

Board of Directors Meeting Reports

March 2008

President

Michelle Berry, President

Since our December meeting, the letters to LA/Long Beach area legislators and award winners were sent, and meetings have been held in person and online with Jeff Wilson and Tammie Harvey (thanks Liz McAninch and Charleen Delfino for serving with me). Additionally, the Annual Board Report has been compiled -- thanks to all those who were timely in getting me your reports.

In January I attended the CYRM meeting in Sacramento. This group of teachers and librarians from around the state work so hard, and it was an honor to be invited to their meeting to observe the process of choosing titles they'll read in advance of the contest.

The award winners have been gracious and humble. All will be in attendance except for three: Wyland's assistant, who was to accept for him the Achievement Award, canceled this week; the Virginia Reid Scholarship winner, Elizabeth Keenan from FACET, will be unable to attend after all, and Louise Hering, the Upper Classroom Excellence winner, has a family wedding this weekend. One of our winners, Sandra Rogers, will be surprised at tomorrow's luncheon because all four of her grown children are coming in, including from Boston and SF. Barbara Terrel, her friend, has also arranged for seven of Sandra's administrators and colleagues from LBUSD to attend the luncheon as well. We will want to provide an extra reserved table for these guests in the front.

Kylene Beers, NCTE's President-Elect, will be joining us this weekend, and has offered to deliver a ten-minute welcome and chat from the dais about NCTE's more recent work, especially in meeting the new literacies. Several of us heard her speak on this topic at NCTE NYC; our members will be inspired by her message.

The website design is going quite well. We had hoped it would be up this weekend, but there are a few pages yet to load onto the new homepage, including the Annual Report, so next week it'll be. Tammie and Jeff, who have been responsive to our requests and input, have been busy working not just on the webpage, but obviously are here working on the exhibit hall responsibilities. If you have Internet, go to this page to see the design: http://www.cateweb.org/___newsite/index.htm. (Please speak with Michelle, Liz, or Charleen about additional ideas.)

In addition to thanking Liz, Charleen, Jeff, and Tammie, more "shout-outs" are deserved. Thanks to Angus Dunstan, whose legislative/policy CATENet postings gleaned from several sources have been so insightful and beneficial. I've received many emails thanking us for this service. Thanks also to the Advisory Board for another productive planning phone call. Huge thanks to Nancy Himel and Teisha Hase, without whom this marvelous weekend would not happen. Nancy's incredible creativity, diligence, and flexibility, and Teisha's talents in negotiating the best deals and managing the multi-tasking inherent in this kind of venture, are without compare. Thanks also to Kathleen Cecil, CATE's resolutions chair, for being on top of that process. She has been collecting ideas and background data all year, and also has posted out. Marvelous! More kudos go to Kern Council for rebuilding their Board, and to Capitol and TUCATE who have taken Kern's challenge and are growing in activity as well.

Reminders for convention are on the agenda. Please read those and do your best to adhere to them.

On a final note, my youngest daughter, Chrissy, now a junior, is with me this weekend to enjoy a college tour of CSULB and to "see what you do on those weekends." Goodness knows she's heard much about

our CATE work, and this will give her a great chance to observe us in action, something that's important on many levels. Not the least of these is her recent idea that she might just become a high school English teacher, thanks to the number of top-notch English teachers who have influenced her in her eleven years of school. Thanks, all!

Vice President

Charleen Delfino, Vice-President

I have enjoyed having Teisha plan this meeting, but I feel rather disconnected and not sure who is attending. I have been working hard to get a place for the May meeting. Many people wanted to return to the Marriott at SFO but they increased the cost for rooms and for the meeting room as well. The May meeting will take place Friday, May 2 to Sunday May 4 at the Hilton Santa Clara. I was able to get a good rate for the rooms and no charge for the conference room.

I have been working with Michelle and Liz on the new CATE web page with the new web master, Jeff Wilson who is making changes that will make it easier to use and more attractive.

Liz and I have also been working with CCCTE on the 2009 CATE Convention. Most committees now have a chair and we have a Theme for the convention: Voices at the Epicenter of Change. Two speakers have made a commitment: Taylor Mali and Gail Tsukiyama. Two other speakers may be finalized by the meeting on Thursday.

I sent out minutes from the Advisory Board conference call to all board members.

The Joint Committee on Instructional Materials met in Sacramento; I represent CATE on this committee. Many items were discussed. I have listed some that effect English/Language Arts:

There is great concern about the effects of budget cuts. There may be changes in the process and the schedule for the adoption of books/new materials because of these cuts.

It is estimated that Supplementary Instructional Materials for English Learners will be \$21 per student.

Title 5 regulations for Instructional Materials were passed in January by the SBE and are now in the Office of Administrative Law for final review. These regs will take effect after the 2008 Reading/Language arts adoption.

Three people within the State have filed papers to run for State Superintendent—Tom Torlason, Gloria Romero, and Betty Karnette.

Past President

Maureen Rippee

2008 CATE Elections

CATE members can vote one of three ways in 2008. Voting will begin at the Annual Business Meeting and on-line via CATEweb. The slate of candidates and ballots for the election will also be published in the March issue of California English.

As of the December 2007 Board meeting the candidates are:

President: Robert Chapman

Vice President: Charleen Delfino

Member-at-Large, Middle: Karen Brown

Member-at-Large, Unspecified:

Carol Clarke

Carrie Danielson

Member-at-Large, College: Cheryl Hogue Smith

Council Representatives:

Angus Dunstan (Capitol)

Liz McAninch (Central)

Tish Griggs (Fresno)

Barbie Lapp (Kern)

Anne Sahlberg (Redwood)

Ron Lauderbach (San Diego)

Carmen Carillo (Southland)

Carol Surabian (Tulare)

Shelly Medford (Upper)

Additional nominations can be made by the CATE Board or by an individual via a petition containing at least 15 signatures by CATE members. Individuals can submit their petition and declare their candidacy up until two minutes before the beginning of the Annual Business Meeting on March 9, 2008 in Long Beach. All candidates will be given the opportunity to make a brief statement at the meeting.

Candidates' photos (digital) as well as written statements (100 words maximum) should be submitted to the Past President as soon as possible, but no later than immediately after the business meeting.

Statements might include the candidate's educational philosophy, and the reasons they wish to serve on the CATE Board.

Members who wish to vote online will be referred to CATEweb.org to link to the online ballot which will also have the candidates' statements and a ballot to mark and submit electronically. Your votes will be received from your e-mail addresses and will contain your CATE membership identification number. Online submissions must be received by April 25, 2008.

Finally, the announcement of the 2008 election will be in the March issue of California English. Candidates' statements, photos, and a mail-in ballot will be included. You will find your membership number conveniently located on your address label. Because the convention is in March, the time to return the ballot by mail will be truncated in order to count the votes for submission to the CATE Board. Ballots submitted by mail must be postmarked no later than April 25, 2008.

A local committee will be formed to count votes taken at the business meeting, online, and by mail. The results will be submitted to the CATE Board for approval at the May meeting.

Each CATE member is entitled to one vote for the candidates of their choice. See the CATE By-Laws Sections 6:18-22 for details.

2008 CATE Awards to Be Presented in Long Beach

The California Association of Teachers of English is proud to congratulate and honor the following award winners:

CATE Distinguished Service Award

Akiko Morimoto

Award for Classroom Excellence

Martin Brandt (Central): Central Independence High School, San Jose

Kathee Godfrey (FACET): CSU Fresno

Louise Hering (Upper): Ishii Hills Middle School, Oroville

Sandra Rogers (SCTE): CSULB, Long Beach

Dr. Laurie Stowell (GSDCTE): CSU San Marcos Nader Twal (SCTE): Millikan High School, Long Beach

Award of Merit

Wyland (SCTE): Laguna Beach

Kerry Blum, Barnes Tennis Center (GSDCTE): San Diego

Virginia Reid Award

Elizabeth Keenan (FACET): Cesar Chavez Elementary School, Madera

NCTE Liaison Report

The NCTE Annual Convention, "Because Shift Happens: Teaching in the Twenty-First Century" will be held on November 20-23, 2008 in San Antonio, Texas. CATE NCTE 2008 delegates will be approved at the May board meeting.

The 2008 NCTE Affiliate Leadership Meeting for regions 2, 4, 5 and 6 will be held on June 22-24, 2008 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Since CATE is a Region 3 affiliate, we won't send delegates this year.

The NCTE Annual Convention, "Mapping Diverse Literacies for the Twenty-First Century: Opportunities, Challenges, Promising New Directions" was held on November 15-18, 2007 in New York City. A resolution entitled, "Strengthening Teacher Knowledge of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Issues" was approved. A detailed explanation of the resolutions approved at the Business Meeting can be read by going to <http://www.ncte.org/about/over/nty/resol/126091.htm>.

The CATE Board applauds the formation and accomplishments of the NCTE Task Force to Advance and Support Members of Color. During the 2007 annual convention the executive board approved the recommendations made by the task force which includes a new award entitled the NCTE Early Career Educator of Color Leadership Award which will be given for the first time in 2008. Its purpose is to support early career (first five years in a paid teaching position) teachers of color who are willing to take part in a three-day summer leadership development conference that helps prepare them to carry out a group or individual leadership project in literacy education. A short description of the task force's work follows:

Overview

Members of the Task Force have worked for approximately five months to pursue the four-part charge issued by the NCTE Executive Committee. They have conferred on six occasions by teleconference, have worked in an online workspace environment, and have met face-to-face for a two-and-a-half-day meeting. They have sought out information from many sources inside and outside the Council, and have conferred candidly about many challenging questions based on organizational policy and culture.

This report is organized around the four main charges given to our task force:

- (1) Analyze the current NCTE structures intended to involve and support educators of color by looking at recruitment, retention, and advancement of members of color within NCTE;
- (2) Provide an evaluation of NCTE practices as they affect members of color;
- (3) Recommend changes in current structures and programs, or in the creation of new structures and programs needed to support members of color;
- (4) Identify successful practices used by other similar organizations to recruit, actively involve, retain, and provide avenues for leadership for people of color.

A copy that details the work of the task force will be given to the CATE Board at the February meeting, and I recommend that the Leadership Committee put it on their May agenda for discussion and to make recommendations to the board on how CATE can support members of color and encourage diversity in our leadership.

NCTE Awards:

Nominations for NCTE awards such as Intellectual Freedom, Leadership Development, Award for Classroom Excellence, Multicultural Teacher of the Dream, and Early Career Educator of Color Leadership Award will be discussed and approved at the February meeting in committees. Committee leaders should check the March agenda for awards assigned and download descriptions to present to their committee for discussion. The NCTE deadline for submission is May 1, 2008.

Elections:

On February 1, 2008, NCTE candidates for the 2008 election were announced. CATE is pleased to support the candidacy of its California candidates and urges all CATE members who also belong to NCTE to participate in this year's election. Ballots will be mailed to members in April, and completed ballots must be returned to NCTE by June 1, 2008.

Secretary

Lorraine Tracey

- The December minutes were edited, copied, folded and mailed to the board members.
- December minutes were posted through Jeff Wilson on the website.
- September and December minutes were reposted on the website.
- Board directory was updated per additions and corrections from December meeting.
- Responded to emails from board members.

Membership

February 2008

#	Council	5/06	9/06	12/06	2/07	5/07	9/07	12/07	2/08	+/-
1	Redwood	37	32	34	36	33	37	37	25	-12
2	Upper	39	44	39	19	33	27	25	11	-14
3	Capitol	137	132	139	108	142	135	123	79	-44
4	Central	499	524	463	389	419	444	448	398	-50
5	Fresno	70	66	67	44	155	152	146	31	-115
6	TUCATE	32	31	31	14	28	29	30	17	-13
7	Kern	32	35	36	23	32	38	37	22	-15
8	Southland	900	878	811	422	605	621	627	409	-218
9	San Diego	192	208	206	152	159	188	184	172	-12
50	Out-of-State	27	27	36	26	28	27	37	26	-11
55	Libraries	24	24	24	24	24	24	25	24	-1
99	Comps	7	7	7	2	2	2	2	1	-1
	Total	1996	2012	1893	1259	1660	1724	1721	1215	-506

- Membership numbers are down from December 2007—approximately 500 fewer members than 2 months ago and 44 fewer than a year ago. The membership committee will continue to address ways to hold on to members and attract new ones.

- Electronic membership list requests—let me know if they are working for you. Most recent will be sent next week.

CYRM

The California Young Reader Medal committee met January 12, 2008 at Regency Park Elementary School in Sacramento. The presidents of the four sponsoring organizations were invited. Michelle Berry came as president of CATE. Paula Aja came as president of California Reading Association. The president of California School Library Association was also present.

Robin Radlauer-Cramer presented the reading lists for the 2009-2010 year so that members could start their reading early. The books cannot be any older than 2005. That is the cut-off date. These books will be voted on at the October meeting. Book titles were discussed that would be added to the list. We are going to try to get a poster for the 2008-2009 books from the list that was published on February 1, 2008.

The four organizations talked about their conferences this school year. CATE's conference is the last in the cycle. CRA will hold their conference in Sacramento, October 20-23, 2008. CLA will hold theirs in San Jose November 13-14 (date is not set exactly yet), 2008. CSLA will also hold their conference in Sacramento, November 20-23, 2008. And last of all, CATE will hold their conference in Santa Clara in February 2009.

The next CYRM meetings are scheduled. CRA will host the April 5th meeting at the CRA office in Costa Mesa. CLA will host the June 14th meeting in Sacramento at Regency Park Elementary School. And CATE will host the October 14th meeting in Claremont. CSLA will host the January meeting at a place to be determined.

Robin Radlauer-Cramer led us through the CYRM binders to determine what needed to be kept and what needed to be thrown out. She set up new dividers as follows:

Agendas and Minutes;

Policies and Guidelines (mission statements);

Roosters of members and other contact information;

Conference event guidelines and the list of which organizations pass out which medal for the categories;

Sample forms

Historical Articles;

Association Specifics for CRA, CATE, CSLA, and CLA.

Book lists. This will help everyone keep organized.

It was a good meeting. We were glad the presidents were able to attend. Next meeting is April 5th, at 8:30-2:30p.m. At the CRA office in Costa Mesa.

CTA

Deborah Martinez

Of course the main topic at this weekend's State Council meeting was the upcoming budget proposal. State Council put out a resolution condemning the Governor's proposed state budget. It also supplied palm cards to all members with talking points as to exactly why the proposed budget hurts California students and our members.

1. Some of the problems with the new budget were as follows:

2. It would slash \$4.8 billion from our public schools and community colleges over the next 18 months.
3. It cuts more than \$24,000 per classroom statewide.

California already ranks 46th in the nation in per-pupil spending, at nearly \$1,900 below the national per-student average.

Another action decided upon was the vote not to recommend any Presidential candidate until after the February primary. Council was originally asked to support a yes/no vote for Hillary Clinton but that was defeated and the substitute motion to wait until after the primary was passed.

4 C's

Bill Younglove, Representative

Since the end of December, I read and rubric scored 42 NCTE Convention (November 2008) proposals. I, also, along with Angus Dunstan, recruited sixteen (so far) student teacher helpers for the March 7-9, 2008 CATE Convention in Long Beach. Finally, I just registered for the Twelfth Annual 4Cs Educational Summit to be held at the Capitol Building in Sacramento February 29th, with debriefing on March 1st. CATE's legislative analyst, Martha Zaragoza-Diaz will be joining us.:-)

Central Council

Liz McAninch, Representative

The Central Board held a CATE 2009 planning session on February 9 in

Pleasanton. All of the board members are serving on the local committee and are recruiting additional volunteers from their local schools.

We spent considerable time suggesting, discussing and discarding logos.

After talking about the merits of suggestions such as Of Mice and Pen, Fruition, Idea Seeds, Epicenter of Literacy: Voices Erupt, All Children Brought Forward, Valley of the Mind's Delight, Negotiating Meaning, we finally emerged with Voices from the Epicenter of Change as CATE 2009's theme.

Some of the possible strands suggested by the committee are

Graphic Novels

Poetry Slam

Technology

Jazz & Coffee

Mystery Writers

Art & Humor

GLBT

ELL

Shakespeare

Committee members are busy looking for presenters and panels for these strands. We should have a better idea by our next meeting which ones are the most feasible possibilities.

Three ideas for the Friday night dinner include

Theatre Sports Improv

Jazz Club

Murder Mystery

The Committee will meet again in the late spring after our Reception for the CATE and NCTE writing awards recipients on April 13.

Submitted by Liz McAninch, President of Central Council

Fresno Council

Kathy Cirimele, Representative

The FACET board has been working on a writer/dinner with a local writer. Nothing has yet been determined. We are also working on our breakfast/brunch with Carol Jago in April. New board members will be attending the board meeting to prepare for our transition to next year. I will not be attending the conference but Tish and three other board members will be there

Kern Council

Barbi Lapp

The Kern Council held our first meeting with our new board on January 8, 2008.

Present:

Barbi Lapp- President

April Gregerson- Vice President

Cheryl Hogue-Smith- Treasurer

Jill Hamilton-Bunch- Secretary

Kristina LaGue- Member at Large

Theresa Sweeney- Member at Large

-We discussed the funds available to our Council at this point, and since then we've arranged to have control of the funds transferred to our new treasurer.

-We set a date for our Renewal Meeting... April 25. Carol Jago has graciously accepted our invitation to speak to us.

-We discussed the upcoming CATE conference- Barbi Lapp and Jill Hamilton-Bunch will attend as president and resolutions representative.

-We are in the process of gathering our members together for a mixer... we have a tentative date and location, but still need to work out details. Jill has been working on a flyer for this event.

Redwood Council

Anne Sahlberg, Representative

Spring brings the longest running event for the Redwood Council – the Humboldt County Writing Contest. Members Pam Cavanaugh, Treasurer, and Megan Day are currently promoting the contest by visiting teachers, attending department meetings, and sending out flyers to all schools in the county. The contest ranges from 3-12 grades and continues to generate higher levels of participation every year due to their sponsorship. Coordinated seamlessly by Pam and Megan, the event culminates with a reception and reading which had standing room only last year. Submissions are being accepted through April 11. Other than this event, Redwood has been relatively inactive due to an overwhelming school year. This spring we look forward to reconvening our group and make long terms plans for the remainder of 2008.

Southland Council

Carmen Carillo, Representative

The Southland Council of Teachers of English begins the new quarter with its annual Victorian Tea reception. The reception celebrates and honors those students who are NCTE writing awardees. Among the invitees are parents, family members, and the student's English teacher.

In April, SCTE will hold its Spring fling on Sunday, April 27 at California State University at Long Beach Japanese Tea Garden from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunspots, our newsletter, has changed its format to focus more on a local flavor and relevance to its membership. We are also working on producing an online format to reach a broader audience.

Upper Council

Shelly Medfor, Representative

Upper sent a gift certificate and check to our writing award contest winner Rachel Sumption from Grant School in Redding. We also notified our Classroom Excellence Award Winner, Louise Herring from Ishi Middle School in Oroville. Louise is unable to attend conference due to a family function, but she has sent her thanks in an acceptance paragraph.

We have been busy making preparations to attend conference. Much more interest has been generated locally. Upper plans to make as much contact as possible with members at conference to generate interest in local functions.

Karen Brown from Nelson Middle School will be attending as Upper's Resolutions Chair. She is also running for Middle School Member at Large.

Convention Chair

Nancy Himmel, Chair

I feel as ready as ready can be. It's been a roller coaster of a month as districts got hit with new budgets that forced many to cancel their plans to come. But things picked up and on Saturday morning, Punky sounded almost gleeful about our meal numbers. I have been in touch with all our authors, both major speakers and coffeehouse authors, and all are still coming; YAY!

My committee deserves many kudos, especially Cheryl and Carol (and of course Teisha and Punky and Anne). We are stuffing bags tomorrow Tuesday and they will be full of goodies. Borders across the street will have coupons for a free coffee drink for everyone. Many publishers are supporting the new teachers with books and gifts, so that reception will be wonderful...and an ice cream sundae party to boot! Flashpoint Shakespeare is giving out lots of free sign-ups for their on-line units, both to new teachers and to teachers at the Shakespeare banquet who have never used on-line technology to teach a play.

We have a lot of student-teacher volunteers, but if any of you want to work registration, I will probably let you. Lisa will be happy to have your experience on board.

We have a replacement Whale-watching cruise that Sena and Ben will be on. Hopefully others will join them.

And I am still having a good time, but I am having some very strange dreams.

I thank all of you for doing what you do best; thanks for the smiles and support and help. I have great hopes for the end of the week. I will rest Sunday at 3 PM.

California English

Carol Jago, editor

The February issue of California English included a record number of ads sold by Jeff Wilson. Many thanks and congratulations are due to Jeff for his hard work on our behalf. The draw for advertisers seemed to be having their products in front of members just before the convention where the advertisers would be exhibiting.

The CATE ballot will appear in the next issue of California English. This issue will be in members' hands soon after the convention in Long Beach. (The ballot cannot be finalized until after the Board of Directors' meeting on Sunday, March 9.) I will be offering a "Meet the Editor" session at CATE2008 and hope to encourage new writers as well as garner new reviewers for the journal.

I have submitted the June 2007 issue of California English, "My Space/Your Space" focusing on ethical Internet use to NCTE for its affiliate journal award.

Please help me spread the word of our call for manuscripts in any print or electronic communications you have with your local council members.

California English

Call for Manuscripts

June 2008: Teaching Literature in Peace and War (deadline May 1)

Literature can be a powerful vehicle to help readers grapple with issues and prepare us for the unknown. How have events since September 11, 2001 influenced your curriculum and classroom conversations? Does reading Wilfred Owen's "Dulce et Decorum Est," All Quiet on the Western Front, or The Things They Carried take on new meaning in a time when our country is at war? This issue of California English invites you to explore how English classrooms K-12 (think about the picture books Faithful Elephants and The Librarian of Basra) can be places for examining the human condition in times of war and peace.

September 2008: Teaching Texts Rhetorically (deadline August 1)

Teachers throughout California are finding innovative ways to use expository reading, writing, and rhetoric to prepare students for college course work. How does a rhetorical approach to texts foster critical thinking? What kinds of expository materials and themes engage student interest and promote academic literacy? How can issue-driven nonfiction help students develop the practices of fluent readers and writers and provide a foundation for principled debate and argument? Teachers who have created lessons using the CSU Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum (ERWC) are encouraged to submit manuscripts.

November 2008: Literacy Coaching (deadline October 1)

Please send all 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.