

Reports for CATE Board of Directors Meeting February 13, 2003, Palm Springs

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Convention Coordinator's Report and Convention committee Agenda

by Punky Fristrom

1. All is ready for CATE 2003. A grateful thanks to Convention Chair, Carole LeCren, as well as her key committee members. I have particularly appreciated working with Program Chair, Don Mayfield, Pre-convention and College Credit Chair, Martha Plender, Local Arrangements Chair, Catherine Linn, Volunteer Coordinator, Oscar Browne, Registration Co-chairs, Annette Davis and Cyndi Furr, AV Chair Charlene Delfino, Hospitality Chair, Jo Anne Mitchell, Lesson Plan Exchange Chair, Chiyo Masuda, Meals Co-chairs, Julie Steitz and Tiffany Campbell-Davis, Book Signing Co-chairs, Ken and Kathy Allen, and Concierge Co-chairs, Svetlana Lazarova and Loret Stagg . Many other volunteers will be working hard during the convention. I hope that board members will take every opportunity to commend and thank them.

2. Board responsibilities at the convention include attendance at the board meeting on Thursday, the Exhibitors' Reception (Exhibit Hall- 5:00- 6:00 p.m. Friday) the New Teachers' Reception (Pasadena- 6:30- 8:00 p.m. Friday), Council Caucuses (see program for rooms- 7:30 a.m. Saturday), the President's Reception (San Jacinto- 6:00- 7:30 p.m. Saturday) and the Annual Business Meeting (Catalina- 7:30 a.m. Sunday).

3. In addition board members should sign up and attend as appropriate the following:

Assist at registration Thursday 7:00- 9:00 p.m.

Distribute reception invitations and thank exhibitors on Friday afternoon.

Attend meal functions and sit at the reserved tables near the podium.

Work in the CATE Booth.

Meet in the Hospitality Suite (5255) before major functions when members of your council are being honored or to meet speaker.

4. Board members have traditionally provided gifts for exhibitors and books for new teachers at the convention. Please plan to continue doing so. Bring your books and gifts (wrapped if you are driving) to the board meeting.

5. Convention Sites- 2001-2006

2004 February 6-8
Town and Country

San Diego

2005 February 18-20
Santa Clara Convention Center
Santa Clara

2006 February 3-5
Hyatt Orange County
Anaheim

2007 February 9-11
Fresno Convention Center
Fresno

6. Convention Committee Agenda

- A. CATE 2003
- B. CATE 2004
Review structure and prioritize activities
- C, Chair for CATE 2005
- D. Report on site search for 2008

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CATEweb

by Larry Jordan

We are now in the the sixth year of CATEweb. There have been many changes and several new areas added during this period. I wish to thank all those who have been helpful in providing information which has made the web site a success.

I will again be taking photos of events and workshops during the convention. Photos of award winners will be taken at the end of the event when that award is announced. The Presidents' Reception is a good time to take photos of CATE officers so be prepared. If you have a need for additional photos which you want printed, let me know ahead of time.

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S.C.T.E. Board Report

Maureen E. Rippee, S.C.T.E. President

S.C.T.E. continues to be active in serving its constituency. On December 14, the board met at President Maureen Rippee's home for our annual holiday breakfast meeting. Even though we joyously celebrated the holiday season, we managed to revise our by-laws, write down descriptions for officers, plan for upcoming elections and issues of Sunspots, confirm plans for C.A.T.E., and make decisions regarding our spring conference .

In January the Conference of the Living Tree is held at the Mission Inn in Riverside. Many of our board members also serve on this conference committee and we continue our historic support by our attendance and our complimentary advertising in Sunspots. Our most recent edition of Sunspots was mailed February 3.

At C.A.T.E., S.C.T.E. plans to host a reception from 5-9 in the hospitality suite at the Wyndham, provide breakfast for our Saturday morning meeting, volunteer at the membership booth, hospitality suite, and at registration. We would like to recognize the superlative work of the conference committee and especially the work of S.C.T.E. Board members JoAnne Mitchell and Catherine Linn.

In March, S.C.T.E. will be celebrating N.C.T.E.'s "Achievement Awards in Writing" with Southland student winners, along with their parents and teachers. A Victorian Tea will be given at West High School in Torrance and our affiliate plans to give each student a monetary scholarship, as well as honor their teachers and parents for their support.

In April, our spring conference will be held at the Los Angeles Southwest Indian Museum. See description from flyer below:

**SCTE presents its 2003 Spring Conference
Meet, Meander, Marvel and Munch
At the Los Angeles
SOUTHWEST MUSEUM**

The Southwest Museum on Mt. Washington is located 1/2 mile west of the Pasadena 110 Freeway. Exit at Avenue 43 and follow the wonderful signs to the museum. Free parking is available at the top of the hill, so enter the museum gate and drive up.

Saturday, April 5, 2003
from 9A.M. to 2P.M.

Make your own rock art piece fun

MEET on the magnificent hilltop and take in the breathtaking views from the parking lot. Head down the stairs, stop at the totem pole, and enter the garden courtyard where registration, coffee and tea, a breakfast snack and a packet of goodies await you. Meet Barbara Arvi, the Southwest's Director of Education, for a short introduction to all the museum has to offer for educators.

MEANDER through the museum's extensive exhibits of Native American arts and artifacts on a docent tour. Enrich your knowledge of a disappearing culture as you admire exquisite pottery, baskets, clothing, tools and playthings.

MARVEL at docent Jack McCord's lecture on the universality of Native American rock-art symbols in communications throughout time. Then marvel at your own handiwork as you create your own symbol story on a smooth river rock. Teacher handouts suitable for all levels will be provided.

MUNCH and munch and munch some more on the wonderful buffet provided by Southwest Museum's favorite chef, Pepe Pena. We will feast on chips and salsa, cheese tamales, salad, sirloin steak and chicken fajitas with homemade French rolls, rice and beans, fruit and flan. Coffee, iced tea and lemonade will quench our thirsts. During dessert, enjoy storyteller Margery Thomason's marvelous presentation of Native American legends. Door prizes will be awarded after the storyteller!

We are presently planning our spring retreat to welcome new officers and celebrate the work of officers whose terms expire. In addition to our installation of new officers, we will work on plans for the fall conference to be held on October 18 at the Cerritos Sheraton, and work within our publishing, legislation, membership and publicity committees.

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California English
Carol Jago, editor

The February issue of *California English* is in the mail to members. Most should receive it just around the time of CATE2003.

I will be offering a session at the conference on writing for publication. I've developed the following "Tips for Professional Writing" that I will be presenting to participants:

Ten Tips for Professional Writing

- ... Write to an editor's call for manuscripts.
- ... Avoid educational jargon.
- ... No need for 20 references or works cited.
- ... Garner permission for student work.
- ... Avoid ending sentences with prepositional phrases.
- ... "Adverbs are not your friends." -Stephen King
- ... Tone should be friendly but professional (see Daniels, Beers, Wilhelm, Dunstan, Lovell, Blau)
- ... 2,000 to 2,500 words
- ... Read your essay out loud before submitting.
- ... Include a 1-2 sentence biographical statement.

Future calls for manuscripts

April 2003

(deadline March 1)

Words, Words, Words

Learning new words is a life-long enterprise. How do you help students acquire the vocabulary they need in order to read challenging texts? What strategies have you found most effective for teaching the connotative and denotative power of words? How do you work with students to build their academic language? Do you have particular lessons that teach prefixes, suffixes, and roots effectively? Have you found any poems or pieces of literature that serve as effective vehicles for teaching vocabulary? How do you help students move words from their reading to their writing vocabulary?

June 2003: Writing Instruction Revisited

(deadline April 15)

In order to be awarded a diploma from high school, students must be able to write two essays. How are you preparing your students, kindergarten through twelfth grade, to meet this challenge? Are there new approaches to writing instruction that have worked particularly well with traditionally low-performing students? What kinds of lessons help English Language Learners write accurately and fluently? Have you developed lessons that offer students fresh ways to write about literature? What issues are impinging upon your ability to teach writing well?

September 2003: Books for Boys

(deadline June 15)

November 2003: International Education

(deadline September 15)

The world is shrinking. Cultures are blending and governments are clashing. What can we do to improve education on an international level? What experiences have you had that have opened the windows of the world to you or your students? What activities, reading or writing have you done to increase student awareness of global issues? How has travel impacted your life and/or your teaching. What do we need to teach our students to prepare them for a world in transition? Share an experience you or your students have had that has expanded international understanding. What can we do to build a global community through writing and literature?

Please send all submissions to California English editor, Carol Jago. Articles should be limited to 2,500 words. If possible please submit manuscripts via email to jago@gseis.ucla.edu. If this is not possible, send 3 copies, a SASE, and disk to 15332 Antioch Street #539, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

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San Diego Council

Phil Bowles, Council Representative

The GSDCTE offers its condolences to President Oscar Browne, who lost his brother recently.

Participants in Promising Practices, the local December conference, were very positive about all aspects of the event. But because of lower-than-expected registration, the financial shortfall will total several thousand dollars. Linda Scott was recognized for her effective work on program and registration.

In light of a combination of the state budgetary crisis, the location of CATE 04 in San Diego, and the upcoming NCTE convention in the Bay Area, the board recently considered alternatives to the usual December Promising Practices format. In light of the fact that many locals have come to depend on a December conference (and do not attend CATE or NCTE), the board decided to reaffirm its commitment to Promising Practices in December 03, but to explore ways in which to scale back venue options in hotels for 300 to, perhaps, university campuses for 140.

The Lake Arrowhead Retreat, again planned by Carole LeCren, will be held March 14-16 at the UCLA Conference Center, (see flyer for details).

The council has been successful in attracting several talented individuals to attend GSDCTE events and to consider future service on the local board.

Local mechanisms for supporting the NCTE Writing Contest and the US Academic Decathlon are now in place. The date and place for the GSDCTE Awards Dinner in May have been confirmed.

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President

Anna J. Roseboro

Our organization continues to be challenged on two fronts: meeting the needs of the perspective and current classroom teachers and their professors and staff developers, and seeking to be heard and listened to by those legislative and political decision makers with whom we wish to share our expertise and experience. Recent reports on the national research that has shown the negative impact on academic performance as a result of increased numbers of tests and the inordinate amount of time spent in preparation for high stakes tests may help amplify the strength of CATE resolutions against such practices. Still, we are encouraged by the fine work we see going on throughout the state by professionals who are committed to doing their very best with and for the young people we are called to teach. Our 2003 convention theme underscores and celebrates the fact that we hear and value of the voice of the classroom teacher and those who help to prepare and support them.

Throughout out the year, I, have the opportunity to get to know more educators around the state. It has been my pleasure to attend the CYRM board meeting and get together with the presidents of the

other three organizations that sponsor the California Young Reader Medals - the California Librarians Association, the California School Library Association, and the California Reading Association. I have learned a great deal about the organization and its plans for the future and am confident that the four presidents all are enthusiastic about the program and the way it encourages students' recreational reading.

Participating in the Central, Southland, and Greater San Diego conferences has enriched my own teaching and deepened my understanding of the ways our councils strive to help us meet the changing demands on educators - especially those having to do with the testing, standards, and budget cuts. Despite the challenges, these councils valiantly plan and put on incredibly diverse programs that not only inform but also encourage and inspire those in attendance.

It was my delight to go to Atlanta, along with nearly a dozen other CATE board members, to take part in National Council of Teachers of English's annual convention and to see our Californians honored - Bill Younglove, who received the Classroom Excellence Award at the Secondary Section Luncheon, Teisha Hase acknowledged as a Prentice-Hall Leadership Award Winner and Susan Harman honored for her outspoken stance on high stakes testing. We are pleased to announce that Carol Jago is our NCTE Region Eight Affiliate Liaison and to let you know that she will help plan the regional leadership meeting to be held this summer. Don Mayfield has been selected to Chair of the SLATE committee and will continue his work on political impacts on education. We are proud to report that CATE members continue to share their talents on the national level.

My goal as president is to assure each member that CATE is doing what it can to fulfill our charge as a professional organization "to promote communication, cooperation, and educational knowledge among all persons and groups responsible for teaching English and the language arts; to identify, study and act on important problems in the teaching of English and the language arts; to promote the initial and continuing preparation and education of teachers of English and the languages arts; to develop among teachers of English and the language arts ways to improve instruction and education techniques in English and the languages arts; and to inform and work with members of the lay public who have an interest in the teaching of English and the language arts." To help fulfill this charge, I've sent letters to each of the California legislators who chairs or sits on committees having to do with education.

Each member of CATE can be proud of the dedication and diligence of your Executive Board of Directors, but we need your help. Because we value your experience and want to hear your voice, we encourage each of you to join us and help in whatever way you can. Volunteer to serve on your local council or to run for statewide office. Your active participation may be just what is needed to make this association of professional educators an organization that consistently lives up to the charge with which we're faced.

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Redwood Council Report

Cheryl White, Redwood Council President

Redwood Council is pleased to report a slow but continuous increase in membership. The enthusiasm and promotion of CATE from the current core members is a real incentive for new teachers to join. The ongoing process of registration for the April Napa Conference, to be held jointly with Upper, Capitol and Central Councils, is running smoothly. We are pleased at the numbers of requests for registration and it looks like the first annual Napa Conference will be a success. The recent budget cuts in education have, thankfully, not seemed to slow the registration process for Napa.

Redwood is pleased to bring forward a deserving Classroom Excellence award winner and to support a local member in his bid for the Member-at-Large position on the CATE board. We are also looking

forward to the upcoming CATE Writing Contest in which our regional participants are given the opportunity to shine statewide.

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Capitol Council Report

Submitted by Angus Dunstan

1. As a member of the Sacramento Valley Writing Collaborative (SVWC) Capitol Council hosted a workshop at Sacramento City College on January 28th. LauryFischer from Diablo Valley College led a very well-attended and interesting session on Teaching the Argumentative Essay.
2. Local board members have made plans to attend the First Napa Valley Conference in April and to help sponsor teachers whose attendance might bein jeopardy due to the budget cuts.

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FACET

by Janeen Langenheim

FACET is sponsoring:

An evening with David Mas Masumoto a local farmer and author of *Harvest Son*, *Epitaph for a Peach*, and *Country Voices* introduces to the Fresno area his newest, *Four Seasons in Five Senses: things worth savoring*. On February 21, 2003 Masumoto will entertain us with readings, special entertainment, and book signings at The Elbow Room in Fig Garden. Great thanks to Cathy Cirimele, our secretary, for making the arrangements.

Only a few locals will be attending the Convention because of the State's budget crunch. But those mighty few will certainly enjoy and learn and help Pauline Sahakian celebrate her most deserving award on Friday. Pauline is receiving the Classroom Excellence Award for secondary teachers.

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