

TO: CATE Board
FROM: Carol Jago, *California English* editor
RE: September board report
The fall issue of *California English* should be in members' mailboxes. It features Carrie Danielson's wonderful speech from CATE2011 in September along with the CATE Creative Writing flyer and information about the CATE professional writing contest. The ad for CATE2012 now includes headline speakers. Included as well is a review by Bill Younglove on the NCTE centennial volume *Reading the Past, Writing the Future*.

You will notice 2 full-page color ads – one from Heinemann for the new edition of *With Rigor for All* and a Bedford/ St. Martin's textbook I worked on. I wanted to let you know that both were paid for by the publishers at our regular rates.

Tammy Harvey is now handling *California English* advertising. I hope she will be able to garner more interest among various vendors.

Sorry I won't be able to be with you at the board meeting. NCTE has me speaking at affiliate conferences all over the map this fall. As always, I would love help spreading the word about the call for manuscripts below. And please don't forget that I am always looking for artists to feature in the magazine. The potter/painter featured in the September issue is my brother, Joseph Crosetto.

California English

Call for manuscripts

November 2011

Evergreen Ideas for Teaching

(deadline October 1, 2011)

In 1989 Madeline Hunter wrote, "To say that you have taught when students haven't learned is to say you have sold when no one has bought. But how can you know that students have learned

without spending hours correcting tests and papers? . . . check students understanding while you are teaching so you don't move on with unlearned material that can accumulate like a snowball and eventually engulf the student in confusion and despair." Sounds a lot like what formative assessment is supposed to look like, doesn't it? How do you assess students so that they aren't engulfed in despair? What other evergreen ideas have you continued to implement in your classroom?

January 2012

Crossing Boundaries: a Passport to Professional Development That Matters

(deadline December 1, 2011)

This issue will focus on the CATE2012 conference theme, "Crossing Borders" and will include the convention program. We would like to feature essays by teachers reflecting upon the kinds of professional development that makes a difference in your teaching life. Where did you learn how to teach writing? How do you discover new titles for your curriculum? Whose guidance inspires you and helps you to do the work you love?

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.

<http://www.caroljago.com>

Board Report for GSDCTE

Lisa Ledri-Aguilar, President, GSDCTE

The Greater San Diego Council Teachers of English has been hard at work on the Book Fair through various stores in Mission Valley and other areas in Greater San Diego. We are also having Jim Burke join us as our keynote speaker for our Promising Practices Conference on Saturday, October 29th. People in Southern California are invited to join us. Please go to the www.cateweb.org to register for our Promising Practices event.

In addition, we have a new Facebook website located www.facebook.com/greatersandiegocouncil, so we encourage all of you to give us a like and to be our friend.

We have a new board member, Daniela Schoenberg, who is our Facebook webmaster and our marketing V.P, and she is helping us promote our events to a younger group of teachers here in San Diego. We also welcomed Kristen Weaver, from the Escondido Charter High School, and we are looking forward to having her join us in our efforts to support literacy and learning here in San Diego.

In addition, we had two major planning sessions, one in June and one in August to plan our Annual Writing Contest for March 2, where students from grade school to college can write various forms of literature addressing our writing prompt. Also, we have scheduled 10 spots for Lake Arrowhead for April 27 – 29, and if you would like to join us, we'd love to have you. Please contact Carole Le Cren to register for this exciting conference.

Our Writing Awards Banquet is scheduled for May 30 at University of San Diego with Bob Infantino assisting us in our organization of the event, and

Kathleen Obrist helping us with flowers and other items. We have invited Diana Pavlic Glycer from Azusa Pacific University to be our keynote speaker for the Writing Awards banquet. Divona Roy is our registrar for this elegant event where we honor the NCTE contest winners from our area with a speaker and a meal as well a plaque to take home commemorating their winning piece of writing.

Most importantly, we continue to promote CATE 2012 in Ontario, and we are thrilled to participate in an interdisciplinary conference such as *Crossing Boundaries* promises to be.

MAL SECONDARY REPORT

Submitted by Ron Lauderbach

GSDCTE continues to invent strategies to attract new members. We have new board members who are bringing new ideas and managing technology. We are planning all traditional events for 2011/2012, including: fall and spring Promising Practices, The CATE writing contest and award ceremony, awards dinner, retreat to Arrowhead, and scheduled board meetings. We continue to march and several of us are doing jobs, but at this point, we would not survive without the continuing efforts of Punky, Carole, Carrie, and Robin.

SCTE Rep

Submitted by Nancy Himel

SCTE is busy planning our Fall Conference with Kelly Gallagher and Neal Shusterman for October 22nd. We sent flyers to thousands of NCTE members in hopes of raising our

attendance and membership. We are also looking at adding some social and community service events to our calendar. Our website at SCTEweb.com went live last week. Cindy Conlin is our webmaster and is doing an amazing job.

I attended the NCTE Affiliate Meeting in Denver this summer. I was surprised to be the only one there from California. It was at that meeting that I came up with the idea of adding the social and service events. The social events will be offered by different members. Richard will lead a hike; I will host a day of jewelry making or Decoration making. Members will pay a fee to come. Money raised can go to our scholarship fund or help us raise money to build some literary gardens at some needy schools. We hope to entice some elementary teachers to join CATE by working with them to build gardens. Now we just have to get everything ready and begin.

**California Curriculum Correlating Council (4 Cs) liaison
Submitted by Bill Younglove**

Since May, I disseminated the Professional Writing Contest prompt to the English Department, Teacher Supervisors, and Student Teachers at CSULB, as well as to nearby district cooperating teachers, plus maintained contact with contest coordinator, Olga Kokino.

In late July/early August, I received training at UCLA from the CTA in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). I continue to be in correspondence with UCLA Professor Emeritus Jim Popham, educational evaluation expert, regarding issues

surrounding formative assessment. CCSS information has been disseminated by me, thus far, to CSULB Teacher Supervisors. I shall also be giving a CCSS session at the SCTE Fall Conference in October in Whittier. This month I shall be meeting with LBUSD Superintendent Chris Steinhauser, to view Long Beach's planned two-year initial implementation of the CCSS. In addition, I have solicited Tom Adams from the California Department of Education to present at the 4 Cs summit on the CCSS, in late February of 2012.

Finally, as SCTE Policy/SLATE representative, I continue to bring forth issues for the Board members' consideration. (And, as noted elsewhere previously, I shall have pieces of writing in the fall issues of CALIFORNIA ENGLISH and the ENGLISH JOURNAL.)

**September Board Report-
Convention Coordinator**

Punky Fristrom

Kim Flachmann, Jill Hamilton-Birch, Anne and I met in Ontario on May 27-28 with the hotel and Convention Center representative to review plans for CATE 2012. They were excellent meetings and we accomplished a great deal in planning the convention. Many items

discussed at these meetings will need to be discussed by the Convention Committee and the board at the September meeting.

These include:

1. Exhibitors' Reception- What replaces it? Exhibitor Door Prizes?

2. Council Breakfasts- Cancel or In hotel or CC?

3, Receptions- Confirm schedule

4. Award Schedule- How much can we decide now?

5. No Registration on Thursday Evening

6. New Teacher Books- No reception

7. Two Minutes for CATE

8. 2014 Chair

Carole LeCren has designed the flyer for 2012. I hope to have it printed in time to bring copies to the board meeting for distribution by board members.

In June, Anne and I met with our new registrar, Cindy Conlin in New Hampshire to review the requirements of the position with her. The meeting went well and we feel she will be an excellent registrar.

I have completed negotiations, as directed by the board, with Santa Clara. The 2013 contract has been amended. Part of the amendment was a requirement that CATE sign a contract for 2017 with Santa Clara. That has been done. I am also negotiating a possible change in the 2013 convention center contract, which I will bring to the board.

I have negotiated a contract extension with our decorator, Curtin Exposition Services, and will present it to the board for approval at the meeting.

CATE Past-President's Report

Bob Chapman

Welcome, Gratitude & Confusion:

As I have stated for the last two years, I give warm thanks to Michelle, Punky, Charleen and Liz for all the help they give me. I couldn't accomplish much without their support.

CATE Awards/Scholarships:

Awards need to be confidential and no information regarding award recipients will be given here.

Distinguished Service Award:

All past presidents were contacted and forms and links to the forms on the website were included. A committee has been selected, comprised of Dianne Lucas, Ed Farrell and me.

I have received one nomination at the point of submitting this. Assuming I receive other nominations, the above committee will select the winner by November 20th

and I will announce the winner at the December BOD meeting (Policy 10.3).

Classroom Excellence Award:

At our BOD meeting this weekend, Council Presidents will be given notice of the awards, due dates, which awards their councils are responsible for and the forms. The completed packets are due by our December BOD meeting on the 3rd and 4th (Policy 10.4).

Capitol – Elementary

Central – Secondary

FACET – College

Kern – Secondary

Redwood – Elementary

San Diego – College

Southland – Middle

TUCATE – Middle

Upper - Middle

Award of Merit:

Again, Council Presidents will receive notice at our September meeting that these nominations are due at the next BOD meeting in December (Policy 10.2).

Virginia Reid:

This year the Virginia Reid Scholarship is the responsibility of the Smaller Councils (Capitol, FACET, Kern, Redwood, TUCATE and Upper), and the acting Presidents of those councils need to meet and discuss how they will nominate winners, and what committee will select from those nominations if more than one person is selected. The recipient will be announced at our December meeting (Policy 8.9).

CATE Elections:

Deadline for nomination forms is our December meeting on the 3rd and 4th. I need to receive all nominations by that date.

Announcements will be on the website, and will be in the next edition of *California English*.

The positions open for the election are:

President

Vice President

MAL Elementary

MAL Secondary

MAL Small Council

MAL Unspecified

NCTE Liaison:

All members of the CATE BOD must be current members of NCTE. The 3rd Annual National Day on Writing is October 20th – see the NCTE website to participate. I have not heard the result of this summer's NCTE elections and how our CATE member(s) did—Charleen? As of this time, I am not aware of any awards CATE has had nominations for, since our discussion at the May BOD meeting. I will be attending the NCTE Convention in Chicago, and I believe we will have a large showing there because it is NCTE's 100th anniversary. I will attend the Annual Business Meeting and the Advocacy Committee meetings. Perhaps I will be able to participate in Advocacy Day (April 28th) this spring in DC.

CATE MEMBERSHIP REPORT

September 2011

# COUNCIL	5/09	9/09	12/09	2/10	4/10	10/10	2/11	4/11	9/11	+/-
1 Redwood	29	31	34	22	23	21	18	23	24	+1
2 Upper	20	20	7	17	16	16	---	30	31	+1
3 Capitol	98	70	60	38	43	38	42	88	83	-5
4 Central	411	317	250	180	203	278	281	308	235	-73
5 Fresno	35	36	34	20	31	28	28	26	24	-2
6 TUCATE	13	21	20	19	30	25	24	12	11	-1
7 Kern	30	24	25	31	33	35	29	60	70	+10
8 Southland	335	310	303	226	426	403	416	267	271	+4
9 San Diego	103	106	94	72	80	70	74	75	77	+2
50 Out-of-state	23	17	18	17	21	19	20	15	16	+1
55 Libraries	21	20	21	20	20	19	18	17	17	--
99 Comps	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	--
TOTAL	1123	975	882	655	929	954	968	922	860	-62

- Membership numbers are down. We will continue to investigate membership recruitment ideas in committee.
- On the bright side of membership numbers, note that Kern continues to grow. Hopefully, Southland's numbers will increase with the convention in the south, and Central's will remain steady.
- Electronic membership rosters are available to board members. Let the membership chair know if you would like to receive them. Consider using them to check against past rosters to contact the members that have dropped off of your list.
- Membership brochures are available at the meeting. Thank you to the Fristroms for bringing them. Please take them to distribute.
- Encourage your local council members to choose the 2 year option.

CTA Liaison

Submitted by Debra Martinez

Getting Back to Schools: New CTA Campaign, Beginning With Radio and Web Ads

Contact: Mike Myslinski at 650-552-5324

BURLINGAME – Getting back to schools and the hope they offer for a better California is the focus of new CTA radio and web ads launched statewide today as a reminder that “strong public schools and colleges make our communities even stronger.”

As the traditional school year begins and tens of thousands of students across the state return to schools that are still coping with impacts from years of cuts and other hardships, the work done in today’s classrooms still holds the key to building a better future for the state. As one teacher says in the radio ad, “A brighter future for California starts right here, in classrooms like mine.”

Teacher evaluation bill 2012 priority

Educated Guess -

A bill that would vastly change how teachers are evaluated is 75 percent of the way there, the bill’s sponsor, Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes, reports.

Of course, it’s the last 25 percent – down to the last disputed detail – that will make or break bills as potentially contentious as AB 5. Already, those who believe the bill doesn’t go far enough in creating effective evaluations are proposing significant changes that the state’s teachers unions will just as strongly oppose. One current part of the bill that will generate controversy – and probably a lawsuit – would keep data tying student test results to teachers out of the hands of the public and the newspapers like the Los Angeles Times, which created an uproar last year by publishing “value-added” ratings of teachers based on test results. If used in teacher evaluations, the data would become part of a teacher’s personnel file – and private.

AB 114 (State Budget)

AB 114 – [the Education Budget Trailer Bill](#) – attempts to stabilize school funding for 2011-12 and stop the hemorrhaging of state budget cuts. However, the approved state budget also “triggers” budget cuts if projected revenues don’t materialize.

Since early August, we have all witnessed the extreme volatility of the stock market. State revenues are coming in lower than expected and that will trigger additional state budget cuts. It is normal to be anxious about how this will affect our lives, the California economy, the generation of tax revenues, and the funding of public education and other essential services.

When the state budget was passed in June, it was built on the projection that tax revenues would be \$4 billion greater than those contained in the Governor’s May Revision. At that time, revenues were already ahead of projections by \$1.3 billion. On August 9, the State Controller released his monthly report showing revenues were down \$538.8 million. This was followed by two other reports – one by the State Board of Equalization (BOE) and the other by the

Department of Finance – that saw these projections move yet again.

The BOE contends the state received \$1.64 billion in sales and use tax revenues for the month of July, although the Controller recorded only about \$1 billion. The discrepancy comes from the different ways that state agencies account for revenue.

CTA Sponsorship for Continental Breakfast

The request was submitted to the CTA board to continue to sponsor CATE's continental breakfast at the annual convention. As of today no decision has been made.

TUCATE REPRESENTATIVE

Submitted by Carol Surabian, TUCATE President

As always TUCATE is trying to increase membership during this time of uncertainty. Our board met two weeks ago and voted to continue to support the CATE convention. We also put out the call for nominations for Classroom Excellence. We hope to expand our pool of candidates by our next board meeting.

I look forward to seeing everyone this weekend.

President's Report

Submitted by Charleen Silva Delfino

I have worked in the following areas:

- Encouraged local teachers and organizations to support the Barnes and Noble fund raiser;
- Planned Board Meeting;
- Worked to make the transition from Eddie Hase to Cindy Conlin for CATE Registrar;
- Visited Bob Johnson at Precision;
- CYRM: attended CYRM meeting, nominating new CATE CYRM member, looking at continued support;
- Adjusted budget to meet the need for someone to fill out tax forms;
- Set date with SJAWP to encourage TC's to submit a proposal for CATE 2012;
- Set date to visit SJSU methods class and student teacher meeting to encourage student membership in CATE and attendance at CATE 2012.

I am looking forward to a busy, austere but active year and to a wonderful convention. The hard work by Jill and Kim will bring great rewards.

MAL

Submitted by Richard Hockensmith

As MAL, I have little to report from over the summer. Sent my district the Barnes and Noble fundraiser/book fair and continue to work with SCTE as membership chair and registrar of our Fall Conference.

MAL

Submitted by Michelle Berry

As MAL, I have little to report from over the summer. I distributed the writing contest fliers to local schools, and twice posted on my FaceBook page the Barnes and Noble fundraiser/book fair. I again look forward to visiting Sonoma State University's credential program for E/LA teachers, to introduce them to the benefits of CATE membership; I'll bring them copies of California English as well as 2012 convention flyers.

CCCTE REP

Submitted by Susan Dillon

Central Council met in August to discuss plans for this academic year, and we are excited that Asilomar 60 will be taking place soon (September 23 -25). Central will provide beverages at the Friday night reception, and we hope to see you there. Central will be offering a workshop on John Steinbeck to be held on March 24, 2012, at the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies, in San Jose. Scholar Peter Van Coutren will be guiding us through the collection in the morning, and Central teachers will be providing curriculum sessions in the afternoon. We are also planning a spring workshop on American multicultural literature at CSU, Stanislaus. Last May, Dr. Bill Foreman and Dr. Anthony Perrello arranged a Shakespeare seminar for high school teachers at the Turlock campus, and we look forward to continuing our relationship with Stan State. We hope that increased opportunities for professional development will attract new members and energize our current members. We are also in the beginning stages of discussion for CATE 2013 with convention co-chairs Maggie Potter and Megan Petersen. I know you will enjoy working with them on the CATE executive board. Susan Dillon

CAPITOL REP

Submitted by Angus Dunstan

Taking a lead from Kern Council, Capitol is beginning to reconstitute its Board. We now have a Membership/Newsletter person, a Writing Contest person, and even a Treasurer (Anne, do you hear that?).

We also have a workshop scheduled for October.

UPPER REP -Submitted by Shelly MedfordUpper has not had any activity during the past few months. Due to personal reasons, I have not been able to invest time into CATE. The 2011 conference in Sacramento did help Upper increase membership slightly. We will be putting out the word for Classroom Excellence Award nominations, hoping to have a name by the next board meeting.

**Board Report, for September 2011 meeting
California Curriculum Correlating Council (4 Cs) liaison
Submitted by Bill Younglove**

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In late July/early August, I received training at UCLA from the CTA in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). I continue to be in correspondence with UCLA Professor Emeritus Jim Popham, educational evaluation expert, regarding issues surrounding formative assessment. CCSS information has been disseminated by me, thus far, to CSULB Teacher Supervisors. I shall also be giving a CCSS session at the SCTE Fall Conference in October in Whittier. This month I shall be meeting with LBUSD Superintendent Chris Steinhauser, to view Long Beach's planned two-year initial implementation of the CCSS. In addition, I have solicited Tom Adams from the California Department of Education to present at the 4 Cs summit on the CCSS, in late February of 2012.

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(And, as noted elsewhere previously, I shall have pieces of writing in the fall issues of CALIFORNIA ENGLISH and the ENGLISH JOURNAL.)

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Submitted by Liz McAninch

First, I send a big *thank you* to all the volunteer readers of student submissions for NCTE's Achievement Award in Writing. 102 California students earned the points for recognition by NCTE. The students and their teachers will be notified of the results in early October. A number of you reported that you felt the writing was stronger than last year's entries.

I attended the CCCTE Board meeting on August 27 in my role as Past President of that group. Susan Dillon, our President, has reported on key events for Central. We are also looking forward to preparing our Chiyo and Kathleen Cecil baskets for the upcoming Curriculum Study Commission conference at Asilomar on Sept 23-25. We sell raffle tickets to support scholarships to Asilomar and CATE conferences.

In addition to working with the Doubletree Ontario for this meeting, I have also received bids from hotels in the San Francisco Bay area for the board meeting in December.