

Reports for CATE Board of Directors Meeting February 5, 2004, San Deigo

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Convention Coordinators' Report and Convention Committee Agenda

by Punky Fristrom and Teisha Hase

1. All is ready for CATE 2004. A grateful thanks to Convention Chair Oscar Browne, as well as his key committee members. We have particularly appreciated working with Program Chair, Don Mayfield, Publicity and Graphic Designer, Carole LeCren, College Credit Chair, Martha Plender, Pre-convention Co-chairs, Jayne Marlink, Faith Nitschke and Karen Wroblewski, Volunteer Coordinator, Phil Bowles, Registration Chair, Carlene Hemric, Friday Night Event Chair, Robin Luby, AV Chair Judy Inskeep, Hospitality Co-chairs, Jo Anne Mitchell and Brook Suiter, Lesson Plan Exchange Chair, Minnia Curtis, Meals Chair, Michelle Shea, Book Signing Chair, Jeannie Oppliger, Author Co-chairs, Ken and Kathy Allen and New Teachers' Reception Co-chairs, Cheryl Schlachter and Teisha Hase. 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 (Sunset- 6:30- 8:00 p.m. Friday), Council Caucuses (see program for rooms- 7:30 a.m. Saturday), the President's Reception (Terrace Pavilion- 6:00- 7:30 p.m. Saturday) and the Annual Business Meeting (Golden West Ballroom- 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 (1110) 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- 2004-2008

2004 February 6-8
Town and Country Resort

San Diego

2005 February 18-20
Santa Clara Westin and Convention Center
Santa Clara

2006 February 3-5
Hyatt Regency Orange County
Anaheim

2007 February 9-11
Fresno Radisson, Wyndham and Convention Center
Fresno

2008 March 7-9
Long Beach Hyatt Regency and Convention Center
Long Beach

6. Convention Committee Agenda

- A. CATE 2004
- B. CATE 2005 - Review structure and prioritize activities
- C. Chair for CATE 2006
- D. Report on site search for 2009

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Redwood Council

Cheryl Schachter, Redwood Council President

Redwood Council is in the midst of frantically coordinating with Upper, Capital and Central councils for the upcoming second annual Napa conference. We anticipate selling out again this year as our speakers are equally as impressive as they were last year. Redwood Council is excited and proud to be a part of bringing quality educational opportunities to our membership.

Redwood Council is looking forward to this year's CATE convention in San Diego where Pam Cavanagh, Arcata High School, will be honored with the classroom excellence award. Pam is a devoted and deserving teacher. We are also looking forward to hosting, along with upper council, the New Teacher Reception at this years convention. Lastly Redwood council is very excited about the new boundary changes that will be ratified in San Diego. These changes will give Redwood Council the ability to reach an under served population in our area..

Jenny McBride is running unopposed for the presidential position for Redwood council. Jenny's enthusiasm and energy will bring new vitality to the council.

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CATEweb

Larry Jordan, Webmaster

I am proposing a protected area available only to CATE Board members. Here, information can be readily available yet not open to the general public.

1. A board directory can be maintained here, including addresses and phone numbers. Revisions can come directly from each member and therefore updates can be more timely and accurate. This would also relieve the CATE Secretary of this duty. If the

secretary needs this information, she can download it as could any other board member.

2. Any other information that the board needs but is sensitive in nature and not available to the general public or membership

There would be no extra cost for this and it could be set up on a trial basis, if desired.

Spam email has become an ever increasing problem. Sometimes the attempt to remedy spam succeeds in creating new problems. Filters are frequently set up to eliminate spam email. Although somewhat effective, these filters can also remove emails that are not spam. All mailing lists are susceptible to having email messages wrongly removed. The CATE Board mailing list through Topica.com, the CATE General Membership mailing list that goes to all participating CATE Members and the CATENet mailing list are no exceptions. If you have problems not receiving mailings to any of these lists, please make this problem known.

I will again be taking photos for CATEweb throughout the convention. Let me know of any particular needs you may have.

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Central Council

Charleen Silva Delfino, Council Representative

Central Council has been busy working on several projects with common goals—to meet the needs of our current teachers and to increase membership. We are pleased to be working with the three other northern councils: Redwood, Upper and Capitol on the second annual Napa Conference. We feel fortunate that we were able to take advantage of the NCTE Co-Sponsored Speakers Program to bring Louann Reid, Editor of English Journal, to present at the Napa Conference at a very reasonable cost. This is an opportunity that we would encourage other affiliates to look into. We know that Louann, together with our other presenters—Sheridan Blau, Jim Dodge and Hilary Zunin—will provide an outstanding program. Central will recognize teacher award winners and the winners of the CATE and NCTE writing contests at a luncheon in Napa on the Sunday following the conference. The four northern councils will also collaborate at CATE at the Saturday morning council caucus breakfast where we will discuss the Napa Conference and other common issues.

Another project is our Spring Saturday Seminar where we will partner with the San Jose Area Writing Project and McDougal Littell for an inservice day that will support new teachers and rejuvenate veterans. Many attending teachers will win class sets of YA novels and other works that will increase teachers' classroom libraries.

Finally, we plan to visit preservice programs at universities in our area to share materials and talk to teacher candidates about the advantages of belonging to teacher professional organizations—especially CATE, CCCTE and NCTE. We will also tell them about the yearly Asilomar and Napa Conferences. We anticipate a very busy and rewarding spring semester.

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California English

Carol Jago, editor

The February issue of *California English* should arrive on members' doorsteps soon after they return from CATE2004. This issue on "Books for Boys" generated a remarkable collection of articles from both experts in the field (authors Thomas Newkirk, Jeff Wilhelm, and Michael Smith) as well as from classroom teachers. In one particularly lovely touch, the cover artist has also submitted an article for the issue. Even the advertising reflects the theme. I plan to submit this issue for the NCTE 2004 professional journal award.

The addition of timely resolutions by the board is a wonderful addition to our journal. I strongly recommend that we continue this practice.

At CATE2004 in San Diego I will once again offer a workshop on writing for publication. At the session I plan to recruit new reviewers for the journal. The February issue features an article by a relatively new teacher who garnered her courage to submit through reviewing.

California English - Calls for Manuscripts

April 2004: How Do We Teach Poetry / Let Me Count the Ways
(deadline February 28)

Students need poetry. Few recognize this need, and in fact many are outspoken in their hatred for the genre. In her book *Rules for the Dance*, the poet Mary Oliver attempts to explain why it is important for students to experience poetry. "Poems speak of the mortal condition; in poems we muse about the tragic and glorious issues of our fragile and brief lives: our passions, our dreams, our failures. Our wonderings about heaven and hell—these too are in poems. Life, death; mystery, and meaning. Five hundreds years and more of such labor, such choice thought within choice expression, lies within the realm of metrical poetry. Without I, one is uneducated, and one is mentally poor." How do you help poetry come alive for your students? What lessons or poet's work strikes a chord in your classroom? How have you connected these lessons to California's standards?

June 2004: Leaving No Child Behind
(deadline April 15)

No Child Left Behind legislation is designed to insure that all children are provided with the help they need to succeed in school and ultimately in life. How is your school supporting students who are in danger of falling behind? What kinds of intervention programs or classroom support structures seem to be working? How have you identified students in need of targeted assistance without stigmatizing them? How have teachers at your school acquired the skills they need to teach in literacy intervention programs? Are there particular materials that seem to be making a difference for your students? California English would like to feature stories from preschool initiatives to AVID to college bridge programs. Let's share our expertise so that neither California children nor California teachers will be left behind.

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 and a SASE to 15332 Antioch Street #539, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272.

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2003 Annual Report of the CATE President

CATE, as the host affiliate for the 93rd Annual Convention of National Council of Teachers of English, personified the 2003 theme of "Partners in Learning" serving in all capacities from the co-chairs who worked for nearly two years to the walk-on volunteers who worked just two hours. Comments I overheard, during the convention and in e-mail following it, echoed with accolades about the professionalism and conviviality of our CATE representatives. You make me proud to be your president. Such a large number of CATE members played roles in the success of the convention that I'll refrain from naming any and instead will commend all. Thank you.

What an honor it was for me to welcome the nation to California at the opening night banquet and also to present a Featured Speaker session during the convention! It was a pleasant surprise to observe one particular example of the *simpatico* that pervades the CATE Executive Board, when, unknown to each other, I included in my welcome remarks a metaphor of the sequoias' root system to remind educators to work closely with their local affiliates in order to remain strong during the storms that face our profession, and Redwood Council President, Cheryl Schachter, had redwood seedlings as favors for the Affiliates breakfast! At this breakfast, NCTE presented several awards to CATE: *California English* (Carol Jago, editor), Honorable Mention for affiliate journals; CATEweb (Larry Jordan, webmaster), Honorable Mention for affiliate websites; Prentice Hall Leadership Award for New Teachers, Jenny McBride (Redwood Council); Classroom Excellence Award for Meredith Louria (Southland Council) and Gary Thomas (Central Council). At

the Scholastic Dinner Party, Californians Punky Fristrom, James Gray, Jesse Perry, Patrica McGrath and Felix Galaviz received Distinguished Partners Awards for their leadership in education. Also during the convention, CATE hosted a "Connect with CATE" reception, co-sponsored by McDougal-Littel to honor Kyoko Sato, the newly elected Vice President of NCTE. We look forward to Dr. Sato's leadership as she moves up the ranks to become president of our national organization.

It's no secret that all of our councils have felt the impact of restricted financial support for travel and fees for professional enrichment. Nonetheless, your CATE Executive Board and local officers continue to find economical ways to meet the needs of our members and English/language arts educators by holding less ambitious events closer to home. As president, traveling around the state, I've had the opportunity to observe much of this work first hand and to see that few of the councils have let neither austere nor frozen budgets extinguish the warmth of their generosity. I attended the sold-out, first annual Napa Conference, a collaborative endeavor of our four northern councils: Capitol, Central, Redwood, and Upper, who joined together to bring nationally renowned speakers to a meeting site nearer to our educators in Northern California. Central Council held its awards event on the same site the following morning and I had the pleasure of meeting and hearing Central's winners of national, state, and local student writing contests. What promise they show!

After seventeen years away from snowy New England, I experienced driving on icy roads during the season's first flurries in Yosemite when the Inland Councils met for their fall conference. The FACET, Kern, and TUCATE council members welcomed me warmly on that frosty evening, and through their fine programming, sent me home with lots of sound teaching ideas to share with my colleagues and with my own students. In an effort to salvage their annual local conference, the Greater San Diego Council sponsored a dinner at which one of their conference speakers spoke at a smaller, but well attended, evening gathering. We regret to report that because of inactivity and non-attendance at Board Meeting, we had to request the resignation of the Kern Council president and to communicate this action with the Kern members. It is our hope that with new leadership, the council soon will arise and provide the local services to English/language arts educators in that area of the state. As you read the individual reports of the council representatives, you'll note how each council is adapting to the new demands of serving their local members despite the reductions in available funds. More and more teachers are choosing to invest their monies because the dividends are worth it.

As a professional organization dedicated to communication, we continue to reach out and collaborate with other like-minded organizations. In this light, I accepted the invitation to first annual convention of the California Writing Project and later represented CATE at the California School Librarians Association convention. Aaron Spain, our CATE past president, attended the California Curriculum Coordinating Council and also the California Young Reader Medal January planning session. Sharing in such events gives CATE an ear to learn what efforts others are making and a voice to share what we're doing and to request their support.

I carry on with writing letters and sending CATE resolutions to local, county, and state legislators and decision makers. My correspondence includes announcements to principals, deans, superintendents, and college presidents of awards CATE confers for classroom excellence and for meritorious service to teachers; letters to legislators in support or opposition to bills relating to teaching and curriculum; to newspapers, and to our past governor, Grey Davis, and to our newly elected one, Arnold Schwarzenegger, commending them when they support us and offering our expertise to serve on committees and commissions whose decisions impact what we do in our profession.

During these two years as president and serving on the CATE Executive Board, I have been impressed with the commitment of the representatives you've elected and with the devotion of

those who've been appointed. You can rest assured that each board meeting is focused on developing and expediting strategies that will help you better meet the challenges of teaching the English/language arts here in California. I invite you to join us because we need each other as never before to serve at the local, state, and even national level. You can help CATE members maintain their commitment to our professional teaching values as they strive to raise the level of personal student performance on the California's state mandated standards.

This is my last year as president. However, as I move on to my role as past president, you can depend on me to carry on with the motto I announced at the start of my term of office: "CATE IS FOR YOU" and also to remain ever appreciative of your efforts to expand and improve the education experiences of students in California classrooms (K-16) and grateful to you for the hours you spend mentoring and sharing with novice teachers as well as exhorting and supporting veteran educators such as I. For me, CATE is you.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna J. Roseboro, President

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FACET

Jeannie Oppliger, FACET President

The last board meeting was January 27, 2004 and the following is a report of the highlights of that meeting.

FACET is actively recruiting new members. Our membership chair (Julie Andrews) is going to the university and college student teacher classes to talk up the benefits of belonging to a professional organization. We are in need of more CATE application forms to leave with these student teachers.

The Yosemite Conference Board met and is going in a new direction. There is now going to be a college strand and a Friday night speaker and Sunday morning workshops and many more exciting things. One thing that they hope to find out is if Kern is still going to be a partner or not. TUCATE and FACET are both ready to move forward.

We are also actively recruiting entries for the writing contest in hopes of becoming more involved on both the state and national levels. Our students cannot win if they do not enter. If they enter and receive some sort of recognition then possibly their teachers will see the value in belonging to CATE.

Finally, we hope that Carol Jago will be holding a workshop at Fresno High this spring. When she is in town, we are planning to have a reception for her so that Fresno area teachers can meet her and learn about her books and her professional contributions. We are still ironing out the details but we are looking forward to a more lucrative future.

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GSDCTE

Phil Bowles, GSDCTE Representative

Since the last CATE Board meeting, the GSDCTE Board has been consumed with preparations for the CATE 04 Convention. We look forward to seeing our more northerly colleagues at the Town and Country Convention Center and to the boost that a San Diego convention gives to our own local council.

Plans are underway locally for the annual Arrowhead Conference (Carole LeCren in charge), March 26-28, for the processing of the CATE Creative Writing Contest in the spring (Don Mayfield), and for our local Awards Dinner near the end of the school year.

Welcome to San Diego!

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Upper Council

Teisha Hase, Council Representative

Since the CATE Board last met, Upper Council has been working along with Capitol, Central, and Redwood councils on getting the Napa Conference off and running for the second year. As our Napa Registrar has noted, online registration is set up. We once again have great speakers lined up, and are hopeful of selling out again this year.

We are excited that Rita Smith of Nelson Avenue Middle School, Upper's Classroom Excellence Award winner, will be coming to beautiful San Diego. She, as well as the rest of us, are in for a treat, no doubt.

I am hopeful also, that a new leader is going to step forward and run for the position of president for Upper Council.

Looking forward to seeing all who put the cool "cat" in CATE.

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Past President's Report

Aaron Spain, CATE Immediate Past President

CATE will hand out thirteen Classroom Excellence Awards, three Awards of Merit, and one Virginia Reid Scholarship; CATE will recognize Jim Gray's contributions with a Career Achievement Award; CATE will honor Vince Piro with a Distinguished Service Award at CATE 2004.

At this report the following people have filed to run for CATE offices:

President Maureen Rippee
Vice President Akiko Morimoto
Jeannie Oppliger
Member at Large Sec Jaimi Kreilaart
Karen Wroblewski
Member at Large Elem Kathy Allen
Member at Large Unspec Oscar Browne
Joan Williams

NCTE Stuff

Deadlines for various awards nominations are as follows:

- April 1, 2004(?) Distinguished Service Award nominations
- May 1, 2004 Affiliate Awards (Leadership, Journal, Website, Newsletter, SLATE/Intellectual Freedom)
- May 1, 2004 Section Awards (Teaching Excellence)
- July 1, 2004 Orwell Award - Doublespeak Award

Information (some of which has yet to be updated) on other specific awards is available at NCTE.org.

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