

President's Report – September 2013

Submitted by Liz McAninch

California lost two magnificent educators within days of each other this summer, Joan Owen and Michael Flachmann. These unexpected events occurred as I was enroute home at the end of a wonderful, extended road trip. Joan and Michael had a profound effect on their students and colleagues.

However, good news arrived from NCTE. Kristy Orona Ramirez has been named one of four State, Regional and Provincial Award winners of the 2013 NCTE/SLATE Affiliate Intellectual Freedom Awards. She will receive her award at the Affiliate Breakfast on Sunday, November 24 at NCTE in Boston. Tracy Sprague will be recognized as a 2013 High School Teacher of Excellence at the NCTE Secondary Luncheon on Saturday, November 23.

I received a letter from Barbara Cambridge, Director of NCTE/DC Office asking all the affiliates to reach out to our members of Congress on three issues:

- Support the National Humanities Council.
Proposed legislation would strip the National Humanities Council of up to 49% of its current budget. This cut would damage grants for humanities programs for K-12 and for colleges and universities. Legislators need to hear how important the humanities are via stories from our experience in practice and research.
- Vote to support Improving Literacy Instruction and Student Achievement (Senate ESEA 2013 Title IV, Part A)
This section of the proposed ESEA reauthorization in the Senate provides federal support for literacy programs, enhances each state's role in improving literacy instruction, and supports the creation of local high-quality literacy programs. We need to explain to our legislators what we need for effective literacy teaching and learning.
- Continue to fund the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Program
This program is having a positive influence on K-12 literacy learning in the states that it funds. Appropriating equal funding for the future of this program is important. NCTE suggests that we share examples of the benefits of working with teachers in other subject areas and of aligning literacy objectives across grade levels.

I attended the recent Curriculum Study Commission meeting where we heard good news. The enrollment at the Asilomar Conference is up 15% over last year's numbers. The CSC also received a break when more rooms opened up in August. Since the school year began, they have received at least twenty more registrations. I hope this bodes well for CATE's numbers in February.

I look forward to another year of hard work alongside the tremendous group of individuals currently serving on this board.

Vice President Report: Susan Dillon

Duties for this office include setting up the Advisory Board conference call, making room reservations, and arranging food and beverage service for the board meetings. I have completed all of the above, and, in addition, have made new name plates and badges. Thanks to Punky and Anne for their help with Town & Country, and thanks to Michelle for the new name badge holders.

Kristy Orona- Ramirez Member –at-Large

Summer was very busy, as I took part and taught at two summer writing camps. I taught at the Temecula Young Writer's Camp and at the Stone Ranch Elementary Young Writer's Camp. I always love taking part in these...

Last spring, I started speaking with various members of the Sherman Indian High School staff regarding the start up of a Teen Writing Camp on the Sherman HS campus. Due to the scheduling of the students who leave the campus in early Spring to return home to their reservations, it was not possible to start a camp for the 2012-13 school year. Discussions have begun again to do one for the 2013-14 school year. Hopefully this will happen, but cutting through the "red tape" is a bit difficult when dealing with a Federally funded school, under the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

I have also been making periodic Facebook posts on our CATE Facebook page... Hopefully, inspiring our FB constituents to read posts either made by Michelle or me regarding English/Language Arts/Teaching.

I have made my hotel accommodations for NCTE, Boston. 😊 I am happy that I was also able to arrange a book signing at one of the booths for the conference. Anderson's Books, #1631, a local store will be hosting. Interestingly enough, as I research Boston, I have just been made aware of a law that outlawed American Indians from crossing the river over to the city of Boston, as it was illegal for American Indians to be in the city... This law was not taken off the books until 2005. WOW! Interesting food for thought.

Carol Surabian TUCATE Rep.

Once again I regret that a family matter keeps me from the board meeting. This really needs to change.

TUCATE has been busy helping with the Yosemite Conference. Jim Kliegl and I are serving as registrars. It has been an interesting experience.

The numbers continue to inch up. I am hopeful that, just as at the CATE Convention, there will be a flood of registrations as the deadline nears.

I will be thinking of you all this weekend.

Angus Dunstan – Capitol Report/President of Presidents Report/Policy Chair Report

I've called a local board meeting to plan a workshop for the end of October.

2. I still don't have a treasurer but I might have my treasurer's report in by Saturday.

3. With some input from Carol Surabian, I've been updating the Presidents' handbook.

Presidents should plan to meet on Saturday after the Board adjourns.

4. As directed by the Board, I submitted the paperwork to NCTE and recently learned that Kristy Ramirez has been awarded the NCTE/SLATE Affiliate Intellectual Freedom Award. Congratulations, Kristy!

Denise Mikkonen – Member-at-Large Elementary

Over the summer I worked on our District Writing Team, refining the CC writing prompts and rubrics for elementary. We selected exemplars to post demonstrating a rubric 1, 2, 3 and 4 for grades K – 5 and provided annotations. The most interesting part was re-visiting the prompts we had written last summer and realizing how much we had all grown and learned about the Common Core as each trimester passed. We then went back and reworded the prompts to be more precise, aligned the rubrics k- 5 and started thinking about resources to provide teachers in the district. We are talking about working on “writing and math” as a district and what that would look like. Trying out some problems of the week in my class and having the students explain in writing how they solved the problem. For the high flyers they are explaining two ways to solve. In three weeks I can see how they are already progressing in their mathematical reasoning and ability to articulate in writing their process.

The SMWP summer camps went well, we had 9 camps for kids from first to High School in locations from Temecula, San Marcos to PUSD. The teachers loved the opportunity to team teach – we had great impromptu conversation about the implications of “race and teaching” with teachers from many different socio-economic areas and cultures. We passed out the CATE writing contest to campers.

In addition the SMWP had three day Common Core training with teachers from Calexico, Escondido, Oceanside, San Marcos and Temecula districts. The attendance was great over 40 folks some sessions. Such a wonderful way to see things from other points of view, and share ideas. Unwrapping the standards seems to be the biggest thing that districts are not doing – it seems to help with understanding the why and how of the standards and help folks to wrap their heads around each grade levels key points. My biggest ahha was when a teacher mentioned “You plan your whole curriculum around writing?” I hesitated and said. Yes. Suddenly the light bulb went off for me. They had considered writing something you did between 9:00 and 9:30, not integrating throughout the subject areas. I took the opportunity to encourage folks to attend CATE in February too!

Made my plane reservations for NCTE

Carole Le Cren CATE 2014 CONVENTION CHAIR BOARD REPORT

Michelle and I have been trading e-mails all summer. Here's what we have accomplished so far:

The flyer is done, and I have sent out copies to every middle and high school in the county (we have 42 school districts in San Diego county). I hope to also send flyers to all the independent and private/parochial schools in the county within the next month. I'm counting on you to

spread the flyers throughout the state, and of course CATE members were mailed a flyer in late August. Thanks to Golden Ink's Rick and Carol for printing them in four-color and donating the extra cost (and thanks to Punky for asking if they would do it).

Cindy Conlin got the online registration up and running, and put a variety of informative pages about the convention at my request.

All the major speakers are booked (thank you, Nancy Himel, my major speakers chair).

The pre-convention is all set to go, thanks to Jayne Marlink.

I asked two members on the GSDCTE Board, Denise Mikkonen and Divona Roy, who work with the San Marcos Writing Project and the San Diego Area Writing Project respectively, to send out a reminder to all writing project members, to ask them to consider submitting proposals to present at CATE 2014.

I've been working on the "stationery" that we use during the convention (for example, president's reception invitations, and thank you cards to presenters) and will bring examples to the board meeting.

I have also spent time answering some interesting e-mails; everyone has unique questions. Things I am still working on at this time: finding a college credit contact/chair, creating an Excel file for the budget, nailing down some committee chairs, figuring out how to incorporate all the offers of volunteers that I have received, coordinating with Bill Foreman about how we are going to handle the presenters/sessions, and of course numerous other things.

Thanks for all the help from everyone, and for your continued help as we get closer and closer to February.

Nancy Himel – Exhibits Manager Report

I have been busy trying to fill our exhibit hall. I think things are going as well as can be expected. I have convinced a few vendors to come back (at least verbally, but I believe they mean it), including Owl/Stenhouse and Everbind Books. Others say they would love to, but finances just won't allow it. Secondary Solutions will donate lanyards once again, and Perma-bound is sponsoring bags for all. I have a long way to go and a lot of ideas to promote.

A big thank you to both Michelle and Cindy for all the work they did to bring everything together. I emailed the board last month asking for vendor contact info, but I heard nothing back from anyone. This saddened me just a bit. I hope that if you have a personal contact with a company or in any related field, you will bring the info to San Diego with you. We want a much more vibrant, interactive hall this year than ever before. Together, we can make this happen!

Debra Martinez – CTA Liaison Report

Schools rising from budget depths, EdSource finds

With the passage of Proposition 30 and implementation of a new funding system channeling more money to most districts this fall, the 2012-13 school year will be the base for measuring how well schools recover from the Great Recession. Yet as EdSource documents in a report issued Thursday, there will be a steep climb out of the trough.

In “Recovering from the Recession: Pressures Ease on California’s Largest Districts, but Stresses Remain,” EdSource found signs that budgets were stabilizing and districts were regaining some ground after five years of damaging budget cuts. But there were also areas of further concern, such as a decline in the number of counselors in schools and a rise in rates of childhood poverty – evidence that districts continued to struggle, as measured by some key indices.

Kim Flachmann – Kern Representative

Meetings

We had a Board Meeting on May 14, 2013, at which we set our activities for the entire year.

Membership Drives

On August 30, we had our Back-to-School Beerfest, which drew about 60 people. (We learned last year that our community prefers beer to tea.) Everyone received a CATE 2014 Conference flyer and a list of local CATE activities for the year, and we had drawings for 8 books from speakers we will feature this academic year.

One Book/One Bakersfield

We continue to work with our community and with CSUB on One Book/One Bakersfield: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot (2013-14)

Upcoming Events

Nov 16, 2013: Jim Burke (How cool is that?)

Feb 1, 2014: Doug Fisher and Nancy Frey (Also Extremely cool!)

Gina Cole – Upper Council Representative

The Upper Council is optimistically looking for opportunities to reach other English teachers in our region to become CATE members.

Since we have not had the chance to convey our feelings about the last CATE convention, I just want to say that my colleagues and I thoroughly enjoyed our time in Santa Clara. Our nominee Tally Sturm from Durham High School in Butte County received the Classroom Excellence Award, and we could not have been more pleased!

As always, we are looking forward to the upcoming CATE Convention in February. Sutter Union High School has a new English teacher, Kelly McNeil. We wasted no time telling her

about the wonderful experiences we have all had at the CATE conventions throughout the years. Kelly cannot wait to join us as we head to San Diego in February!!

Joan Williams - CATE MEMBERSHIP Chair

August 2013

# COUNCIL	11/11	2/12	5/12	9/12	11/12	2/13	5/13	9/13	+/-
1 Redwood	28	25	29	24	24	25	22	22	--
2 Upper		30	7	12	13	13	7	19	19 --
3 Capitol	80	21	28	32	66	61	82	80	-2
4 Central	252	177	207	203	203		168	303	299 -4
5 Fresno	22	15	31	32	36	17	27	26	-1
6 TUCATE	9	8	16	51	51	47	48	16	-32
7 Kern		68	49	78	73	69	34	43	39 -4
8 Southland	334	250	470	466	415	189	216	221	+5
9 San Diego	78	68	82	81	77	65	63	66	+3
50 Out-of-state		16	11	17	16	17	8	12	13 +1
55 Libraries	17	17	17	16	15	15	15	15	--
99 Comps	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	--
TOTAL	935	648	988	1008	987	638	852	818	-34

Jeannine Ugalde GSDCTE President

I participated in the advisory board call on August 31.

- Membership numbers are down. I have been discussing our renewal process with Precision and have received data regarding reminders and renewals.
- I am working with Cindy Conlin and Precision to create online renewals and reminders. This feature should be in place before the next convention.
- I have followed up on bad addresses.
- I have updated rosters available for board members upon request.

- I am the secretary for Redwood Council and have assisted in planning meetings and activities.
- Greater San Diego Council is replaying its new idea, "Our Stories Unite Us," and turning it into our fall kick-off. It will also be a kick-off for the CATE Convention in San Diego. We see this convention and our fall event as a prime and golden opportunity to let San Diego area teachers know who we are (or remind them!).
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- We love the CATE Creative Writing Contest and hope to let more teachers know about this to get more teachers and students involved.
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- We continue to seek new and creative way to encourage, entice, and engage teachers on this educational journey where we are better when we are together.
- Jill Hamilton-Bunch MAL – Small Councils
- Kern Council continues to be active under the wonderful leadership of Kim Flachmann!
- I will be attending the CWP 40th Anniversary Celebration at UC Davis in October along with Angus as part of our role on the state advisory committee.
- Looking forward to seeing each of you soon!

Punky Fristrom - Senior Convention Coordinator

1. I advised Susan on the contract for the board meeting.
2. I advised Carole on the draft of the flyer.
3. I advised Michelle on numbers of flyers.
4. I arranged with Golden Ink for the flyer to be printed in full color for the same price as last year.

Charleen DelSilva – Past President

Honoring Teachers by giving various awards is one of the highlights of the CATE Convention each year. New and experienced teachers find this experience to be uplifting. A secondary but important side effect is that many meals are sold to those who come to honor those teachers from their communities; thus, helping CATE meet the food quotas set by the hotel for the convention. Organizing the giving of awards is one of the main duties of the Past President. Two problems exist:

1. Some Councils have not recognized teachers or community leaders. I urge all councils to please give at least one award to a teachers of merit in their area. (Read the Policy Document for the possible awards)
2. Many councils have not turned in information that meets the deadlines or they have turned in very incomplete information. This is not a new problem. When I first came on the CATE Board, The Past President stated (and we all knew that she meant to follow through--and she

did!) that any Councils that did not have complete packets turned in at the BEGINNING of the the December Meeting would not have their candidates honored. After one implementation of this policy, the problem was solved for several years. But gradually, we have returned to putting off getting the information in--not because we don't care, but rather we are all so very busy. However, I will play the role of the "heavy." Councils that do not have a complete packet for any reason will have their candidate denied. There will be no exceptions.

I will send you the forms prior to this Sept. meeting and urge you to return them to me PRIOR to the December Meeting so that I can work with you to make sure that that all information is included. Please do not hesitate to ask questions, as I will be pleased to assist you in any way possible.

Jim Kliegl Member-at-large Secondary

I have been meeting with the team putting on the Yosemite Conference, working out the details. I am working with Carol Surabian on registration. I will be at the conference to do on-site registration and anything else that is needed.

TUCATE is planning a small weekend workshop on writing for the common core. It will be in the early spring.

Carrie Danielson – Secretary

Since our last minute, I have sent out minutes from the last meeting and posted them to CATEweb. I updated the CATE Policies and submitted the update to CATEweb so you can all read the most updated versions from the website. I also gathered roster updates and sent them to Cindy Conlin so the roster online is as accurate as possible. I also worked with Cindy to update and improve the CATEweb Board of Directors page, which is complete. I will bring notebooks for new members at the September meeting.

I am also, again, acting as Recording Secretary for GSDCTE and we are planning several events to support CATE 2014.

I would like to end by thanking Cindy Conlin for all she has done to help me with the above activities!

Bill Foreman – MAL –College

Since May 2013 I've been working on developing new course material to align with the Common Core. In that I have benefitted from many discussions with CATE members and I appreciate their perspectives and input.

Recently, I have received news of a possible opportunity for Spring 2014. Our new president at CSU, Stanislaus announced a new emphasis on writing on our campus, as well as supporting efforts at community outreach. My department is responding to these announcements with plans to support the creation of writing centers at one or two local high schools. If successful, student participation in these writing centers could become part of the

Single Subject Matter Prep curriculum.

Additionally, my department chair would like us to sponsor a conference of some sort in regard to the Common Core. This would take place in late Spring 2014, and I would like to connect this effort to Central Council, giving us a major event for spring. At this point, the idea is only being suggested—funding and other necessary support has yet to be committed to the project.

This idea is only one of many being floated on my campus in hopes of gaining administration support. However, a conference on the implementation of the Common Core, particularly with regard to writing, aligns well with the priorities that leadership has set on my campus. We live in hope.

Bill Younglove – CCSS Liaison

Since the May Board meeting:

- In June, submitted a classroom demonstration (foursome) proposal, "CCSS Future Illuminates Holocaust Past Via Readers' Theater," for the NCTE Convention--and got shot down;
- Monitored CCSS activities in a dozen Southwestern and Midwestern states during June 6556 mile auto trip;
- Wrote/had accepted for Fall/September *California English*, "Expanding Literary Nonfiction Incrementally";
- Created a breakout session on the above topic for SCTE's Fall Conference in Whittier on "The Literature of Nonfiction";
- August 1st, attended a United Way of (in) L.A., designed by StudentsFirst, on Teacher Advocacy;
- August 17th, attended SCTE Board meeting in Venice; updated members on the current status of the CCSS in Sacramento and nationwide;
- August 18th, submitted a proposal, "Paying It Forward Via Nonfiction Holocaust Remembrances," for the CATE 2014 Convention;
- August 22nd and 26th, announced/promoted attendance at the Fall SCTE (October 12th) Conference to student teachers at CSULB Orientation meetings;
- Will take part, on September 5th, in a Teacher Town Hall meeting at the Mark Taper Forum in the L.A. Central Library, sponsored by StudentsFirst.

Carol Jago – California English

The September issue which you should have already received in the mail includes prominent notices of important CATE and council events: Asilomar, the Yosemite conference, and CATE2014. Also included is the flyer for the 2014 CATE Creative Writing contest. I hope you agree with me that advertising these aspects of CATE work should be a priority for the journal.

I used my editor's column in the September issue to urge our members to consider writing for

publication. While I still receive many more manuscripts than we can possibly publish, I find that they often come from the same relatively small group of educators. I want to do everything I can to widen the circle of California teachers contributing to *California English*.

I am pleased to report that my outreach to Corwin Press about Jim Burke's new book series on the Common Core resulted in the sale of an ad for the back cover. Increasingly it is my experience that just waiting for ads to appear is an exercise in futility. Only proactive – and targeted – requests seem to result in ad sales.

The artist for the September issue came to me via Kathleen Daley Obrist. If you know anyone whose work is deserving of display, please put the person in contact with me. All I need from the artist is 8-10 digital images on a CD, an artist's statement, and a photo.

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

California English **Call for manuscripts**

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?

January 2014 **Technology: A Love Story?** **(deadline December 1)**

In *Proust and the Squid: The History and Science of the Reading Brain*, Maryanne Wolf describes how the hours young people spend processing a steady stream of online information is actually reshaping the architecture of their brains. Extensive time spent reading Tweets and Facebook postings, watching YouTube, and playing video games entails the danger of succumbing to what Wolf calls the "continuous partial attention" culture of the Internet. Reading long, complex works of literature and nonfiction require a different kind of attention. How has the ubiquity of the digital world affected your students, your classroom, and your teaching -- for better and for worse?

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.

Susan Dillon - CCCTE Representative

The Central Council is looking forward to our reception at Asilomar 62 this October. Steven Weinberg, Curriculum Study Commission registrar for the event, shared:

Last year we had 60 CATE memberships paid with registration, the year before that we had 55. This year we have 86 and we are still adding. I'm pretty sure we will get at least 4 more, which would be a 50% increase over last year.

We have Chiyo baskets at the reception, and provide an opportunity for participants to win them. Proceeds fund an annual new teacher scholarship to Asilomar.

The Central Council is also planning regional receptions to meet our members who live in 19 counties. We will work with a few counties each year. We are also in the planning stages for a spring workshop which will be hosted in Alameda County, where most of our members live.