

Board of Directors Meeting Reports December 2007

President

It's another busy season as we head towards our annual state convention in spring. I'm happy to welcome visitors to our December Board meeting: Barbi Lapp from Kern Council, Blair Campbell from Fresno Area Council, and Jeff Wilson, our CATEwebmaster and exhibits manager.

Barbi Lapp has taken the helm at Kern Council as its president since Greg Johnson stepped down, so we will consider ratifying her position as Kern Representative on the Board at this meeting.

Several Board members have let me know that they will be unable to attend this weekend's meeting due to unforeseen circumstances, and they will be missed: Richard Hockensmith, Martha Zaragoza-Diaz, Anne Sahlberg, and Carol Jago. We appreciate you letting us know.

I will attend the CYRM meeting in Sacramento on January 15th to which I was invited, along with the presidents of several other sponsoring organizations. I look forward to representing CATE there, and offering our continued support.

Letters to legislators in the Long Beach/LA/Orange County areas have been written, and await the addresses from Martha. I anticipate they will be mailed in the next week.

Similarly, I look forward to the submission of awards nominations at this upcoming Board meeting. Letters of congratulations and invitations to receive their awards will be mailed to nominees before January 1. As I did last year, I will mail a hard copy and an email copy, and cc each to the president of the nominating council to facilitate full communication.

Since our last meeting in September, when we worked past deadline Sunday to craft an emergency resolution against the reauthorization of NCLB, that resolution was sent, and certainly we might take some (little?) credit for the tabling of this reauthorization.

CATEweb's transition has begun. Larry and Jeff are transferring data, "secret codes" and such so that the process might be as seamless as possible. Jeff has asked that a protocol for sending him information to post be streamlined and limited. There are several of us who are working on that.

Kudos go to all members on this Board for your continued support, and for your volunteerism to this organization. I especially want to commend Angus Dunstan for posting on CATENet such wonderful synopses of legislative/political/pedagogical news, Kathleen Cecil for enlisting through CATENet more input for resolutions as well as her tireless work on the issues on the table, Teisha Hase for her diligence and multi-tasking abilities in assuring fine convention experiences at the best possible prices, and Nancy Himel for her mastering the learning curve of convention planning. We are a lucky bunch to have each other, a veritable cornucopia of talents!

Reminders will be given at this Board meeting that ALL Board members MUST write an annual report, email it to me at mmbb@sonic.net, and it's due December 31st. Here's the template, which will be repeated on the agenda, and in an email to all:

Subject line: ANNUAL REPORT

Top line: your name and position held

Text needs to include CATE business you've done in 2007

Tone should be somewhat formal and concise

Models available on website

The NCTE annual convention in New York City a few weeks ago was amazing, of course. CATE's presence was well-noted, through workshop leadership and participation, awards, NCTE positions of leadership, and other participation. Maureen Rippee, Teisha Hase, Joanne Exacustos and I distributed the promotional cards to exhibitors in the hall to entice them to come to Long Beach, and we were met with much enthusiasm. At the affiliate breakfast I accepted the Intellectual Freedom Award for Dave Eggers, and Carol Jago's for honorable mention in professional journals for California English. Maureen Rippee submitted her paperwork to run for Secondary Section Nominating Committee, and we will support her candidacy (along with anyone else from CATE who may also be on the ballot). Fantastic speakers spoke at the annual business meeting, as well as the affiliate breakfast and the college section luncheon. There was very little remaining time for tourism, but I managed a few hours here and there to attend an off-Broadway show, and wander the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The weather was cold, and my foot injury limited my ability to get around as much as I would have liked, but suffice it to say that we were as busy at convention as was humanly possible. I continue to be proud to serve CATE as its president, and am grateful for the opportunity to work with each of you.

Vice President

Submitted by Charleen Silva Delfino

Meeting Arrangements

I made arrangements for the December Meeting in South San Francisco. The next meeting will be prior to the CATE Convention in Long Beach March 6-9. Teisha Hase will be setting up that meeting. The May meeting is being arranged and will take place in northern California since the March meeting is in the south.

Board Reports

We will no longer be submitting Board Reports as we have done in the past. As we agreed at the September meeting, all reports will be sent out through a listserv. I will receive the reports and "bundle" them and send them on to Jeff Wilson. I will meet with Jeff and see what requirements he has. In order to be consistent, we will have a font and print size as well as a form to that we all will use. I will notify you after I meet with Jeff and in plenty of time for the next report. The annual reports may be slightly different and will be submitted by Michelle and not by me.

Council Information

Members of Councils, who would like to have Council Information put on the CATE web page, will also have a format for submitting the information. That will be decided once we talk to Jeff.

Joint Committee on Instructional Materials and Curriculum Frameworks

I am representing CATE on this Committee that meets three or four times a year in Sacramento. The group is an interesting mix of Curriculum coordinators from school districts and county offices. There were also a couple of librarians in attendance. The group was pleased to have a CATE presence on this committee. They are very interested in our resolutions process. I promised to bring copies of the resolutions to the next meeting. They distributed copies of the recent publications of the Science and History-Social Science Primary Adoption Reports which we discussed.

Past President

Maureen Rippee

NCTE LIAISON:

NCTE's 97th Annual Convention, "Mapping Diverse Literacies for the Twenty-First Century: Opportunities, Challenges and New Directions," in New York was a rewarding experience. The 2007 CATE delegates to NCTE talked to exhibitors, gathered information and contacts for possible speakers, attended the NWP Annual Meeting, attended affiliate meetings, attended the affiliate breakfast to celebrate and support awards within our region, and also voted at the Annual Business Meeting. It was a pleasure to witness Sheridan Blau accept the NCTE Distinguished Service Award at the Annual Business meeting, and CE editor and NCTE Vice President Elect Carol Jago accept an Honorable Mention for California English at the affiliate breakfast. You might remember that CE won the top award last year which makes it ineligible for the same award this year. It was an honor to see so many other CATE members receive recognition this year. Congratulations to Carol Booth Olson, UCIWP Director, who received the Alan C. Purves Award; Akiko Morimoto who received the Richard W. Halle Award for Outstanding Middle Level Educator; Dave Eggers who was CATE's nominee for the NCTE/SLATE Intellectual Freedom Award; and Carrie Danielson and Pirette McKamy who received Teacher Excellence Awards. You can visit ncte.org for the NCTE President and the Executive Director's reports, as well as information on the resolutions passed at the Annual Business meeting.

CATE AWARDS:

The 2008 Distinguished Service Award Committee of past presidents has made a decision, and will present a name to the board at the December Board meeting. At the March 7-9, 2008 convention, we will honor the Distinguished Service recipient during the Saturday night banquet. Council presidents are reminded that the two packets (one original and one copy of nomination form and four recommendations) for council nominees for the Classroom Excellence and Award of Merit nominees should be submitted to me before the beginning of the December meeting for Board approval. Award forms were posted on CATEweb in May. FACET's nominee for the Virginia Reid Award should also be submitted at this time. All nominees who have been approved will be notified by President Michelle Berry, and honored at the convention.

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 April issue of California English. Because our convention is in March in 2008, the time to return your ballot via mail will be truncated in order to count your votes for submission to the CATE Board for approval on May 3. Your mail in votes must be postmarked by April 25, 2008. Nomination forms from councils are due at the December Board meeting for the following offices:

*President

*Vice President

*Member-at-Large, Middle

*Member-at-Large, College

*Member-at-Large, Unspecified

Council Representatives:

Angus Dunstan, Capitol

Liz McAninch, Central

Patricia Griggs, FACET

Carrie Danielson, GSDTE

Anne Sahlberg, Redwood

Carmen Carillo, Southland

Barbi Lapp, Kern

Carol Surabian, TUCATE

Shelly Medford, Upper

Nominations by petition can be made any time before the start of the Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, March 9, 2008. All candidates will be given the opportunity to make a brief statement at the meeting. Candidates' photos (digital) and 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. 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 about election process.

Secretary

Lorraine Tracey, Secretary

Edited, printed and sent minutes for the September 8,9, 2007 CATE meeting.

Had business cards printed for Kathleen Cecil, Carmen Caririllo and Barbi Lapp

Purchased binder and inserts for Barbi Lapp

Responded to emails: Kathleen Cecil,

thasrilant re copies of old issues of CE & others

Sent emails to:

Jeff Wilson

Barbi Lapp

& others

Respectfully submitted, Lorraine Tracey, Secretary

Resolutions

Kathleen Cecil, Chair

Resolutions Chair Board Report for December CATE Meeting

--contacted council presidents to update resolutions rep contact list

--posted a call for resolutions with CATenet & in the current issue of California English

--attended meeting of resolution committee at NCTE & business meeting where resolutions were presented

--began drafts for two resolutions to be brought to CCCTE meeting December 1st

Respectfully submitted

CTA

Debra Martinez, Representative

NCLB Reauthorization

Through the strength of CTA and organized educators, congressional leaders announced last week that the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act would not take place this year. Senator Kennedy

noted too many concerns about the law from teachers and parents when he said the Senate didn't have the votes to take action now.

But we are still left with the same bad version of NCLB that has besieged our schools since it was enacted. The delay, however, gives us more time to make sure Congress gets it right. It will allow us to ensure that lawmakers Erase, Rewrite and then Reauthorize.

State Budget

The Governor's forecast for the "Year of Education" got a little cloudier as the Department of Finance is now projecting a \$10 billion deficit in the state budget and is talking about 10 percent across-the-board reductions for all state departments. CTA and the entire Education Coalition have already been talking about protecting Proposition 98 and ensuring that our public schools get the money they are owed under state law.

Healthy Air, Healthy Kids

Leading efforts to draw attention to the impact of indoor air quality on teaching and learning, CTA sponsored a statewide summit on Prioritizing Indoor Air Quality in Public Schools. More than 90 people from education, parent, business, environmental, health and community organizations attended the Sacramento event.

CTA Sponsorship of CATE Conference

CTA leadership okayed funding of \$6,000 for the CATE conference continental breakfast on Friday morning, March 7, 2008.

4 C's

Bill Younglove, Representative

On October 6, 2007, the 4 Cs representatives gathered in Sacramento to share common concerns and to hear speakers provide background and updates regarding the state and federal assessment and accountability programs that govern much of what teachers and students do in schools these days. Searching for greater flexibility in these mandates will be the theme of this next year's February 29th/March 1st summit at the Capitol.

The morning presenter, Isabelle Garcia, Legislative Advocate for the California Teachers Association, provided information about the status of API, AYP, CAHSEE and the (still) pending reauthorization of NCLB. Of tremendous value was the packet she made available, a copy of which is displayed on our reports' table. CATE may want to consider contacting CTA to see if the packet might be made available to all Executive Board members. I would draw to your attention the following, especially:

- 1.) The CDE's (August) 2007 Adequate Yearly Progress Report Information Guide (also available at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ayp/>)--I found the multipage Glossary of Terms and Acronyms to be one of the most enlightening aspects of the report.
- 2.) NEA's President's Budget Request, Fiscal Year 2008--See especially the targeted impact aid to 15 programs on page 2.
- 3.) Grade-by-Grade State Testing Policies--fascinating to see who tests the core subject areas--and when.
- 4.) California Assessment System 2007-08--laid out on one sheet! Did you know all that; all those acronyms in the Legend at the bottom?
- 5.) Academic Performance Index--a good, concise review.

6.) Overview of California's 2006-07 Accountability Progress Reporting System--tells, really, if not clearly, how the API and AYP "mesh."

7.) Five News Releases from State Superintendent Jack O'Connell (Can you say, "Runs for Governor in 2010?"):

a.) 2007 Accountability Progress Report--chronicles the gains and pains in a dozen-plus tables, including that persistent achievement gap.

b.) 2007 STAR Results--most interesting are the gains and persistent gaps in the targeted groups, economically disadvantaged vs. those who are not.

c.) Achievement Gap Fact Sheet--here, O'Connell promotes a 3-way attack on the problem: P-16 Council to develop a comprehensive plan, a statewide achievement gap summit 9 (that) was held November 13-14, 2007, in Sacramento, and improved teacher preparation to foster standards and meet diverse student needs.

d.) Statement From O'Connell Regarding CAHSEE Lawsuit Settlement--O'Connell praises the "stay the course" outcome, but agrees with Assembly Member Nava's bill to guarantee district academic assistance for two years to students who fail the exam,

e.) O'Connell Releases 2006-07 CAHSEE Results: While HUMRRO had not finished its analysis, O'Connell was pleased with the increased, 93.3% pass rate. Only the demographic table breakdown gives a picture of those who still struggle with the exam. Also, currently, the exemption for special education students in the 2007 test administration will sunset on 12/31/07.

8.) CLUE--The report from the umbrella organization of grassroots organizations is interesting, in part because their statewide survey, Now That We Have the Facts, supported the Stanford studies' call for more funding. Some 82% of the 5600 students and parents responding said that high school graduation should mean college or a skilled job.

Most of the rest of the packet materials deal with means of addressing the pending reauthorization of NCLB--specific advocacy recommendations, resolutions, sample letters, etc. As you likely know, the bill's passage is not only improbable this year, but appears somewhat unlikely during 2008, perhaps occurring with the election of a different (not just new) President. Contrasted with this fall's rush to legislate, we might be able to provide meaningful revision to the Title I Act. If the law is not renewed, it will expire in three years (2010).

Isabel Garcia's other problem points regarding assessment/accountability are bulleted below:

- Funds that are provided are often not allocated to needed areas.
- Where is the bridge to integrate academic standards and Career Technical Education (and the workplace)?
- Who has the authority to revise the standards (legislature or State Board of Education)?
- What is the dropout rate (and in the absence, still, of a California Assessment Longitudinal System--how do/will we know?)?
- What will it cost to meet the standards (and will Ouchi's Weighted Student Formula be the way to go?)?
- How can we get Title I to supplement (its original function); not supplant California's superior (growth model) assessment system?
- How can we broaden the curriculum again and turn back the clock on the damage that high stakes testing has done?

The afternoon was given over to Fred Jones who spoke about the effects of some of the players in California's Educational Establishment: key legislators, O'Connell, Secretary of Education David Long, etc. Bulleted highlights follow:

- Reminded us that Title I NCLB funds have been about 8% of the school funding for years; that there is no U.S. Constitutional provisions for any federal monies/mandates.
- UCLA IDEA studies have pegged state high school dropout rates as high as 40%.
- The State Education Code (51228) describes the purpose of high school as preparing for higher education and (emphases added) the workforce.
- In 1960, the average skilled apprentice in trades was 19 years old; now s/he is 29.
- The Department of Education's \$105 million for Program Improvement--remediation--is for reading and math.
- Politicians lead by following what's in the wind. Outcomes are determined by the ballot box or the jury box.
- The Gates Foundation discovered that 88% of the dropouts had passing grades when they quit, and 70% said they could have graduated if they had tried, but they did not deem school as relevant.
- In 1960, 73% of the students took career tech courses; now it is 31%.
- Depending upon the health care fallout, there may be \$2.2 to 4 billion dollars freed up for dealing with policy issues (Note: This was before the recent home loan crisis.).

Following the presentation, 4 Cs President Brad Huff iterated that many of us are looking for a school where children are treated like children. He went on to review the short range goals 4 Cs drafted at the February 24, 2007 meeting; noted that a 4 Cs White Paper of strategic objectives would be formulated by the end of December, approved ideally by member organizations by December 30th, and put into final draft from by mid- January, for later dissemination. To this end, I submitted several brainstormed goals that seem in accordance with CATE's policies and stands:

1. Influence education policymakers to provide multiple pathways (sic) for student success, meeting the needs of diverse populations.
2. Educate member organizations about current issues.
3. Promote and support educational leadership.
4. Broaden [the] curriculum.
5. Increase student options.
6. Get [teacher] bodies [and minds] on policymaking Commissions.
7. Communicate to [with] state policymakers about policy issues.
8. Maximize input on the reauthorization of NCLB.

CDE Update

(Submitted by Mary Ann Goodwin)

Special Needs Document for Secondary Students

CISC/ELA (Curriculum and Instruction Steering Committee/English Language Arts) of CCSESA (CA County Superintendents Educational Service Delivery Areas) is developing a Special Needs document to address implementation of the RtI (Response to Intervention) Model as it pertains to issues in the secondary

language arts classroom. The document, which is shared statewide, will include an introductory section, including the purpose and background of the document, definition and goals of RtI, and student placement issues. Completion is slated for spring, 2008.

Professional Development for Reading Teachers

Many districts are struggling with assisting teachers in completing the required 80-hour SB 472 Follow-Up Portfolio. One way Los Angeles County Office of Education responded was to create an online course. LACOE's Center for Distance and Online Learning, in conjunction with Secondary Language Arts, created an online resource for teachers to help them complete their portfolios. Teachers work on modules or "bundles" which help them fully implement instructional program materials in order to increase student achievement. The course includes practical classroom strategies, resources for creating classroom newsletters and websites, video clips of teacher demonstrations and a host of other valuable tools. This online course provides anywhere, anytime access and connects teachers to an online community of their peers, where discussions related to classroom practice can take place. This course can be taken by teachers across the state. Information is available at <http://cis.lacoe.edu/sb472rla>

Secondary Literacy Summit VIII: Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships

Preparations continue for the Secondary Literacy Summit slated for April 1 and 2, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency SFO in Burlingame. Key Note speakers include Drs. Willard Daggett, John Guthrie, and Kate Kinsella. The chair of the 2008 Summit is Cathi Bardo and the Sacramento County Office of Education. Information is now online at <http://www.scoe.net/news/library/2007/september/07literacy.html>

Recent publications available online

Creating a Culture of Literacy: A Guide for Middle and High School Principals [6-12]

This 2005 report from the National Association of Secondary School Principals describes research-based practices that can be used to create a secondary school literacy instructional plan that not only targets the literacy of all students but also encourages postsecondary education and the enhancement of future employability. It also includes descriptions of schools that have implemented these practices. A hard copy of the document is \$21 from the National Association of Secondary School Principals. However, it is available for free in PDF format from several internet sites, such as <http://www.ecs.org/html/Document.asp?chouseid=6478> .

Reading at Risk: The State Response to the Crisis in Adolescent Literacy [5-12]

The final report of a year-long study of adolescent literacy conducted by the National Association of State Boards of Education, this 2006 document outlines recommendations for policymakers based on joint problem-solving, collaborative practice, and collective accountability that engages students in purposeful reading and writing in all subjects being taught. It is available at http://www.nasbe.org/Adolescent%5FLiteracy/Files/Reading_At_Risk_Full_Report.pdf

Literacy Instruction in the Content Areas: Getting to the Core of Middle and High School Improvement [6-12]

This report from the Alliance for Excellent Education describes issues that must be addressed as students move beyond achieving basic reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills to more advanced literacy skills that will enable them to succeed in academic content areas. It is available at http://www.all4ed.org/publication_material/reports/literacy_instruction_content_areas .

Improving Literacy Instruction in Middle and High Schools: A Guide for Principals [6-12]

This "quick start" guide for principals of both middle and high schools identifies three goals for secondary school literacy initiatives and provides elements of instruction required to meet these goals. It then outlines the critical elements of a school-level literacy action plan.

Central Council

Submitted by Liz McAninch

President, CCCTE

Central Council has held two meetings this fall: September 27/28 at Asilomar and December 1 in San Francisco. Thanks to the generous donations of board members, we put together a record-breaking nineteen Chiyo baskets for the Scholarship raffle held during the Curriculum Study Commission Conference. We made more than \$800 for new teacher scholarships to Asilomar and CATE. Calendar dates were finalized for the 2007-08 year.

At the most recent meeting, Liz McAninch and Kathleen Cecil reported on NCTE in New York. CATE's nominee, Central's Pirette McKamey of Mission High School in San Francisco, was recognized as a Teacher of Excellence at the NCTE Secondary Luncheon.

At our most recent meeting, the board continued planning for a one-day workshop on February 2, 2008 at The Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University. Presenters include Andrea McEvoy Spero and Ashni Mohnot of the Liberation Curriculum Initiative of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University. Breakout sessions will feature presenters from BAWP and the Dream School Project.

We worked on drafts of proposed resolutions by Kathleen Cecil, Central's Policy Chair and Bev Kreps, Central's Writing contest coordinator, brought student entries for the board to read. Winners were selected in the 5/6, 7/8 and 11/12 categories. CCCTE will host a reception for both CATE and NCTE Writing Award recipients on Sunday, April 12 in San Francisco.

The CATE 2009 Committee will meet on March 15, 2008.

The meeting ended with a 5-star luncheon and a lively gift exchange.

Submitted by Liz McAninch

President, CCCTE

Kern Council

Submitted by Cheryl Smith and Barbi Lapp

Barbi Lapp has agreed to become the new Kern Council President after Greg Johnson's approved resignation at the last board meeting. Barbi teaches at Liberty High School.

Since Barbi's inauguration, Kern has developed a full board:

President: Barbi Lapp, Liberty High

Vice President: April Gregerson, Delano High School

Secretary: Jill Hamilton-Bunch, Point Loma University

Treasurer: Randy Hamm (until his resignation, at which point Cheryl Smith will assume his duties)

In trying to make Kern a more active CATE council, we also followed the composition of the CATE Board and added Members-at-Large positions. The following are Members-at-Large:

Teresa Sweeny, DiGiorgio School (K teacher)

Kris LaGue, CSUB

Kern's new resolutions liaison is Jill Hamilton-Bunch.

Our first meeting for the new Kern Board will take place in January. At that time, we will discuss plans to increase membership in the Kern area and make Kern a more active site.

San Diego Council

Carrie Danielson, Representative

Greater San Diego Council has had a busy fall. We had a really successful Promising Practices that was organized by Robin Luby and Kristen Gall. Our speakers were Carol Booth Olson and Alan Sitomer.

We had a number of break-out sessions that were well attended. Next spring, our speakers will be: James Blasingame and Laura Robb. We hear great things about them and believe this Promising Practices will also be well attended.

We continue to wrestle with ways to increase participation from Imperial County teachers and to add to our membership. Our Board has had to say goodbye to some members while we are happy to welcome some new faces to our group.

Our Writing Contest Committee finished selecting student writing for the CATE Creative Writing Contest. Several members of our Board had the pleasure to attend NCTE in New York. The Council is proud that Akiko Morimoto was awarded the Richard W. Halle Award for Outstanding Middle Level Educator! It was exciting to see Carol Jago in her new role at NCTE!

We are also developing a format for our Lake Arrowhead Retreat and urge anyone who would like a lovely time to read, write, rest, and think to join us...

In May, we will end our year with our traditional Awards Banquet!

Carrie Danielson

President

Greater San Diego Council of Teachers of English

Southland Council

Carmen Carrillo, Representative

Commendations to Nancy Himel who organized the annual fall conference held on Saturday, October 20, 2007, at the Whittier Radisson Hotel. The conference centered upon the issue of undocumented students with guest speakers Reyna Grande, Across a Hundred Mountains, and Sonia Nazario, the Los Angeles Times reporter who wrote the acclaimed Enrique's Journey. The issue allowed for discussion of critical information and resources. Planning for next year's conference is underway.

The Council plans on restating its Roundtable discussions throughout its region, so plans to encourage its development and encouragement to join will begin through our newsletter, Sunspots.

Nancy Himel has also planned our Spring Fling, the spring annual conference, to be held at the Japanese Tea Garden on Sunday, April 27, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Resolutions were discussed at our last meeting with our Resolutions Chair, Karen Martinez.

Our Membership Chair, Richard Hockensmith discussed various strategies to promote membership, including a listserv; joint conference ventures with other regional affiliates, like San Diego; and create a column in the newsletter "What's Happening in the State."

Sunspots has a new editor, Jim Prothero from Saddleback High School. He shared a list of ideas to reformulate the newsletter.

The Council has adopted an Annual Timeline that outlines events, meetings, and deadlines.

Finally, on March 30, 2008, SCTE hosts its annual NCTE Writing Awards ceremony with a tea reception.

Upper Council

Shelly Medford, Representative

Since September, Upper has worked on creating a contact/ mailing list of the schools in our council. Letters were sent out to districts and schools asking for Classroom Excellence Award nominations. We have chosen a wonderful candidate for the Classroom Excellence Award. In addition, writing contest submissions were submitted and read. A winner for the 7-8 grade division has been selected and will be submitted at the December board meeting for entry at the statewide level.

We proudly announce that member Karen Brown from Nelson Middle School in Oroville is interested in running for Member at Large, Middle. She will be submitting her statement at the December Board Meeting.

Upper continues to encourage membership and attendance at the Long Beach Conference. Plans are in the works to hold a "Meet and Greet" at a local book distributor who has been very supportive of local schools in our area. Good food, drink, prizes, and information will be offered.

Convention Coordinator

Teisha Hase

Since September a good deal of my time has been spent discussing the location of the exhibit hall. Originally, we had contracted with the LBCC to have exhibits in Room 104 A-C. The space limits the # of exhibits that can be set up. For this reason and others, Lynne Curtin suggested we might look into switching our meal functions to Room 104 and housing exhibits in the Grand Ballroom. Floor plans were drawn up for both spaces. For Room 104, booths were drawn in the Foyer space, and also in the hall outside Rooms 101-103. Having booths in the Foyer and hallway presents both problems and opportunities. Eventually, we determined that we had to leave exhibits in Room 104 as it nearly tripled our contracted room rental rate to use the Grand Ballroom for exhibits.

Room issues also arose at the Hyatt, unfortunately. Though Punky Fristrom, Anne Fristrom, Nancy Himel, Cheryl Hogue Smith, several local committee members and I met in May to iron out details with the LBCC staff, LBCVB staff and Hyatt staff, some of our important changes were not noted in Matt Temblador's (the Hyatt CSM) papers. When reviewing the POE a few weeks ago, Punky saw that the Hyatt still had the wrong ending-time written down for our breakout sessions. When he forwarded these corrections to our new Hyatt CSM, he was told that the Hyatt was unable to extend the end-times past 5PM. This presented many problems for CATE. Luckily, through continued negotiations with the Hyatt staff, the ending time was extended on most of our meeting rooms at the Hyatt. This makes the job of scheduling far easier.

I set up to have the CATE database programmed with all the 2008 information. Mary Marshall, programmer, came to Chico to begin the work in November, and has completed all but a few tweaks to the ticket printing command. She is fairly certain that she can add the leadership info to the "receipt" section of the ticket sheet.

CATE 2008 continues to progress. Nancy Himel completed the menu tasting for the convention center, and was very excited about our meals there, and she is setting up for the menu tasting at the Hyatt soon. Unlike all previous properties, LB would only allow menu tasting 3 months out from the event, making it impossible for us to do the menu tasting during our May site visit. Catering contracts have

preliminary information, and as the convention nears, I will guarantee the food selections and numbers. Nancy will update us on 2008.

At this December board meeting, I will ask all Board members to confirm their rooming accommodations. The cut-off date at the Hyatt is February 5, but I will need rooming requirements ASAP.

Punky Fristrom worked very hard in securing a reasonable AV bid. I continue to be grateful for Punky's work. He has also assigned "parts" of the program out to appropriate persons, including the convention chair, program chair, president, past president convention coordinator. He will assist the program chair in a variety of issues that impact the program, including room assignments for presenters and the receptions, and AV assignment to rooms. At this time we are looking ahead to the program designer's December 15 program info deadline.

Currently, registration stands at roughly 80, and purchase orders number 20. Eddie Hase, CATE's registrar warns that comparing with previous year's numbers is not wise since the trend has been for people to wait until the last moment to register, and since the conference is in March, he doesn't think this December is really comparable to last year.

Online encountered a glitch when CATEweb was transferred to the new server.

Total Room Pick up at the Hyatt stood at ????. Will post update following the December meeting. Again, due to the later date, I am not anticipating .

2009

Charleen and Liz will fill us in with more details. Looking ahead, I am especially pleased with the \$119 room rate which I think will be a strong point, and I interested in what the exhibits will be like in the tent.

I am hoping to get some great door prizes from the Santa Clara CVB to give away in LB to promote 2009. I will also request the Marriott's freebies, but anticipate no difficulties.

2013

Preliminary bids are in. We should discuss options.