thanks to Nancy)  
the autograph signing schedule is being put together (thanks to Felicia and Nancy)  
there are over 40 volunteers signed up with Angus  
the improv club from my school has been practicing on Sundays for months to prepare for the Friday night event (all their core performers graduated last year)

and the daily (sometimes hourly) e-mails from Michelle and Nancy keep all the problems and solutions moving quickly

So far, so good :)

**Exhibits Manager**

Nancy Himel

I learned a lot while working to sell out the hall. We have a fully booked session hall where CATE authors and exhibitors will give 30 minute readings and workshops. I need all the help I can get to convince teachers to spend time in the hall. I am putting together a few pages called, It's All Happening in the Hall. It lists the sessions, the signings, promotions and food available in the hall.

The Passport Program is ready to go. We have massage therapists and an in-house artist to attract people as well.

One vendor cancelled today. I will work to fill the space.

Michelle is priceless.

I am totally looking forward to watching it all unfold. Thank you all for trusting me,

### **California English Report** Carol Jago

Thank you to everyone who helped me find artists for upcoming issues of our journal. I think we are set for most of 2014! I am very much looking forward to my editor's session at CATE2014. It always turns out to be an excellent opportunity for encouraging new writers and garnering new reviewers.

Ads for *California English* continue to be hard to come by. Any and all ideas are welcome regarding marketing.

With a new California ELA/ELD framework in the pipeline, it might be appropriate to have an issue of CE focus on instructional practices and lessons that illustrate the framework's guidelines. Bill Honig asked me to write an appendix for the document addressing the role of literature in the Common Core. I'll be interested to see what you all think of it.

Please help me circulate the call for manuscripts to members of your local councils.

### ***California English***

### **Call for manuscripts**

**April 2014**

### **Accountability Revisited**

**(deadline March 15)**

In an editorial for *Education Week*, researcher Deborah Stipek explains that accountability measures for teachers should inspire, not undermine their practice. "Studies show that incentives do not lead to improved instruction and student learning unless teachers have high expectations for their ability to influence learning. The negative effects of increased stress and lowered commitment to teaching found when expectations are low can outweigh any positive effects of the incentives. What do you believe are the best measures of your performance in the classroom? If you were in charge of the world, how would you like to be evaluated?"

**September 2014**

### **Fostering Creativity in a Time of Standards**

**(deadline August 1)**

In a TED Talk that has been viewed by over 20 million people, Sir Ken Robinson explains how schools kill

creativity [http://www.ted.com/talks/ken\\_robinson\\_says\\_schools\\_kill\\_creativity.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity.html) What are you doing in your classroom to foster fresh thinking, creative writing, and original performances? Why is creativity such an important feature of a truly balanced curriculum? How can creative teaching help prepare students for tomorrow's world?

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](mailto:jago@gseis.ucla.edu).