



Board of Directors Meeting Reports December 2009

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| Secretary | Kern Council | Member-at-Large, Middle School |
| Treasurer | | |
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Past President

Michelle Berry

NCTE in Philadelphia was remarkable --- big congratulations to Carol Jago for coordinating a hugely successful annual national convention that was well-attended, spirited, and seamless. We couldn't be more proud of her as she ascends to her presidency. I thank the CATE Board for supporting the three of us (Chapman, Cecil, and me) in attending this important series of events. CATE was well-represented by many of our own Board members who worked in and chaired committees, attended business and affiliate meetings, and promoted CATE's upcoming convention and other good work. Congratulations go to our Teacher of Excellence Award winner Brian Jeffrey, Intellectual Freedom winner Bill Younglove, Leadership Development Award winner Trevor Guina, and Middle Section Nominating Committee nominee Jill Hamilton-Bunch, whose application was dutifully hand-delivered to the proper NCTE committee. Promotional postcards to solicit exhibitors to come to CATE 2010 at LAX were made and distributed by Charleen, Nancy, Bob, and Liz; we hope these reap the benefit of additional/new exhibits. Several of us also made sure to participate actively in the annual business meeting, moving and seconding to assure our names will appear in the minutes to prove our attendance and earnestness.

As 2011 chair I've begun to work on speakers, theme ideas, and building the local committee. I am optimistic and anxious both about the precarious economy and its impact on membership and convention, and am eager to gather ideas for maximizing potential for CATE's success. More on this later.

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Secretary

Carrie Danielson, Secretary

As secretary, I updated the roster and sent it out after our last board meeting. I also edited the minutes, had them proofread and edited by Punky Fristrom and sent those out as well. I sent a copy of the minutes to our webmaster and have also sent roster and minutes to Milly Davis at NCTE. I have sent out one reminder for the 2010 Convention Program and will be sending out another this weekend. The CATE computer is working well and I am keeping the files organized.

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Membership

Joan Williams, Membership Chair

| # | Council | 12/07 | 2/08 | 5/08 | 9/08 | 12/08 | 2/09 | 5/09 | 9/09 | 12/09 | +/- |
|----|--------------|-------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|-----|
| 1 | Redwood | 37 | 25 | 25 | 21 | 18 | 26 | 29 | 31 | 34 | +3 |
| 2 | Upper | 25 | 11 | 36 | 35 | 33 | 11 | 22 | 20 | 20 | — |
| 3 | Capitol | 123 | 79 | 91 | 95 | 95 | 80 | 98 | 70 | 60 | -10 |
| 4 | Central | 448 | 398 | 435 | 386 | 402 | 354 | 411 | 317 | 250 | -67 |
| 5 | Fresno | 146 | 31 | 57 | 53 | 51 | 28 | 35 | 36 | 34 | +2 |
| 6 | TUCATE | 30 | 17 | 17 | 18 | 17 | 12 | 13 | 21 | 20 | -1 |
| 7 | Kern | 37 | 22 | 45 | 47 | 47 | 29 | 30 | 24 | 25 | +1 |
| 8 | Southland | 627 | 409 | 733 | 682 | 655 | 306 | 335 | 310 | 303 | -7 |
| 9 | San Diego | 184 | 172 | 204 | 151 | 167 | 101 | 103 | 106 | 94 | -12 |
| 50 | Out-of-state | 37 | 26 | 40 | 37 | 37 | 21 | 23 | 17 | 18 | +1 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| 55 Libraries | 25 | 24 | 24 | 23 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 20 | 21 | +1 |
| 99 Comps | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | — |
| Total | 1721 | 1215 | 1709 | 1550 | 1545 | 990 | 1123 | 975 | 882 | -93 |

- Membership numbers continue to drop.
- Electronic membership rosters were sent to board members. Let membership chair know if you do not receive them.
- New reminders/communications to members will be ready to use for 2010.
- Membership ribbons for councils have been ordered.
- Board members need to give me the names of their gift membership so that I can send the new member a letter of welcome and congratulations (because a CATE board member gave them a membership).

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Resolutions Committee

Kathleen Cecil, Resolutions Chair

The resolutions process has begun. Committee members are collecting research for issues affecting education and outreach to members is ongoing. This year I participated in the resolutions committee for NCTE in Philadelphia, where a parliamentarian is present for the discussions and, like CATE, language is fine-tuned to assure passage at the Business Meeting. Several issues emerged, including the efficacy of creating resolutions at all and identifying better ways to interface with NCTE's policy people in Washington D.C.

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CTA Report

Liaison, Debra Martinez

1. Based on her strong record of support for public schools, Senator Barbara Boxer won the early support of the CTA State Council for another term in 2010. Council also made other "friendly incumbent" recommendations in key state races: Debra Bowen, for Secretary of State; John Chiang, State Controller; Bill Lockyer, State Treasurer; Betty Yee, State Board of Equalization, First District.

2. CTA has launched a grassroots plan to build solidarity within the union's ranks. State council delegates brainstormed about questions concerning CTA's next steps to increase public education funding, and what all members of the union can do to help. The long term goal is to engage all teachers and reach out to the normally silent members who go to their schools every day and shut their classroom doors. President Sanchez says we need all teachers to realize that they are CTA, and that this fight is our fight, together.

3. The final Race to the Top regulations have been released by the U.S. Department of Education, which means the state legislature will proceed with hearings and possibly new legislation by the end of the year. It also means that local school districts (...)

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Central Council

Liz McAninch, Council Rep

Central Council members Michelle Berry, Kathleen Cecil, Charleen Delfino, Trevor Guina and Liz McAninch attended NCTE. Charleen Delfino chaired the NCTE Resolutions Committee and Kathleen Cecil also served on the Resolutions Committee. Michelle Berry introduced Nicholas Sparks (twice!) and CATE's nominee Trevor Guina received the NCTE Leadership Award at the Affiliate Breakfast.

Susan Dillon chairs our spring Steinbeck workshop at the Martha Heasley Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies of San Jose State University. Bev Kreps, CATE Writing Contest coordinator for Central, collected a number of entries for this year's competition. CCCTE will host a reception honoring recipients of both CATE and NCTE writing awards in April.

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FACET Council

Tish Griggs, Representative

FACET has had great difficulty getting even a board meeting together so far this year. While we did make plans, we were unable to carry them out so far. Therefore, there is little to report. Without going into excuses, let me just say regretfully, that I have resigned as president and Shannon Taylor will be taking over. Shannon has the energy and intelligence to be a wonderful leader. While FACET may be down this year, look for wonderful things to come from the valley in the future.

It has been one of the greatest honors ever to have served on this board. Thank you all for working so very hard for English Language Arts in California.

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Kern Council

Kim Flachmann, Representative

Call for Nomination of Officers

Created Nomination Form (Sept 2009)

Announced openings on Kern Board at KHSD English Chairs Meeting (Sept 28, 2009)

Received nominations from schools

Activities/Membership Drive

[Kelly Gallagher](#) All-Day Workshop (Oct 10, 2009), CSUB Stockdale Rm

[Cheryl Smith](#) All-Day Workshop (Nov 3, 2009), CSUB Stockdale Rm

Publicity

Set up CATE column in AVID Weekly Newsletter, edited by Brad Ruff

First Column: 10/5/09

National Day on Writing Activity (October 20, 2009)

CSUB hosted a letter exchange with ten classes from grades 6-12. Several of the exchanges between college and 6-12 classes are still going on. (Coordinator: Brett Schmoll, Writing Project Liaison)

| Constitution of Board for Kern Council | |
|---|--|
| President | Kim Flachmann kflachmann@csub.edu |
| Vice President | Jill Hamilton-Bunch jhamilto@pointloma.edu |
| Resolutions Chair | Barbi Lapp Barbi_Lapp@khsd.k12.ca.us |
| Treasurer | Cheryl Smith chsmith@csub.edu |
| Secretary | Rachel Batson Rachel_Batson@khsd.12.ca.us |
| Writing Competition Chair | Kay Alexander kalexander@khsd.k12.ca.us |
| Membership Chair | Patty Brundage pbrundage@khsd.k12.ca.us |
| KHSD Liaison | Katie Kleier/Connie Sack Katie_Kleier@khsd.k12.ca.us Connie_Sack@khsd.k12.ca.us |
| KCSOS Liaison | Teresa Twisselman tetwisselman@kern.org |
| AVID Liaison | Brad Ruff brruff@kern.org |
| Writing Project Liaison | Brett Schmoll bschmoll@csub.edu |

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Southland Council

Nancy Himel, Representative

SCTE held its annual Fall Conference. We put together a wonderful program, but only 38 people showed up. We are planning the Spring Fling for March 27th at Tia Chucha's, Luis Rodriguez's little cultural center way out in Sylmar. Many on the board are also on the local convention committee, so we will be busy making decorations and planning receptions which we have agreed to fund.

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TUCATE

Carol Surabian

We were not able to find a nominee in time to get all our materials together, so we regret that we will not have a Classroom Excellence Award to give this year. We did, however, have some entries for the CATE Writing contest.

We are happy to announce we have a website! Thanks to Jim Kliegl (boy, has he been busy in retirement) for getting our presence on the web. You will need to check out the site.

In an effort to get more members, we are offering to pay one half the membership for anyone who signs up before the convention. So far, no takers. We will keep trying to get people on board, somehow.

I look forward to seeing everyone this weekend and hope to get some good ideas on firing up our council.

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Upper Council

Shelly Medford, Representative

Upper solicited nominations for the Award of Merit and the Classroom Award of Excellence. We have selected an instructor for a college level recipient Classroom Award of Excellence. Writing contest submissions were also solicited, but unfortunately, none were submitted.

Upper continues to struggle with membership. Budget woes continue to affect our school districts and professional development funds seem scarce. Upper can offer several convention scholarships to interested parties.

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2010 Convention

Nancy Himel, Chair

The SCTE board, with the help of some of my fine students, mailed 4200 envelopes filled with convention flyers to all schools in four local counties. Sadly, SCTE also sent out 1200 flyers to local schools, and our fall conference only had 38 attendees, down from 47 last year.

YouThink, a non-profit organization, has offered to put up an exhibition of student art and writing based on our theme, a kind of road to the registration area. Hopefully, these kids' teachers would then want to come to the convention to see their kids' work.

The Ayn Rand Institute will donate bags for all attendees.

Several YA authors have agreed to present at the In Conversation with... sessions.

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Convention Coordinator

Punky Fristrom, Coordinator

I greatly appreciate the help from Charleen Delfino, Carrie Danielson, Liz McAninch and Nancy Himel to make the coordinator's job easier. Charleen will handle board housing at the convention. Carrie coordinated the printing of the convention flyer and will coordinate the printing of the convention program. Liz will help by covering some of the convention events. Nancy is working with me on all aspects of the convention. I welcome any additional volunteers who can help during the convention.

I have received two proposals for the 2010 AV.

At the direction of the board, I put out a Request for Proposal for CATE 2015. As of the date of writing this report, I have received 6 proposals and 3 notifications that hotels will not bid. I will have details at the board meeting at which time the board is scheduled to make a decision. A new dimension has surfaced as hotel chains are offering significant concessions if we will sign for 2016 as well as 2015.

The Hilton Hotel chain, the Marriott chain and the Hyatt Hotel chain have suggested that CATE look at Multiyear proposals. There are advantages to such proposals that I will outline at the meeting. I have received 6 proposals for 2016. This will add complexity to the board meeting.

I have negotiated contracts with two different hotels for the May Board Meeting site. Charleen has chosen the Costa Mesa Hilton for that meeting. I also have a proposal from Squaw Creek at Lake Tahoe for board meetings in 2010.

I have also worked with Webmaster Cindy Conlin to get the historical lists of Award of Merit Winner, Classroom Excellence Winners, (Please review and if you know any of the schools and cities of the 89 and 93 winners, let me know.) Special Award Winners and all board members updated. During its existence, CATE has had 284 individuals serve as board members. They have held 483 different positions i.e., President and past-president.

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Member-at-Large, Middle School

Member-at-Large, Karen Brown

As Upper Council Writing Coordinator, I sent out notifications of the CATE Creative Writing Contest to all Upper Council members. However, Upper did not receive any submissions. I will continue to explore ways to expand opportunities for writing workshops, contests, etc. throughout the Upper Council area.

I have been working with Rita Smith, our Upper Resolutions Chair, in regards to current issues that affect our Language Arts programs in middle schools, including the ever-dwindling professional development funds that make it more and more difficult for English teachers to attend content-specific conferences.

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