

Reports for CATE Board of Directors Meeting

February 8 - 11, 2007

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center

2233 Ventura St Fresno, CA 93721

559-268-1000

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Convention Consultant

Punky Fristrom

Below is a draft of a document to be given to candidates for and new members of the CATE Board of Directors. Please send me suggestions for changes by April 16, 2007, so I can present a revised version at the May Board meeting.

Introduction to Service on the Board of Directors of the California Association of Teachers of English (CATE)

CATE exists to: Promote communication, cooperation and educational knowledge among all persons and groups interested in and responsible for teaching English language arts.
(Bylaws)

1. CATE is governed by actions taken at the Annual meeting, by the Board of Directors and by CATE officers, as well as the following documents: the bylaws, policies, presidents' handbook, and the documents defining the convention chair's duties.
2. The Board of Directors must have between 20 and 35 members.
3. Board members must be members of NCTE
4. The CATE Board meets 4 times a year in September, December, before the annual convention (usually February) and in May.
5. Board meetings begin on Saturday mornings, run all day on Saturday and Sunday morning until noon. The convention Board meeting is an all day meeting on Thursday before the convention. Council representatives meet the evening before each board meeting.
6. Expenses are paid for members attending board meetings including:

- a) Coach airfare or mileage for driving round trip from home to the meeting site
- b) 1/2 the cost of a hotel room for Saturday night at weekend board meetings and for Thursday through Saturday nights at the convention board meeting. Board members desiring a private room must pay 1/2 the cost of the room. Council representatives and board members who must leave home by 6:00 AM to arrive on time at the meeting are also reimbursed 1/2 the cost of a room on the night before the board meeting.
- c) Board members are expected to attend the Sunday part of board meetings and the Annual meeting at the convention which is also held on Sunday.
- d) Meals at the meetings are either supplied or reimbursed to limits decided by the board.
- e) Parking, tolls and necessary shuttle costs

7. Members must pay the registration fee and meal costs for the convention

8. Board members are expected to participate in board discussions, to serve on two standing committees which meet during the board meetings and to perform other duties as assigned.

9. During the convention members are expected to attend meals, receptions, the annual meeting, other appropriate meetings and to help with the Thursday evening registration.

10. Parliamentary procedure at meetings follows Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure.

11. CATE's publications are CATEweb, CATEnet and the journal, California English

12. CATE maintains liaisons with the State Board of Education, the California Teachers Association, the California Writing Project, the California Reading and Literature Project, and the California Curriculum Coordinating Council

13. Dues are split 60%/40% between CATE and the local council where the member lives.

14. Precision Assembly is CATE's membership and mailing service. It maintains the membership roll, mails California English and convention flyers and keeps an archive of past issues of journals.

15. Board members cannot by law be paid to serve on the board. CATE pays a convention registrar, a California English editor, the webmasters for both CATEweb and CATEnet, an exhibits manager, an exhibits decorator, printers for California English, the convention flyer and the convention program, and a policy analyst.

16. The Helms-Briscoe representative, Joan Jensen, who helps find meeting and convention sites for CATE, is not paid but receives a percentage from hotel rooms used for board meetings and the annual convention.

17. CATE's fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30. Income is primarily from the annual convention (registration, meals, exhibits, program advertising), membership dues, sales of items such as pins, selling the CATE mailing list and interest on deposits and investments.

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CATEweb
Larry Jordan

As our board listserv, Topica has been eliminated and we are now exclusively using the new CATE Board listserv.

Thanks to board members who have submitted dates for activities for their local councils. Please consider submitting your local events anytime up to a year before the event and they will be included in the calendar.

If there are any questions concerning CATEweb, the board listserv, board roster, how to submit a report or about anything you are unsure, please don't hesitate in contacting me.

I will be taking many pictures during the convention for a photo journal which will be posted on CATEweb. I would like to include any award winners with a representative from the local council. If you have a special need for a photo, let me know.

The password requirement to access *California English* and the CATE Literary Map has been removed.

As recommended by the Publications Committee, the follow changes have been made on CATEweb:

1. Menu item, "Archive" for prior conventions and old reports.
2. Eliminated "Conventions" and "Reports" from menu.
3. Link to CATE 2007 is on home page.
4. Link to CATE Creative Writing Contest on home page.
5. Added links to NCTE, CTA, CRA, CDE on bottom of home page.
6. New menu item "Local Councils". Where the local council has a website, the link takes one there. Without a local website, link goes to local council map.
7. CATE Awards linked from home page.
8. Boxes removed from the home page

The suggestion to add a search engine to the site needs further review to decide exactly what part of the site should be searched. A search engine is on the *California English* section which could be used as a model.

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FACET

Council Rep, Cathy Cirimele

In July, I took over the responsibilities of president of our council. Faith Nitschke has remained as treasurer but we are in the process of rejuvenating the rest of the board. We have added Kristie Leyba as secretary and Tish Griggs remains as resolutions chair but the other positions are still vacant.

Nevertheless, our council has been busy. On September 15 we hosted a back to school reception at a local brewery. Appetizers were served and gifts were given out to both new and experienced teachers who attended. The reception was hosted by McDougall-Littel. This fall we also began a Saturday author series held at Marie Callenders across from CSU Fresno. The series included continental breakfast and both poets and fiction writers were featured at each session.

On December 6, FACET hosted a tea honoring the five winners of the NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing. The tea was held at one of the local libraries and

the students, their families, their teachers and school administrators were invited.

This spring FACET is sponsoring a series of Saturday breakfasts again but scholars and teachers who focus on nonfiction will be featured. Topics include Russian history and its connection to Russian literature and using found poetry in the social science classroom.

As a new board member, I have served on both the membership and leadership committees. Presently, most of my focus on these committees has revolved around the conference in February. My tasks at the conference will include making sure the membership gifts are delivered to the membership table as well as coordinating one of the Friday night events and setting up a slide show for the Billy Collins dinner.

Most of my time as a new board member has revolved around creating more activities for FACET members, increasing membership and preparing for the CATE conference here in Fresno. Hopefully all of this work will result in high attendance at the conference and new members who can hardly wait to join a professional organization such as CATE.

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CYRM

Pat Lindsay, CYRM Committee Chair

The January meeting, hosted by CSLA, was held in Sacramento at the Regency Park Elementary School library. The presidents of the four sponsoring organizations were invited to attend. Marcia Mattson, CRA president, attended. Michelle Berry, CATE president, was unable to attend due to illness. Presidents of the other two organizations did not respond. The CYRM committee appreciates the support of the sponsoring organizations and welcomed Marcia Mattson's attendance and input.

Reports were given on the award events for the three that were held in November. CRA felt their conference went well. CYRM sessions, workshops and the luncheon were well attended. Sue Corbett, author of *12 Again* and Candace Fleming, author of *Boxes for Katje*, received their awards. In her speech, Candace Fleming stated that she considered the California Young Reader Medal as a "mini Newbery" award. CLA had 96 people at their CYRM luncheon, a good attendance for them. Michael Garland, author and illustrator of *Miss Smith's Incredible Storybook*, was a man of few words. Avi, author of *The Good Dog*, was not able to attend the CSLA dinner. Wendelin Van Drannen spoke in his place. She mentioned that she carries her CYRM medal with her and shows it to students when she is signing books. CATE's CYRM award luncheon will be on February 10 in Fresno. At the time of the meeting, Francine Prose, author of *After*, was scheduled to be present. Unfortunately, a last minute conflict will prevent her from attending. Milly Lee will be the main speaker.

The preliminary reading list for the 2008-2009 school year was distributed to the members. Further titles will be added for the April meeting with the final list compiled for the June meeting. The new nominees for 2007-2008 will be posted on the CYRM website on Feb. 1. Resource book assignments for the 2007-2008 nominees are due on Feb. 1. Editing will be done later in the year in time for summer posting on the website. Mike Brady from Bound-to-Stay-Bound has offered to provide 500 copies of posters showing the new nominees. These will be distributed to the committee members for their use with their organizations. Support like this is greatly appreciated.

Publishers and authors/illustrators of the 2007-2008 nominees were contacted in November and informed of the nomination. The 17 nominated titles were published by 12 different publishing houses. Three authors have sent letters expressing their excitement at having their books nominated and appreciation of the work the CYRM committee does to promote and encourage reading for California's children. These letters will be added to the CYRM archives with copies going to each organization for their files.

The remainder of the meeting focused on needed changes to the policies and guidelines. A positive discussion and consensus led to a preliminary agreement on the proposed changes. Copies will be sent to each member to look over and make further suggestions. Final discussion and vote will be done at the June meeting.

The next meeting will be on April 14th in Costa Mesa at the CRA office. Since this is the meeting where the votes will be counted, the business portion of the meeting will be short. Tabulating the almost 500,000 votes received is a time consuming but exciting task! The winning titles for 2006 will be posted May 1 on the CYRM website after the authors/illustrators and publishers have been notified.

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Convention Chair 2007

Pauline Sahakian

Since the last meeting in December, our work has been "pulling together" all of the plans that we had made since last December:

1. we secured all of the coffee house speakers (having to replace two),
2. firmed up the schedule with Punky and Teisha,
3. organized the new teacher reception and began collecting books and tote bags,
4. created a schedule for student teacher volunteers,
5. organized Tuesday as bag stuffing night with high school students at the hotel,
6. continued seeking goodies to stuff in the bags,
7. met with convention center folks about maps and local information available,
8. created "thank you" baskets for the key speakers (thanks to FACET)
9. set up the authors' autograph schedule,
10. wrote thank you notes for all presenters
11. purchased a bookmark for each presenter (funded by CATE and FACET)
12. created the certificate of attendance and the evaluation form and printed them,
13. purchased gifts for local and statewide committee chairs,
14. acquired a \$100 gift certificate to Fig Garden Village Shopping Center for a Pre-Convention luncheon drawing (thanks to Cathy Cirimele),
15. finalized the session numbers, titles, and room numbers for the presenters (Convention Center will post information outside of each room),
16. gave the information for the program booklet to Carole Le Cren who was fabulous in her design and attention to detail,
17. printed copies of the coffee house speakers schedule and the autograph schedule
18. acquired donation of Starbuck's coffee for Coffee House thanks to Jonica Bushman.

I think we are ready! It is a good thing that my maturity has gradually eased me into a balance between being right brained and left brained in my thinking and tasking! Thanks to all who have contributed so much time and creativity to this project.

Secretary

Lorraine Tracey

As of this date, I have:

- * edited, completed, printed and mailed the minutes of the December 9-10, 2006 board meeting.
- * had business cards printed for Cheryl Hogue Smith, Karen Martinez, and Shelly Medford.
- * updated Introduction, Policy 1,2 and 3 and had updated copies printed ready for distribution.
- * updated addresses, etc. on website.

RCTE

Anne Sahlberg, Council Representative

December's Redwood council meeting was filled with food, fanfare, and freebies. Joan Williams graciously hosted our holiday mixer where we discussed workshop topics and classroom sagas, stuffed ourselves and played games but not before collecting books and art supplies for the local teen shelter, The Raven Project, a division of LaunchPad.

We ended 2006 on a positive note having more people attend the last two meetings than the five before it! Now we have a stronger group to help answer the question – how can we gain local presence and build membership? It seems to build membership, we must influence educational opportunities locally. Perhaps it is because RCTE hasn't sponsored any local workshops in the last few years, but I simply did not understand the importance of this function – coordinating chances to become better English teachers. With this in mind, Joan and I have spoken with CATE board members, Carol Jago and Bill Younglove, about being speakers or presenters in 2007 which will allow us to co-sponsor a local event with the Redwood Writing Project and HSU. Both have graciously agreed.

Additionally, in December, announcements were mailed out for our local writing contest organized by Megan Day and Treasurer Pam Cavanaugh; entry deadline is April 6. And finally, we are excited to congratulate Dr. Susan Bennett, our Classroom Excellence Award winner, from HSU. We will be holding a celebration locally this spring for Dr. Bennett as she is unable to attend the conference due an obligation to the National Writing Project.

President's Report

Michelle Berry

These two months since our last Board meeting have been incredibly busy. Unfortunately I was ill for two or three weeks, but did complete the following in anticipation of our 48th annual convention, this year in the beautiful land of "fertile ground," Fresno.

I can't begin to sufficiently thank the convention committee, chaired by Pauline Sahakian and coordinated by Teisha Hase, for their hard work, flexibility, and endless patience with those occasionally unforeseen circumstances. May all who attend this convention find it professionally fulfilling.

Much writing was done:

- Letters to
 - Award winners: Distinguished Service, Classroom Excellence and Awards of Merit
 - Legislators in Central Valley to invite them to Fresno convention
 - Senate and Assembly Education Committee chairs re: CATE's presence and expertise
 - CDE re: supporting NCTE's position on NCLB renewal
- Convention program welcome column
- Awards presentations
- Email correspondence with Board and others as needed
- Annual Report
- President's Perspective for CE

The Annual Report was compiled and posted online with Larry Jordan's help. Thanks to all for your timely responses.

I attended the JCIM (Joint Committee on Instructional Materials) meeting January 31 in Sacramento at the CDE building. This is a group of leaders of a dozen groups (ASCA, CTA, CFT, PTA, AAP, CDE, CSLA, CCCC, CSTA, and others) that serves as an ad hoc advisory committee. While CATE has not been active with this group since Vince Piro's presidency, they look forward to our continued participation in this group which meets three times a year to discuss the latest in funding, legislation, adoptions, frameworks, and regulations regarding instructional materials of all kinds. Its main focus is K-8, but they also discuss secondary. Next meeting is June 8, 10:30-1:00.

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TUCATE

Carol Surabian, Council Representative

TUCATE and its board have been busy helping out with the convention. We are honored to have the James Burrell, the son of our award winner, to be the student to introduce Milly Lee, who graciously accepted to fill in for Francine Prose.

As the cousin to the south of Facet, we have been pleased to be able to fill in with whatever needs have arisen.

Hopefully everyone will enjoy a very successful convention and we will move into the spring with new members.

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CATE MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Joan Williams

#	COUNCIL	12/05	2/06	5/06	9/06	12/06	2/07	+/-
1	Redwood	40	36	37	32	34	36	+2
2	Upper	57	58	39	44	39	19	-20
3	Capitol	151	151	137	132	139	108	-30
4	Central	626	621	499	524	463	389	-74
5	Fresno	68	74	70	66	67	44	-23
6	TUCATE	20	20	32	31	31	14	-17

7	Kern	28	28	32	35	36	23	-13
8	Southland	720	697	900	878	811	422	-389
9	San Diego	191	187	192	208	206	152	-54
50	Out-of-state 33		33	27	27	36	26	-10
55	Libraries	24	23	24	24	24	24	---
99	Comps	3	3	7	7	7	2	-5
TOTAL		1960	1931	1996	2012	1893	1259	-634

- Membership numbers have plummeted from 1931 in 2/06 to 1259 in 2/07. We have lost 634 members since December. My belief is that some of these members are simply not yet reported to Precision because they renew when they register for the convention; however, the report certainly highlights the challenge of retaining members when conventions are held in different regions.
- Richard Hockensmith is working on a powerpoint presentation about CATE, focusing on council activities and the overall benefits of membership. He will have a draft to share with the membership committee for editing and input. He needs pictures from councils.
- Sun Valley Floral from from Arcata donated 3000 bulbs for the membership gift. Thank you to Cathy Cirimele for packaging them for distribution.
- A new poster of the membership map has been made to hang in the membership booth.
- Read and Write pins and Lucinda pins will be on sale at the booth.
- Membership committee members and council representatives from the Board need to sign up for duty in the membership booth.

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Past President

Maureen Rippee, CATE Past President

2007 CATE Elections

As of December 10, 2006, the candidates are:

Secretary: Lorraine Tracey
 Membership Chair: Joan Williams
 Member-at-Large-Secondary:
 Member-at-Large, Elementary: Kathy Allen
 Council Representatives:
 Angus Dunstan (Capitol)
 Liz McAninch (Central)
 Cathy Cirimele (Fresno)
 Greg Johnson (Kern)
 Anne Sahlberg (Redwood)
 Carrie Danielson (San Diego)
 Carmen Carillo (Southland)
 Carol Surabian (Tulare)
 Shelly Medford (Upper)

Additional nominations can be made by the CATE Board or by petition up until two minutes before the beginning of the Annual Business Meeting on February 11, 2007. This year, CATE members will be able to choose one of three different ways to vote. On a trial basis, voting can be completed at the end of the Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, February 11, 2007

in Fresno. Our online voting system is set up to meet the criteria set by the CATE Board at the December, 2005 meeting (see December 2005 minutes). Voters who wish to vote online will be referred to CATEweb to link to the online ballot, which will also have the candidates' statements as well as a ballot to mark and submit. Their votes will be received from their e-mail addresses and will contain their CATE identification numbers. Finally, the announcement of the election will be in California English where there will be candidates' statements and photos, and a mail-in ballot. A local committee will be formed to count the votes.\

2007 CATE Awards to Be Presented at CATE 2007 in Fresno

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

CATE Distinguished Service Award

Cheryl Joseph

Award for Classroom Excellence

Dr. Susan Bennett (Redwood): Humboldt State University, Arcata
Jean Burress (TUCATE): Royal Oaks Elementary School, Visalia
Kathleen Daley-Obrist (GSDCTE): Montgomery High School, San Diego
Adelaide De Medeiros (Central): George V. Leyva Middle School, San Jose
Pirette McKamey (Central): Mission High School, San Francisco
Sandra Nevarez (SCTE): Aloha Elementary School, Lakewood
Jeff Williams (FACET): Clovis West High School, Fresno

Award of Merit

Chris Hubbard (FACET): McDougall-Littell, Clovis
Gregorio Luke (SCTE): Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach
La Jolla Playhouse (GSDCTE): La Jolla

Virginia Reid Award

Vivian Cabrales (Central): Christopher Elementary School, San Jose\

NCTE Liaison Report

On February 1, 2007, NCTE candidates for the 2007 election were announced. CATE is pleased to support the candidacy of Carol Jago, California English editor, for NCTE Vice President, Secondary, who was nominated by Michelle Berry, CATE President. The CATE Board urges all CATE members who also belong to NCTE to participate in this year's election.

The NCTE Annual Convention, "Mapping Diverse Literacies For the Twenty-First Century: Opportunities, Challenges, Promising New Directions, will be held on November 15-18, 2007, in New York City. CATE NCTE delegates will be chosen at the May board meeting. The Affiliate Leadership Meeting for regions 1, 3, 7 and 8 will be held on June 22-24, 2007 at the Hilton Garden Inn (Chicago O'Hare Airport). Registration forms must be submitted by May 4, 2007.

Nominations for NCTE awards such as Intellectual Freedom, Leadership Development, Award for Classroom Excellence, Multicultural Teacher of the Dream will be discussed at the February meeting in committees. The deadline is May 1, 2007.

Resolutions from the 2005 NCTE Annual Business Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee

A detailed explanation of the three resolutions approved at the Business Meeting can be read by going to <http://www.ncte.org/about/over/nty/resol/126091.htm>

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Upper

Shelly Medford, Council Rep

Since the December board meeting, most of my time as the new Upper president has been focused on familiarizing myself with the duties and procedures of being a council president, and on encouraging Upper membership to attend conference. I have also been soliciting interest among local members regarding activity within the council as well as possible positions on a local board.

I am pleased to announce that Karen Brown from Nelson Avenue Middle School in Oroville, California will be attending CATE 2007 as Upper's resolution representative and has expressed interest in learning more about CATE board activity. Several other colleagues have expressed interest in working towards sponsoring projects encouraging literacy among our students. One idea -- a poetry jam at the high school level.

After conference, we plan to hold a meeting in Chico, hopefully with Michelle attending, to encourage activity and membership growth in Upper. I would appreciate any ideas for activity and growth or questions regarding membership. Please contact me at shellser38@yahoo.com or smedford@ouhsd.org.

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Capitol

Angus Dunstan, Council Representative

In January, in collaboration with the Sacramento Valley Writing Collaborative, we presented a well-received workshop titled:

"The Light at the End of the Sentence: Creative Writing Activities for the Classroom." The workshop leaders, all members of the Creative Writing faculty at American River College, presented a program of activities designed to stimulate creativity in poetry, short fiction, and creative nonfiction writing.

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Vice President

Charleen Silva Delfino

I was pleased to offer assistance to Teisha, but enjoyed having the responsibility for everyone getting the correct accommodations resting in her capable hands. However, I have been busily working with Joan Jensen to set up the May meeting. After agreeing that the May 4-6 meeting would be in the south, (to me that is anything south of Monterey), I focused on Long Beach, Anaheim, and LAX areas. As I suspected the best deals existed in the LAX area. We spent several days and many e-mails negotiating with the Hilton LAX only to find that they were in danger of being picketed by employees. I was very disappointed to discover this because I think that we ended up with a very good deal. Negotiations ended positively on Tues. and so we will be having our meeting at the Hilton Marriott unless there are other problems that arise in the next day or two.

Liz McAnich and I worked together to prepare a two-minute blurb on affiliates to be given at the Friday opening session, rediscovering that it is more difficult to say something in two minutes than it is to say it in five!

Greater San Diego Council

Carrie Danielson

I am chagrined that this is so late and being sent as I sit in my room at the Radisson, Fresno .Once here I realized that I neglected to do my report. Greater San Diego Council has been working hard to develop our Promising Practices set for April, the Arrowhead Retreat, and our May Awards Banquet.

In the meantime, we are beginning to collect helpful Internet links to add to our website and some board members are going to add links so teachers can access curriculum developed by local teachers.

We are getting ready for our panel to be presented at the CATESOL Conference in San Diego during April. Other activities include: 1) support for the San Diego Public Library and KPBS One Book:One San Diego Project that has already begun and will continue through the spring; 2) support for An Enduring Voice for California: A Celebration of John Steinbeck hosted and developed at San Diego State.

We continue to search for ways to support ELA teachers in our area and to increase membership. Again I want thank all the members of my council for their continued hard work and dedication!

Convention Coordinator

Teisha Hase

2007

Is here! The local committee did a remarkable job in all areas, but especially in getting sponsorship for different events. The increased sponsorship not only reflects on their hard work, but it reflects on the generosity of the Fresno community. I think the support of CATE is a great statement about how this community views education/educational associations. I am certain that CATE 2007 is going to be a great success on many levels, including financial. CATE is greatly indebted to all the local committee. Congratulate Pauline and the local committee, on a job beautifully done.

CATE 2007 FRESNO

Convention Chair

*Pauline Sahakian

Program Chair

*Samantha Caughlan

Speaker Chair

*Faith Nitschke

Meals & Décor Chair

*Tish Griggs

Table Decorations

Julie Andrews, Kim Smith Bradley

Concierge Chair

*Karen Yelton Curtis

Registration Chair

*Kathy Markovich

Volunteers Chairs

*Leslie Prusia—student teachers

*Karen Kyer --teachers

Hospitality Chair

* Faith Nitschke

Friday Night Chairs

*Carol Surabian/ Event #1

*Cathy Cirimele/ Event #2

Saturday Night Chair

*Cathy Cirimele (Slide Show)

Pre-convention Chair

* Jayne Marlink

Autograph Chair

* Kristi Leyba

Amenities Chair

*Bobbi Mason

Coffee House Strand Chair

*Jeff Williams, and Jonica Bushman

Lesson Plan Exchange:

*Laurinda Blanco

New Teacher Reception

*Kathy Godfrey

College Credit

*Joanne McKay

AV Equipment Chairs

*Eric Wheeler

Be sure you thank and congratulate all of the aforementioned chairs, along with Michelle Berry, President; Anne Fristrom, Treasurer; Joan Williams, Membership; Carole LeCren, Program Designer; Eddie Hase, Registrar; and Punky Fristrom, Convention Consultant for all their hard work creating what is sure to be a fabulous program.

Since December it has been very hectic with details of the convention. I have 779 emails saved in my 2007 folder, and I know I have deleted at least that many.

It was a challenge getting the room arrangements set this year. April Newton of the Radisson was extremely helpful in revising the rooming list repeatedly.

In mid-January we learned that Francine Prose, CYRM speaker, was unable to attend. That caused a flurry of activity securing a new speaker, redesigning the program and speaker posters, and revising the rooming list (again). It also caused a few choice words to issue forth from my lips.

My thanks to Michelle Berry who tracked down the Prentice Hall contact info. This was a detail that was especially elusive and important. After contacting Nivia Claussen, of PH, I am happy to announce that PH is sponsoring the CWP Reception Friday night and Billy Collins' presentation.

Securing banquet event orders from the hotel was a difficult process as well, and in fact I am still revising some.

Room Block

Our room block as of 2/7/07 was 712. We met our room block. A HUGE thanks to Jim Burke, who kindly posted, and reposted messages about the registration deadlines at the Radisson. A week before the deadline it appeared we weren't going to reach our room block, but we had a strong last minute surge.

Exhibits

Jeff Wilson did another outstanding job with booth and advertising sales. Booth sales stand at around 80 (including the comp/trade out booths) and we had strong ad sales. Jeff sold a lanyard sponsorship, and seven bag inserts, though, not all seven arrived by the appointed time.

Current numbers as of 2/7/07:

Pkg A	97
Pkg B	141
Pkg C	183
Reg only	243
St. Teacher Reg	10
Precon	51
Total	741

Meal Counts

Fri Lunch	461 (441 + 20 Veg)
FNE Wine Tour	102
FNE Armenian	130
Sat Lunch	475 (452 + 3 public+ 20 Veg)
Sat Banquet	492 (455 + 17 public + 20 Veg)
Sun	439

We have a very strong meal count, and since the meals are more economical than in recent past years, CATE should do nicely for our meals.

Online

Was closed down Tuesday, February 6 and even on the last day we received a few registrations. Online has become indispensable. Be sure to thank Larry Jordan for all his work as webmaster, including his key role in keeping CATE "online."

Fresno Housing Bureau

Unfortunately, housing is one area of the 2007 convention that has been less than perfect. I am not pleased with the inefficient manner that our attendees had to book their rooms. Several items came up that ironically I believe could have been avoided if the Fresno CVB had online registration capabilities, as CATE does. Obviously they don't have Larry!

Another thing complicating matters for the registrar and me is having two Friday events. Though it adds variety for our attendees, which is a plus, it creates more work than perhaps it is worth. I want to discuss the idea of limiting Friday events to one thing only for future conventions.

2008

I have already begun to receive inquiries about next year. I have been working with Terri Schrader, of Marriott hotels, trying to secure the Long Beach Courtyard as an overflow hotel, with no attrition clause. I canceled our initial contract with them due to the attrition clause.

2012

Joan Jensen has forwarded some proposals for 2012. They arrived Tuesday, 2/06/07, so I've not yet looked at the closely.

Other:

Registrar

Eddie Hase, CATE's registrar, collected the last outstanding PO from 2006, and so for two years he has a perfect record of collecting all money CATE was due. He expects no less for 2007. As mentioned in December, his contract ends following the convention, and he is considering proposing changes for CATE to consider.

One item for discussion is whether CATE should invest in a fax machine. Virtually all districts assume CATE has a fax to which they can send POs. Therefore, they wait until the last minute to try to send registrations in. This makes the registrar's job, and mine, very difficult in the weeks prior to convention.

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Central Council

Liz McAninch, Council Representative

Board members of the Central Council convened on January 27, 2007 at Lorraine Tracey's house in Sunnyvale. After feasting on the wonderful food prepared by Lorraine, the board finalized plans for the March 24 Steinbeck Workshop to be held at the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies at San Jose University. The board went over logistical details, including food service and menu, schedule of events and presentations, layout of flyer and organization of donated lesson plans for the booklet.

Planning Central's Reception for our CATE Writing contest first place winners and writers of distinction as well as for local recipients of the NCTE Achievement Award in Writing was the next item of business tackled by the industrious board. This event will be held in San Francisco on April 22 at the Brandeis Hillel Library on Brotherhood Way.

Charles Schaefer, Central's Membership Chair, has mailed out letters to all the secondary English Department Heads in San Francisco. In an effort to expand membership in our local Council, Central Board members from other counties and school districts will supply Charley with names and addresses of English Department Chairs in their areas. The productive (and fun!) meeting ended with an animated and excited discussion about possible presenters for CATE 2009 in Santa Clara.

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