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CATE President's Report

Bob Chapman, President
December 2008

NCTE:

NCTE Philadelphia was a very good convention. It was well attended and had a strong showing of young and energetic teachers. I found this encouraging, considering all our teachers hired in the last ten years have been laid off in my district. It also gave me hope for CATE. I think it has become clear that where a convention is hosted makes a huge difference in attendance—Philadelphia is close to New York; Washington, DC; Baltimore; Delaware; and many cities in New Jersey. It's a central location capable of serving a huge teacher population.

Having a chance to see/hear Junot Diaz was good for us attending from CATE. I enjoyed his speaking and am excited about him speaking at CATE, but he shocked many in the crowd at NCTE, and the question and answer session had mixed response—obviously many had not read his work, and as much as a third of the crowd left during the question and answer period. I think we can help shape a more successful circumstance for CATE 2010.

I have been asked to be the NCTE Liaison to Dianne Feinstein's office. I am encouraged to create a relationship with the California office but due to the way state offices operate, I will still put most of my focus on her DC office. Most policy work takes place there and most state offices are concerned with case work.

Resignations & RCTE:

We have received Tish Griggs' and Anne Sahlberg's resignations for their council president positions—FACET and Redwood Council. Currently it is unclear who is replacing Tish, and sadly, Redwood may go the way of Upper in past years. Joan and I will keep our local council going but we may not have (other) council leadership for awhile. No one has stepped forward to take on an officer position.

Annual Reports:

ALL Board members need to submit an Annual Report. They are due December 31 and you can send them to rochapm@suddenlink.net

Subject line: ANNUAL REPORT
Top line: your name and position held
Text needs to include CATE business you've done in 2009
Tone should be somewhat formal and concise
Models are available on the CATE website

CATE Convention:

There is still much to plan for the convention and at some point, here at the BOD meeting, a group of us need to meet to prepare for the upcoming program deadline.

Local Council Classroom Excellence Awards:

Because Redwood Council is floundering, we will not be nominating anyone for CEA. I asked during the Executive Board conference call if that is okay and if that has happened before. I was told that it's common and that even our largest councils have skipped years. That makes me feel better about RCTE but disappointed in our service to the profession.

Invitations:

CYRM has invited me to two meetings and most recently, the CYRM banquet on November 21st in Ontario. I have turned all these invitations down (I was at NCTE for the banquet) but Nancy Himel was nice enough to attend one meeting for me. Sharon Haupt has been quite understanding and we have shared some nice e-mails, but I am feeling guilty and need to do something for them. Should I invite Sharon to our banquet during the convention in Los Angeles. Will she be attending the CYRM luncheon at the convention—that isn't typical for the CYRM president, is it?

Correspondence:

There is some old correspondence that I need to report on here:

The U.S. Department of Education query about CATE endorsing their Beginning Teacher Longitudinal Study (BLTS) I looked into further, and due to such a negative and distrusting response from the BOD, I chose to not sign CATE up as supporters. I'm afraid you made me paranoid—I may never participate in anything ever again!

Kevin Murphy has yet to post employment announcements on CATENet, though I have shared e-mails with him. I believe there is some hesitation due to Jake's initial refusal or the lack of other outside postings on CATENet.

I have received various pieces of correspondence since September. While all of them are important, only a few stand out enough to be discussed here.

I have received quite a few inquiries about curriculum, contests, resources and other interesting stuff. I never quite know what to do with these but I nicely respond with a thank you and tell them I will share them with you all and Jake, and then forward the e-mails to Jake. Like Kevin Murphy's material, I have yet to see anything show up on CATENet: Ben Schumaker of My Class Cares, Annie Kohut Frankel of the California Coastal Commission's K-12 Poetry Contest, just to name a few.

CATENet & CATEweb:

The website still needs some updating but Michelle, Charleen and I have sent things to Cindy and she very quickly adds them to the site. Please look at it and let us know if you see things missing. I have a few more things to correct to bring the website up to par.

I sense that CATENet is under-utilized due to limited interest. I have meant to ask Jake how many subscribers we have and what his take is on the whole thing, but perhaps that is better left to Publications? Liz?

Other:

Someone (I know who too) perpetuates my e-mail addresses incorrectly. Please use the roster for the correct e-mail addresses—don't cut and paste from previous e-mails. The incorrect address people keep using is a mixture of both my correct addresses. The incorrect address is rochapm@gmail.com.

If you're not a media junkie you may not know that Humboldt County, and specifically Arcata have been in focus lately. A&E did a hour long show called Pot City, USA and NPR's All Things Considered did two nights of reporting on us this last week. Our reputation continues though we were tenth in the state for busts, seizures and suspected propagation. Butte County was first. There have to be some things I have forgotten here but will remember once the meeting gets rolling. I'll add those once they come up.

Bob Chapman, December 4, 2009

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Vice President

Charleen Silva Defino

As vice president I arranged for rooms and food for the May Meeting and also set the schedule and place of meetings for 2009-2010.

I joined Angus Dunstan and Kathleen Cecil for the California Advocacy Day in Sacramento which coincided with the NCTE Advocacy Day in Washington. At this time we met with the representatives of three legislators. Mike Welch who was the Education Advisor to Assemblyman Mike Welch was the only person who specializes in Educational issues and was the most knowledgeable. We decided that we should start earlier and make appointments to visit those representatives who represent our own areas. Also, if we make appointments earlier we will have a better opportunity to meet those advisors with that are more experienced. Angus will take the lead in setting up this visit and he will try to get more CATE Board members to attend.

Since I already make room reservations and rooming lists for the four board meetings, I will continue to assist the Convention Coordinator and do this job for Convention 2010.

It is the job of the VP to post the Board Reports for Sept. Dec. Feb. and May. Representatives who do not send me their reports prior to the meeting need to send me a copy of the report that they bring to the meeting so that it can be posted.

I serve as CATE's representative to Joint Committee Instructional Materials (JCIM). The meeting scheduled for May was postponed because the May Revise will now become the June Revise and we are meeting on June 17 so that we can know the impact of the Budget Revise on textbook and other instructional materials. I will forward any information that I get on this topic.

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Past President

Michelle Berry

Special commendations:

To Convention Chairs Defino and McAninch, along with their hard-working local committee, to Resolutions Committee, and to President Chapman for his leadership.

Elections 2009:

Very few ballots received, perhaps due to uncontested positions. Results to be ratified by Board members at May meeting. Discussion may be in order.

Elections 2010:

It's not too soon to think about upcoming offices to be elected next spring (to take office July 1, 2010) with nominations due at December meeting:

President (Chapman)
Vice President (Defino)
MAL Elementary (Allen)

MAL Secondary (vacant)
MAL Unspecified (Danielson)

Awards:

Classroom Excellence Awards are to be rotated to these. Remember that you must nominate your specified grade level before you may nominate another, and that nominations are to be kept secret until President notifies the recipient (see Policy 10.4).

Capitol: Secondary
Central: Elementary
Fresno: Middle
Kern: Elementary
Redwood: Secondary
San Diego: Middle
Southland: College
TUCATE: College
Upper: College

Awards of Merit will again be nominated by each council interested in doing so (see Policy 10.2).

Distinguished Service Award – nominations will be requested of all past presidents this summer. Those names come to September Board meeting to be determined if they qualify by current policy and criteria. Those finalists are notified in September, invited to submit biographical info, and an Awards Committee will select the finalist/nominee for ratification at the December Board meeting (See Policy 10.3)

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Secretary

Lorraine Tracey

I edited, copied and sent out the minutes from the February board meeting. I contacted the Wilson's to post the minutes as well as make the corrections to the board directory from the board meeting. I also edited the business meeting minutes and they were also posted on the website.

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Treasurer

Anne Fristrom

The IRS will be monitoring non-profits more closely, and CATE should adopt some new policies that will show we are not presenting any problems in several areas. Please read these so we can discuss them at the board meeting.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

Code of Ethics Adopted May, 2009

POLICY: Board members of the California Association of Teachers of English (CATE) are committed to observing and promoting the highest standards of ethical conduct in the performance of their leadership and governance responsibilities. Board members pledge to accept this code as a minimum guideline for ethical conduct and embrace these principles and practices.

PROCEDURES:

- 1. Principles of Accountability:** 1) Faithfully abide by the constitution, by-laws, and policies of CATE; 2) Exercise reasonable care, good faith, and due diligence in organizational affairs; 3) Fully disclose, at the earliest opportunity, information that may result in a perceived or actual conflict of interest, in accordance with CATE's conflict of interest policy; 4) Fully disclose, at the earliest opportunity, all information and insights that would have significance in CATE Board decision-making; 5) Remain accountable for prudent fiscal management to members, colleagues in our broader professional community, and to government and funding bodies.
- 2. Principles of Professional Excellence:** 1) Maintain a professional level of courtesy, respect, and objectivity in all CATE Board activities. This includes acknowledging differences of opinion, providing for open and honest discussion, and making decisions only after hearing all points of view and considering all relevant data; 2) Maintain knowledge of CATE positions and guidelines and endeavor to advance or explain them to a range of audiences. Avoid allowing leadership roles in CATE to be associated with political statements or public policy views that don't align with those officially adopted by CATE; 3) Support and encourage membership and participation in all CATE and NCTE programs, publications, and resources.
- 3. Principles of Fiduciary Responsibility and Confidentiality:** 1) Make decisions for the good of all rather than for his or her personal benefit, or that of the constituency he or she associates with; 2) Respect the confidentiality of sensitive information known through service to the CATE Board.
- 4. Equal Opportunity and Diversity:** Ensure the right of all members to appropriate and effective services and leadership opportunities without discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, national origin, race, religion, age, political affiliation, or disability, in accordance with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

Document Retention and Destruction Policy Adopted May, 2009

POLICY: This Document Retention and Destruction Policy of the California Association of Teachers of English (CATE) identifies the record retention responsibilities of members of the Board of Directors, volunteers, and outsiders for maintaining and documenting the storage and destruction of CATE documents and records.

PROCEDURES:

- 1. Rules.** Members of the Board of Directors, volunteers and outsiders (i.e., independent contractors via agreements with them) are required to honor these rules: (a) paper indicated under the terms for retention below will be transferred to the CATE storage unit and electronic documents maintained by the appropriate CATE officer (b) all other paper documents will be destroyed after three years; (c) all other electronic documents will be deleted from all individual computers, data

bases, networks, and back-up storage after one year; and (d) no paper or electronic documents will be destroyed or deleted if pertinent to any ongoing or anticipated government investigation or proceeding or private litigation.

2. **Terms for retention.**

a. **Retain permanently:**

Governance records – Constitution and amendments, Bylaws, other organizational documents, governing board and board committee minutes.
Tax records – Filed state and federal tax returns/reports, tax exemption determination letter and related correspondence, files related to tax audits.
Intellectual property records – Copyright and trademark registrations and samples of protected works.
Financial records – audited financial statements, attorney contingent liability letters.

b. **Retain for seven years:** Federal tax return supporting documents, such as receipts, deposit forms, etc.

c. **Retain for three years:** *Lease, insurance, and contract/license records* – Software license agreements, vendor, hotel, and service agreements, independent contractor agreements, employment agreements, consultant agreements, and all other agreements (retain during the term of the agreement and for three years after the termination, expiration, or non-renewal of each agreement).

d. **Retain for one year:** *All other electronic records, documents and files* – Correspondence files, past budgets, bank statements, publications, employee manuals/policies and procedures, survey information.

3. **Exceptions:** Exceptions to these rules and terms for retention may be granted only by the CATE Board.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

Whistleblower Policy Adopted May, 2009

POLICY: This Whistleblower Policy of the California Association of Teachers of English (CATE): (1) encourages staff or volunteers to come forward with credible information on illegal practices or serious violations of adopted policies of CATE; (2) specifies that CATE will protect the person(s) from retaliation; and (3) identifies where such information can be reported.

PROCEDURES:

1. **Encouragement of reporting.** CATE encourages complaints, reports or inquiries about illegal practices or serious violations of CATE's policies, including illegal or improper conduct by CATE itself, by its leadership, or by others on its behalf. Appropriate subjects to raise under this policy would include financial improprieties, accounting or audit matters, ethical violations, or other similar illegal or improper practices or policies.
2. **Protection from retaliation.** CATE prohibits retaliation by or on behalf of CATE against staff or volunteers for making good faith complaints, reports or inquiries under this policy or for participating in a review or investigation under this policy. This protection extends to those whose allegations are made in good faith but prove to be mistaken. CATE reserves the right to discipline persons who make bad faith, knowingly false, or vexatious complaints, reports or inquiries or who otherwise abuse this policy.
3. **Where to report.** Complaints, reports or inquiries may be made under this policy on a confidential or anonymous basis. They should describe in detail the specific facts demonstrating the bases for the complaints, reports or inquiries. They should be directed to the President of CATE or the CATE Treasurer; if any of those persons are implicated in the complaint, report or inquiry, the documents should be directed to CATE's Vice President. CATE will conduct a prompt, discreet, and objective review or investigation. Staff or volunteers must recognize that CATE may be unable to fully evaluate a vague or general complaint, report or inquiry that is made anonymously.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

Conflict of Interest Policy Adopted on May, 2009

POLICY: This Conflict of Interest Policy for the California Association of Teachers of English (CATE) 1) Defines conflicts of interest; 2) identifies classes of individuals within CATE covered by this policy; 3) facilitates disclosure of information that may help identify conflicts of interest; and 4) specifies procedures to be followed in managing conflicts of interest

PROCEDURES:

1. **Definition of conflicts of interest:** A conflict of interest arises when a person in a position of authority in CATE may benefit financially from a decision he or she could make in that capacity, including indirect benefits such as to family members or businesses with which the person is closely associated. This policy is focused upon material financial interest of, or benefit to, such persons.
2. **Individuals Covered:** Persons covered by this policy are CATE's officers, directors, and other appointed individuals.
3. **Facilitation of disclosure:** Persons covered by this policy will annually disclose to or update the President of CATE (or designee) their interests that could give rise to conflicts of interest, such as a list of family members, substantial business or investment holdings, and other transactions or affiliations with businesses and other organizations or those of family members.
4. **Procedures to manage conflicts:** For each interest disclosed to the President of CATE (or designee) the President (or designee) will determine whether to: a) take no action; b) assure full disclosure to the CATE board; c) ask the person to recuse from participation in related discussions or decisions; d) ask the person to resign from his or her position on the board. The President (or designee) will monitor proposed or ongoing transactions for conflicts of interest.

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Membership

Joan Williams

December 2009 Membership Report

#	Council	5/07	9/07	12/07	2/08	5/08	9/08	12/08	2/09	5/09	+/-
1	Redwood	33	37	37	25	25	21	18	26	29	+3
2	Upper	33	27	25	11	36	35	33	11	22	+11
3	Capitol	142	135	123	79	91	95	95	80	98	+18
4	Central	419	444	448	398	435	386	402	354	411	+57
5	Fresno	155	152	146	31	57	53	51	28	35	+7
6	TUCATE	28	29	30	17	17	18	17	12	13	+1
7	Kern	32	38	37	22	45	47	47	29	30	+1
8	Southland	605	621	627	409	733	682	655	306	335	+29
9	San Diego	159	188	184	172	204	151	167	101	103	+2
50	Out-of-state	28	27	37	26	40	37	37	21	23	+2
55	Libraries	24	24	25	24	24	23	21	21	21	-
99	Comps	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	3	+2
	Total	1660	1724	1721	1215	1709	1550	1545	990	1123	+133

- Membership peaked in March with 1141 and then dropped to 1123 at the end of April. We are down from 1709 last May—586 members.
- Electronic membership rosters were sent to board members. Let me know if you did not receive them.
- Gift memberships were very well received at the booth. Only 1 person has actually claimed the membership. Membership committee will discuss the continuation of this idea.
- Membership issues exist regarding people signing up for convention as members when they are not and then complaining that there are no mailings to them—obvious when they are not members. This is an issue to be discussed in committee—as we need a system to keep this from happening as much as it does (5 so far from last convention—two who had not been members for 2 years).
- Summer/Fall membership drive

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Policy

Angus Dunstan

As has already been reported, on April 22nd I represented CATE (along with Charleen and Kathleen) at the Capitol in Sacramento, our visit coinciding with NCTE's National Advocacy Day. Martha had arranged for us to visit a number of legislator's offices, and we learned some useful information to share with the Board. I also posted a number of Education Week summaries on CATenet.

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Central Council

Liz McAninch, President

CCCTE Board reported out on what was learned by the various committees that worked on the CATE Convention. CCCTE members chaired or worked on all the of Convention Committees; they learned a great deal that will assist them as they work with Michelle Berry, Chair of the 2011 convention in Sacramento. Convention attendees were recruited to become active members of CCCTE.

The board is also planning for activities to assist teachers in the troubling economic times that are facing teachers—large class size, reduced resources, low morale, etc. A gathering is being planned early in the fall that will be chaired by Susan Dillon.

Registrations for the Asilomar Conference are low as are most educational conferences. There is concern that the conference may have to be canceled because of the high penalty costs for not meeting the minimum number of rooms.

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Redwood Council

Anne Sahlberg, Redwood Representative

Redwood has not met since before the convention. The local writing contest entries have been judged and awards ceremony is scheduled for June 2 at the Humboldt County Office of Education. This is put on by Pam Cavanaugh and Megan Day. It is the last year Pam will be sponsoring this event; hopefully, someone will step into her shoes to carry this long running contest. She has been a phenomenal advocate locally for CATE and works hard to make it a success.

Redwood Writing Project's Spring Writing Conference was on March 28 at Humboldt State University and I co-presented with Stefanie Watson and Nicolette Amann about professional associations on the North Coast where we spoke to the importance of being part of organizations like Writing Project, Cal-PASS and CATE.

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GSDCTE Representative

Ron Lauderbach

There's been a lot of activity in our region since the wonderful February convention. We've had two board meetings and Don Mayfield produced the biggest CATE Writing Contest awards ceremony experienced in the past few years. Although attendance was down compared to prior years, Kristen Gall organized an interesting and valuable Promising Practices conference. The event enjoyed the usual, communications and logistic support from Anne and Punky Fristrom, Robin Luby, Carole LeCren and Akiko Morimoto. The following weekend, ten of us enjoyed a relaxing weekend at the UCLA conference grounds, in Lake Arrowhead. Carole LeCren planned it. Divona Roy is busy planning the GSDCTE annual awards banquet and we will hold our final board/planning meeting in June.

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TUCATE

Carol Surabian

TUCATE had a very successful reception and membership drive on April 30. We nearly doubled our membership! (We still aren't the largest council in the organization). We honored our Classroom Excellence Award winner Tanya Perez and held a drawing for a night at Tachi Palace. That seemed to spark some interest

among the younger teachers, gaining us the new members. We are planning activities for the fall to try to capture these new minds and develop some future leadership both locally and state-wide.

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4 C's

4 Cs Thirteenth Annual Education Summit by Bill Younglove

On February 27, 2009, some two dozen members of the California Curriculum Correlating Council (4 Cs) gathered at the State Capitol to receive briefings and updates by education governance representatives. Kathleen Cecil, Resolutions Chair, and I represented CATE.

Speakers included James Aschwanden, member of the State Board of Education; Susanna Cooper, Principal Consultant to Senator Darrell Steinberg; and Erin Gabel, Legislative Director to Assemblyman Tom Torlakson.

State Board Member James Aschwanden (reappointed for 08-10) was refreshingly candid both about how the State Board operates—or doesn't—and about his concerns and frustrations about the state of public education at all levels. A glance at his two-sided Education Statistics—The Real World (Copies will be available at the May 16-17 CATE Board meeting.) fact sheet reveals his concerns about California's a) 1/3rd student "disappearance rate," b) the number of students who do not complete college, in the CCs, CSUs, and UCs, not to mention the need for remediation within, particularly, the first two segments, c) how our CCs are serving as technical (vocational) schools for our BA/BS degree holders, and d) how underemployment/over-credentialing among college graduates is common, with educational attainment explaining only 10% of the variance in income among individuals. Further, Mr. Aschwanden called the Governor's initiative on Algebra I for all eighth graders "an effort to reintroduce failure." He said he believes present state standards meet the needs of K-6 better than secondary. He called the Achievement Gap a "score gap on a standardized test"; that we have "narrowed the goalpost rather than raised the bar." We have, also, he stated, "placed kids at points in the factory to rubber stamp a system model," indicating we should be looking at other models that exist—out of state and out of country. He noted that "standards asked us to change the product given but not the surroundings [i.e., structure] creating the product." He decried the fact that the State Board so often lacks the statutory authority to implement real change (an FYI: Just recently, legislative action was required for the State Board to implement the start of revising standards in curricular areas.). Finally, Mr. Aschwanden added, "I remember when it was fun to teach and be a kid and learn."

Susanna Cooper, working with Senator Steinberg before his election and with him for the past three years in the Capitol, provided insight into several pieces of pending legislation. She noted that Senator Steinberg has made high school reform his signature issue, and like Mr. Aschwanden, he is very concerned about the student dropout issue. Senator Romero's SB 692 will allow for gathering longitudinal data on the annual dropout rate; yet more data are needed on student post-college leaving. Senator Steinberg has noted that the CALPads data cannot be used for student evaluation, but can be used to evaluate programs. SB 219 should link API scores to high school completion. Steinberg, of similar mind to Aschwanden, supported SB 75, which would establish Career Technical Education (CTE) curriculum. Susanna Cooper noted that math and English testing account for 80% of STAR; the core curriculum balance being the rest. Steinberg's office called the present K-12 budget "heart-breaking"; see the May ballot issues as a "mixed good."

Erin Gabel, Legislative Director to Assemblyman Tom Torlakson, opened by saying that her boss "understands the categorical system [of education aid] doesn't work." He also acknowledges that the current budget does not represent the views of Californians or the taxpayers; yet he is very concerned that the Obama stimulus (i.e., American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) monies cannot be used to backfill our state shortfalls. He has asked, "How do we move local recognition of what is happening in classrooms to Sacramento?" He also has said that we "need to create a measurement [of student achievement] that is coherent with our vision," connecting the California Master Plan for Higher Education and the CTE piece. Unfortunately, CTE is not part of API, nor is it a state mandate. As legislative representative for CCSS, Fred Jones, has noted, "Hard skills and soft skills are needed in today's job market." Under the Quality Education Improvement Act's pilot program, however, we can measure afterschool program outcomes. Torlakson hopes to foster many changes should he be elected in his run for State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

On February 28th, the 4 Cs met, as per custom, at the Hawthorn Suites, to debrief. President Brad Huff, once again, sought further input from members regarding finalization of the two-page 4 C's [Policy] White Paper.

Huff noted that Tom Adams heads up the Joint Committee on Instructional Materials, which seeks teacher input at review times. Also, STAR faces reauthorization, and AB 476 will re-evaluate the assessment umbrella system, perhaps to link more closely with standards and serve more of a diagnostic purpose. As Aschwanden noted, the State Board of Education cannot move to revise/update the standards themselves until AB 97 is passed, enabling teacher committee negotiations with the Curriculum Commission. The core curriculum standards are said to be academic and/or theoretical (i.e., "applied"). It was noted that California is one of the few states that has Digital Literacy Standards in place. SB 1209 would have to pass to reinstate the professional development requirement, which is not likely. Finally, CFT reported that it will seek support for a split tax roll for Proposition 13, to create some fairness, not to mention \$, for business property that rarely turns over for reassessment, to be assessed differently. Similarly, the (CSU's) California Faculty Association is seeking a tax on oil at the wellhead, something many other states currently have. As is often the case these days, 4 Cs members learned that the educational ball is in the air, subject to the winds of change, as well as in the hands of [too?] many players.

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Convention

Nancy Himel

I visited the LAX Marriott today and was very impressed. The decor is stunning and they have stuff for centerpieces...and there's a huge Starbucks in the lobby. We will have almost the whole place and that is good.

I have been in touch with Joan Macon of CRA and we will be able to use some of their presenters for an elementary-type strand. They would like some of us to present at CRA too. More as I know more.

Carol LeCren created the logo; you will see it in the program.

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Convention Coordinator

Punky Fristrom

In spite of reduced attendance at the 2009 convention, which was caused by the economy, the convention was a success and did well financially considering the conditions, as the treasurer's report shows.

The good work of convention chairs Charleen Delfino and Liz McAninch and their local committee was reinforced by strong support from the board in planning and putting on the event. The goal of having a smooth running convention with all the problems occurring behind the scenes, unseen by the attendees, was reached.

Nancy has been working on 2010 and will ask for board approval as needed at this meeting. I have been successful in negotiating an addendum to our contract for 2010, which takes into account the changed economic conditions. The LAX Marriott has been excellent to work with.

I have also renegotiated the contract for Sacramento for the 2011 convention, although they were more difficult to work with. The result is a greatly improved contract.

I am also engaged in talks about the 2012 convention and hope to have more information about it at the board meeting.

I have received seven proposals for the 2014 convention and will present a summary of each at the board meeting so the board can decide on the 2014 site. Generally speaking, it is a buyer's market and several of the proposals are excellent. I greatly appreciate that Nancy Himel joined Anne and me in making site inspections of three of the hotels which have submitted proposals for 2014.

Because of the present good conditions, I am going to ask the convention committee to consider moving up the date for receiving proposals for 2015 to this summer with a board decision scheduled for next December. It could be to CATE's advantage to do so.

CATE's financial situation is such that it is not a good time to pursue appointed a convention consultant. With continued strong support from board members on various aspects of the convention, I think we can continue as we are.

CATE has received a letter from J. Willard Marriott, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Marriott International, which says in part, "Our associates join me in appreciating committed customers like you. So thank you for doing business with us and keep doing what you do best!"

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CALIFORNIA ENGLISH

Carol Jago

I have once again submitted *California English* to the NCTE journal award committee. This issue I selected was "Teaching Literature in Peace and War." News of their decision should arrive sometime during the summer.

I have approached both our publisher and printer regarding the possible move to four rather than five issues of our journal per year. Both have come back to me with proposals to cut their budgets by 10% and at the same time to provide CATE with a full color magazine (all 36 pages) thus allowing for an increase in advertising revenue. I will discuss this proposal with the Publications Committee at our board meeting.

The 2008 CATE professional writing contest winners will appear in the June issue of the magazine. The issue will also include the 2009 CATE resolutions and where space permits, the 2 minutes about CATE conference presentation. The June issue has not yet gone to press. My thinking was that ideas may come up at this meeting that board members want included in the journal. I do not think it is too early to provide members with details about CATE2010. If any local councils have information about their conferences (Asilomar, etc.), please send the ad for the event to me, and I will include it in our journal.

Jeff Wilson continues to do an excellent job garnering ads from publishers. He is punctilious about providing me with copy for the ads in a timely manner.

As president of NCTE I will once more be required to attend the program planning meeting for the 2010 NCTE convention in Orlando that weekend. I have, however, promised Michelle Berry that I look forward to being a speaker at CATE2011.

Please help me spread the word of our call for manuscripts in any print or electronic communications you have with your local council members. I continue to seek out artists interested in having their work featured in *California English*.

Call for Manuscripts

September 2009: Writing On-Line and Off (deadline July 15)

Students are writing like never before on social networking sites, blogs, and through text messaging. But is this really writing? Students themselves don't seem to think so. How can we capitalize on the writing students do online to help them write for school and for life? How have you integrated the writing students are doing everyday with the writing you need them to do for class? What have you learned? What questions do you have? What concerns? What insights?

Please send all submissions to *California English* editor, Carol Jago. Articles should be limited to 2,500 words. Please submit manuscripts via email to jago@gseis.ucla.edu.

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