

President's Report

Liz McAninch

CATE 2013 was a great success with excellent speakers, exciting and varied sessions, and receptive teachers. I appreciate the outstanding work by the Chairs Susan Dillon, Megan Petersen and Maggie Potter, the Convention Coordinators Michelle Berry and Punky Fristrom, the Program Chair Carole LeCren, the Registrar Cindy Conlin, the treasurer Anne Fristrom, the local committee and CATE Board members. It took a "community" but we made it happen.

The recipients of the CATE and Kathleen Cecil Scholarships wrote warm notes of thanks to CATE. Gadielle Bodenheimer-Stein says that she was so excited by CATE and her teaching has improved so much, thanks to sessions she attended, that she has already signed up for the Asilomar Conference and cannot wait for CATE 2014. By the way, she presented with fellow Mills College students in a session at Santa Clara. Her enthusiasm and energy really match that of Kathleen Cecil.

The Leadership Committee recommended Tracy Sprague of West High School in Torrance for NCTE Teacher of Excellence and I have submitted her name.

In March, NCTE asked CATE to join them in signing a letter to Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond, Chair of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTE), and to Dr. Mary Vixie Sandy, Executive Director of the CCTE, supporting staff recommendations of Item 3A. CATE supported the proposed action that would require that interns have completed their EL coursework and fieldwork before they receive an EL authorization. Tara Kini, Senior Staff Attorney for Public Advocates, notified me on April 19 in a thank-you note for CATE's support that the CTC voted to

1. require more robust supervision and mentoring/support for interns
2. Greater specificity regarding the preparation to teach ELs that interns must receive during preservice
3. Making the English learner authorization that interns receive conditional
4. A commitment to report in a more transparent manner at the state and local levels.

This past Sunday, I assisted CCCTE President Susan Dillon with our Young Writers' Reception. Every year, I am amazed anew at the excitement and energy of the students as they read their work. Susan asked the students to include their sources of inspiration in their introduction before they began reading and it felt as if we were listening to professional writers explain their muses and techniques as these writers, some as young as nine years-old, shared their experiences. The families and teachers of these children were as proud and thrilled as the young writers. The writers all received certificates, gift cards and books. Look for the streaming video of CCCTE's young writers read their winning entries on our website www.cccte.com

Past President's Report

Charleen Delfino

CATE Elections

The main issue that I worked on was CATE Elections. I worked with Cindy and Carol to get the CATE voting online and in California English, and I want to thank both of them for their assistance. It was disappointing that we had to delay the voting, but as Carol reminded me, when budget cuts are necessary, they often have far-reaching and sometimes unwanted effects. We cut the number of issues from 5 to 4 because of economic necessity. It works well to have a January issue to get out information about the convention, but if we had another issue after the convention for the voting, it would mean that we would go from February to September without another edition. Our editor did not think that was the best solution, but she is willing to do that next year if it is the Board's wishes. I had to agree with her but this is an issue that the Publications and Executive Finance committees might want to address. I will send you the elections results shortly after the close of the elections on May 15.

Fristrom Scholarship

I am pleased to report that we collected \$1,210 to support the Fristrom Scholarship fund because of many generous contributors. The money has been deposited except for a very recent contribution that is now on the way to the bank and we will work at the meeting to set criteria to award the scholarship to a participant at the San Diego Convention.

The Southland Fund Scholarships

Criteria was written up, voted on and passed by the Board at the December meeting (see Dec. board minutes) It was recommended that two scholarship be given from the very large gift of money (more than \$40,000) that was given to CATE from an independent fund set up by a group of teachers living and teaching in Southern California. I am recommending that the criteria as writte in December be followed with the following changes. The two scholarships should be given new names. I suggest that we call one scholarship the **Anne Hencke Scholarship** honoring the woman who made this gift possible and that the second scholarship be called the **Fristrom Scholarhsip**. The money that was donated by board and other CATE members should be added to this scholarship to extend the length of time that it will be offered.

To reduce the cost of the scholarship, I recommend that the Executive Finance Committee and the Leadership Committee consider offering the two scholarships to teachers who live within driving distance of where the convention is being held so there will be no flight or room charges. It might also be considered that councils could nominate a teacher from their council and then pay for half of the room charge and have that teacher share a room with another member of that council.

CATE Awards

I know that you have heard complaints from Liz and me about the lateness of awards materials and their incomplete state. This is not a new issue. It happened during my presidency as well, and so I know how difficult it makes the work of the president and past-president. Getting information to award winners and answers in return is difficult enough when everything is turned in on time. It is almost impossible when the applications come in weeks late. I am not going to accept any nomination this year that is not turned in completely filled out at the beginning of the December Meeting. You will be reminded of this several times in the coming months. I know this has been said before but has not been enforced. This was done the first year that I was on the board, and the situation improved greatly for a few years. I know that everyone is busy, but this practice really has to change and so I will be the cross person to enforce rules that were stated a long time ago.

Thanks to the Decorations Committee

I want to thank the Convention Decorations Committee for the great job they did. Everyone who worked on this committee either used materials that they had or donated what they used. While I don't feel that anyone should feel such a gift is required, it was generous and appreciated and saved CATE a considerable amount of money. Decorations for the CYRM Luncheon were created and donated by CATE CYRM representatives, Vivian Boyd, Rebecca Schafer, and Andriana Gervais. The young men helping with the introductions, Hunter and Roy Gervais, were also greatly appreciated. Thanks to all of the committee—SJSU Student Teachers, CCCTE Teachers, and board members.

Vice President Report

Susan Dillon

I worked on the room arrangements, as well as food and beverage services, for the May meeting at the Hotel Current. I also participated in the CATE Board Advisory Call, which surfaced some agenda items.

Secretary's Report Carrie Danielson

Since February, I have created the Annual Business Meeting minutes, sent them to the CATE Board and posted them (Thank you, Cindy) to CATEweb. I did the same with the February CATE Board minutes. I sent out a reminder to check the roster on CATEweb with directions to access the Board Only section of CATEweb (Some board members had difficulty with this and I will work with them at the May meeting). I have not yet updated some of the CATE Policies that need updating, but will do so this summer while retired! I mentioned the CATE computer to Joan Williams and I am going to propose that it be in her care for her use at the Membership booth during each convention.

Membership Report Joan Williams
May 2013

# COUNCIL	9/11	11/11	2/12	5/12	9/12	11/12	2/13	5/1	+/-	
1 Redwood	24	28	25	29	24	24	25	22	-3	
2 Upper		31	30	7	12	13	13	7	19	+12
3 Capitol	83	80	21	28	32	66	61	82	+21	
4 Central	235	252	177	207	203	203	168	303	+135	
5 Fresno	24	22	15	31	32	36	17	27	+10	
6 TUCATE	11	9	8	16	51	51	47	48	+1	
7 Kern	70	68	49	78	73	69	34	43	+9	
8 Southland	271	334	250	470	466	415	189	216	+27	
9 San Diego	77	78	68	82	81	77	65	63	-2	

50 Out-of-state	16	16	11	17	16	17	8	12	+4
55 Libraries	17	17	17	17	16	15	15	15	--
99 Comps	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	--
TOTAL	860	935	648	988	1008	987	638	852	+214

- I participated in the advisory board call on April 22 and reviewed the budget for possible changes.
- Membership numbers have risen substantially, partially due to the renewals that will take place with convention registration. We do have fewer members than we had last May, however.
- Please pick up brochures to use. Send congratulations and invitations to join to the new English teacher graduates from as many of the teacher education programs as you can. Also consider finding out the names of BTSA program year 2 finishers and sending them a note of welcome to the credentialed profession and an invitation to join their professional organization. If you need more brochures, let me know.
- Updated council rosters are available from membership chair upon request. I will not be able to send it until after May 18, but I will send it soon after that date.
- We hope to have electronic reminder/renewals working before next convention.
- I plan to meet with Precision in San Diego in September to discuss our goals for electronic reminders/renewals and how we will make it happen in 2013.

GSDCTE

Jeannine Ugalde

- GSDCTE is hosting our first celebration of English/Language Arts teachers titled, "Our Stories Unite Us." Through this event we hope to increase our visibility and discover new ways to partner with and support classroom teachers, pre-service teachers, and our valuable retired teachers.
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- Additionally, in March we recognized and honored student writers grades 2 – 12 for their prize-winning entries in the CATE Creative Writing Contest. In October Carol Jago presented at our Fall Promising Practices Conference.
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- On May 29 at our annual Awards Banquet, we will honor our CATE Teacher of Excellence, CATE Award of Merit (for a local business supporting literacy in education), the GSDCTE Award for Leadership in English/Language Arts, teacher and GSDCTE Award for Leadership in English/Language Arts, Administrator. We

Since February, Redwood Council has had two meetings – a group of nine of us met in early March at my house in Blue Lake for a dinner meeting, where we honored our Classroom Excellence awardee – Sherry Nissen – for the CATE Convention, shared our experiences from the convention, and planned this year’s local writing contest with Mary Ann Loch, our coordinator. Tom Gage presented about his session at CATE about using iBooks. Sue McIntyre, Redwood Writing Project Coordinator, was unable to attend but sent a lengthy report for us to discuss. Our second meeting was this last week, also at my house, and a group of five of us judged the contest entries. Humboldt County is having a wonderful spring – we have had little or no rain, or fog, with daily highs in the 70’s on the coast and mid-80’s in sunny and friendly Blue Lake. My summer vegetable garden is in full swing, and if all goes well we will be smothered in fresh veggies all season long. The guest facilities at the Chapman Blue Lake residence are available to worthy individuals or couples – no children, please!

SCTE Board Report

Nancy Himel

Sadly, we cancelled our scholarship tea because we did not have enough winners to make it worthwhile. We did send 50 dollar scholarship checks to our winners. We hope to have more next year. We turned our Spring Fling into a Book Release Party for Jane Hancock. You are welcome to attend after our board meeting, which I will have to leave a bit early.

CCCTE Representative Report

Susan Dillon

Now that the convention is over, Central is breathing! Thanks to all for your support and help.

Rist Hall, Mercy High School, San Francisco, was once again the location of our reception for the CATE creative writing contest winners. We enjoyed meeting our winners, their families, and many of their teachers. Our webmaster, Will Huddleston, is also a videographer, and he will post the reception on the Central website. We now have a FaceBook page that Will put together, so please like us! We are just rolling it out.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Central-California-Council-Teachers-of-English/130109660486202>

We will hold our year-end meeting in June where we will meet our new board members and look to the future, including the Asilomar conference next October.

GSDCTE Jeannine Ugalde

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Senior Convention Consultant Punky Fristrom

1. I worked on getting the room rebate check from Santa Clara Convention Center
2. I advised Susan on negotiation for May, 2013 board meeting.
- 3, I advised Michelle on her negotiations for CATE 2014 and CATE 2016.

Convention Coordinator Michelle Berry

CATE 2013 (Santa Clara) was a great success due to its wonderful triad of chairs (Maggie, Megan, Susan), their local committee, and the commitment of this Board to see that what needed to be done got done. Despite challenges along the way (UH, coffee cart, for example), we are happy to report that this convention was a financial success as well, and we look forward to hearing the chairs' report. During the Convention Coordinating Committee meeting we will review the reports of the registrar and exhibits/advertising manager, and move forward to next year.

CATE 2014 (San Diego) has been underway for some time, beginning with the negotiations which started some 4 years ago, and which have been finalized at last, thanks to the relationship the Town and Country management and Punky have nurtured for so long. We look forward to hearing from Carole about her progress as she continues to work on next February's convention.

CATE 2015's convention contract at the DoubleTree by Hilton San José has been successfully completed after a site visit and meeting, and many phone calls/emails to finalize the details. The location is lovely and practical, and the staff has been receptive to CATE's needs. The dates of 2015 have been moved one week later, to February 18-22.

CATE 2016 (Hilton OC/Costa Mesa) is coming along, after an interesting bump. I anticipate a finalized contract in hand when I arrive at this Board meeting. The dates of this convention have also been moved out one week, to February 17-21.

I'm surprised and happy to report that I'm finding this role more and more comfortable; I never thought I'd say it, but it's much more enjoyable than I had thought it would be. I've learned that negotiating contracts and overseeing the details on-site is more like classroom teaching than I would have thought -- the risk-taking, the need for assertiveness and yet flexibility, the degree to which prior preparation pays off, the cooperative efforts of all parties involved -- all these make for the same terrific feeling of satisfaction when things come together. I am reminded that the dance of teaching and the choreography of a convention are both collaborative in nature, like team sports. Therefore, as always, I offer my sincere gratitude to the Board, and especially to Punky, for your support and confidence.

MAL Elementary

Denise Mikkonen

District

- Continue to work on district wide book club, gathered and created materials to support teaching the text type Informative K-5 . Meet with site representatives to discriminate information touch base and share ideas

- Selected and annotated exemplar students papers of a rubric 1, 2, 3 meeting standards, 4 exceeding standards to post on district writing web-site "Writing Central" for the text type Opinion,
- Developed district Informational prompt for third trimester integrating video, articles and books similar to the Smarter Balanced task analysis, worked on K-5 alignment of prompts and rubrics

SMWP

- Getting reading for SMWP summer writing programs – coordinating 10 writing camps for SMWP, directors, teachers, authors,
- Teaching 3 of 6 classes in a Common Core Series at CSUSM for SMWP on Saturdays, nice conversations with teachers/principals from several districts in North County
- Preparing to teach a 3 day Common Core Series in July at CSUSM for SMWP
- Participating in IPAD group

GSDCTE

- Attended Writing Contest awards at SDCOE with students from Stone Ranch
- Promoting May Events, Awards Banquet, Our Stories Connect us
- Nominated principal team for Excellence in LA
- Attended board meeting

California Writing Project Liaison

Jayne Marlink

I did want you to see info about California Digital Citizenship Month, especially because CATE will be listed on everything as a Supporting Partner. Open the attached "Cover from" PDF to see CATE's listing alongside the other partners.

During the CWP time on the agenda, maybe Jeanine can share what she and her students have done for the Upstanders, Not Bystanders part of this effort:

Jeanine Ugalde (San Marcos Writing Project), a teaching colleague, and 160 students at Oak Valley Middle School in San Diego researched an Abuse of Power event or problem anywhere in the world within the past 200 years. Students also found and researched an Upstander who helped to support the abused or tried to stop the person/people in power. Students created a digital essay about their Upstander. The digital essays include information about the abuse, the upstander, and how this learning impacted the student. Digital essays also contain an embedded power point, pictures, and hyperlinks.

Link to the class wiki to read student work and check back as more is

posted: <http://upstanderdigitaleessays.pbworks.com/w/page/65447598/UGALDE%27S%20STUDENTS%27%20DIGITAL%20ESSAYS>

2) There are two ways for teachers, students, schools, families, and communities to get involved as indicated on the second attachment (CA-Digital Citizenship-MayFlyer):

Upstanders, Not Bystanders— For the Upstanders, Not Bystanders Digital Call to Write & Digital Call to Action, as well as more examples of what teachers are doing, link to: <http://www.californiawritingproject.org/upstanders-bystanders.html>

Digital Citizenship Month—For the link to the wonderful Common Sense Media California Digital Citizenship Month toolkit that is stuffed with lessons for teachers, activities for families, and resources for school-family programs, link to: <http://www.common sense media.org/california>

3) For teachers, schools, and organizations that want to work on this effort with families and parents, we are making available the CWP parent booklet, *Because Writing Matters: Helping Your Children Become Confident, Skilled Writers In and Beyond School* at a special rate for May. See that attachment for details. Many of you know, too, that the majority of those booklets make mention of CATE's support for the translations of the booklet into other languages.

4) During May you will get info-emails about different aspects of and opportunities for Upstanders, Not Bystanders and Digital Citizenship Month. Please feel free to forward those emails or the attachments here to anyone you know would be interested and to post any of the info on CATE's website or Facebook page.

5) Many California leaders are providing us statements of their support now, including Tom Torlakson:

“Technology is changing nearly every aspect of our lives, including the face of education—and rightfully so. With its ubiquity and its adaptability, it can be a powerful tool for preparing kids

for the society and the economy they will enter once they leave our classrooms. But, like any tool, it also takes some learning to use correctly. That is where efforts to encourage digital citizenship come in: encouraging and equipping California’s kids to behave ethically, reduce bullying, take care with relationships, and protect privacy and security. Technology can build new bridges for our students—let’s help them cross carefully.” --**Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, California Department of Education**

Even the Alliance for Excellent Education has given California Digital Citizenship Month national mention. Every one of those mentions gets linked to the Common Sense Media landing page, which is where visitors also see the mention of CATE as partner.

California English Editor’s Report

Carol Jago

The most recent issue of California English included the CATE ballot. Thanks to Charleen and other board members who helped me pull together all the information needed for this official page in the magazine.

This issue on “Feedback that Matters” garnered an unusually large collection of submissions. The reviewers and I had the wonderful task of winnowing down the collection to the best of the best for CATE members. I hope you were pleased with the result.

The focus for the November 2013 issue “Creating a Community of Writers” is the result of a conversation with California Writing Project director and CATE Board member Jayne Marlink. Please see below for the full call for manuscripts celebrating CWP’s 40th anniversary.

Ad sales continue to be a challenge. I have had good luck approaching Heinemann with an idea – for example we published an article by Ralph Fletcher on providing students with feedback and then went to Doria Turner at Heinemann and suggested she take out an ad for the newly published second edition of his book. I will put on my thinking cap for future issues. I have always felt that quality advertising helps the magazine look more professional.

In addition, I put together an ad for the Yosemite Conference and placed it prominently as the inside front cover. We will run another ad for this event in the September issue.

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

California English

Call for manuscripts

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?

November 2013

Creating a Community of Writers
(deadline October 1)

In 1973, the Bay Area Writing Project was born. Forty years later, writing project sites and writing teachers are developing practices for today's priorities: writing for college and workplace readiness, technology-mediated writing, formative writing assessment, writing in and beyond the classroom, writing as participation and civic engagement. In this 40th anniversary year of the California Writing Project, what is new for you in the teaching and learning of writing? But what remains the same? What is foundational? What is current, cutting edge, or still to come?

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**

A bit of the (ongoing, in my opinion) controversy that surrounds the continued unveiling of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS): Nothing herein should suggest, I think, that the CCSS are "in trouble." The late week call, by Student Achievement Partners, for 10,000 teachers signing on in support of the CCSS, was, to me, however, *most curious*. By the same token, the opponents are not, necessarily, going "gently [quietly?] into that good night," either. Stay tuned...

The best resources still, to me, are those out of the California Department of Education, SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium, county offices of education (especially the L.A. one; *especially* materials by Michelle Herzog), CTA (trainings), ASCD, and the PTA (excellent parent guide!). Just Google away...The most valuable session/conference I attended was put on jointly by the Reagan Library and the CSUN Writing Project, entitled: Civic Engagement and the Common Core.

Bill Younglove, Common Core Curriculum Consultant

Where are the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) going? Good question, but not necessarily the best one, which is: Where SHOULD they be going? Their creators carefully called them

national standards--NOT. Still, they got 46 states (Minnesota--not the math standards) on board, even if prematurely. The CCSS "fly" in the face of 15,000 local school boards (with 95,000 members) and their 150+ year history, not to mention specific State Constitutional mandates (Where, exactly, in the *U.S. Constitution* is education addressed?).

Thanks to the NGA, the SCCSO, Achieve, Inc., David Coleman (among others), the Gates Foundation (and at least 14 others), etc. the CCSS are "here." Their phase-in, as was true of many of our original state content standards some 15 years ago, will likely take at least a half dozen years. There are those of us, however, who have been wondering about the "order of things." In one sense, creating assessments now makes a lot of sense (time to pilot and field test--and refine). In another sense, though, whatever happened to: Creating curriculum frameworks? Publishing texts/instructional materials--aligned? Establishing/Offering professional development? Making sure that sufficient technology is up and running? Oh, and, while we are at it, making sure that CCSS backers (public, private, whatever) put their money where their "college and career [preparation] to compete in the global economy" mouths are (CCSS Mission Statement)? And THEN (re?)refining those assessment instruments? And, of course, once more, all educators be(com)ing more accountable?

The [L.A. Times editorial](#) said in part:

Experts are divided over the value of the new curriculum standards, which might or might not lead students to the deeper reading, reasoning and writing skills that were intended. But on this much they agree: The curriculum will fail if it isn't carefully implemented with meaningful tests that are aligned with what the students are supposed to learn. Legislators and education leaders should be putting more emphasis on helping teachers get ready for common core and giving them a significant voice in how it is implemented. And if the state can't get the right elements in place to do that by 2014, it would be better off delaying the new curriculum a couple of years and doing it right, rather than allowing common core to become yet another educational flash in the pan that never lives up to its promise.

The [New York Times editorial](#) said in part:

New York City parents are understandably nervous about tough new state tests that were rolled out last week. And some parents whose children have already taken the tests are outraged. They shouldn't be: the tests, which measure math and English skills, are an essential part of rigorous education reforms known as Common Core that seek to improve reasoning skills and have been adopted by 45 states....New York deserves enormous credit for being one

of the first states to carry out what is clearly the most important education reform in the country's history.