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CATE President's Report

Bob Chapman
September 2009

Welcome, Gratitude & Confusion:

A hearty welcome to Cindy Conlin, Jill Hamilton-Bunch, Jim Kliegl, Kim Flachmann and Shannon Taylor. Of course I also welcome back Richard and Carrie in their new terms or roles.

As I have stated before, I give warm thanks to Michelle, Punky and Charleen for all the help they give me. I couldn't accomplish much without their support.

I am glad this is my second year—I am doing better at knowing what to do—but I still feel a bit overwhelmed. CATE deserves solid leadership and I sometimes wonder what you were thinking asking me to run for this office.

Martha's Letter:

I know Martha sent her finale letter to all of us on the BOD but I want to remind you of it (I have the e-mail version with me) and mention what a class-act she is. I know we'll all miss her. We have a lot to do, to fill her role on the BOD.

Committees:

I have appointed our new BOD members to committees and kept existing members in the committees they have been serving. Any other switches need to be cleared with me, so that we keep committees balanced.

Challenges:

I hope that our new Members-at-Large will take on important responsibilities once they have attended a BOD meeting or two. I look forward to their leadership on the Board. I also hope that we take this year to further organize in our local areas, programs meant to mentor and serve new teachers, and bring them into the benefits of CATE membership. I also hope that we buy a few memberships out of our own pockets this year—I have two to pay for this weekend (one for Redwood and one for Central—Stephanie Cochrane, my apprentice teacher, and Alexis Kennedy, an ex-student of mine now teaching first grade in Salinas).

Correspondence:

I have received various pieces of correspondence since May. While all of them are important, some stand out enough to be discussed here.

Kevin Murphy, who represents a client who has opportunities for English teachers/professors, wants to know if we have a listserv that allows employment advertising. What do you think? Okay or not? Or let Jake Stanford figure it out?

Jayne Marlink asked us, CATE, to co-sponsor with CWP the California Writing Awards for the national program coordinated by Scholastic's Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. The Executive Board voted to join in with CWP, and so we are co-sponsors now. Jayne will clue us in to what that means for our organization.

This summer, Jayne also asked CATE to write a letter of congratulations or make proclamations to celebrate CWP's 35th anniversary. Punky and I will complete this letter this weekend and send it on to be posted on the CWP website. I think we'd all like to highlight the respect we have for CWP.

Like last year I have two e-mails from NCTE – from Linda Walters. The first regards nominations for the 2010-11 NCTE Nominating Committee and needing to find three potential candidates for Group B/members of the Middle Level Section. She needs a preliminary list of candidates by November 1, 2008. She stresses that we should be looking for "people who know people" and who fit the Council's concern for diversity in leadership roles. The second e-mail is regarding open positions for which candidates are needed for the 2010 elections. Should I share these with local council presidents and Leadership?

The last correspondence is from the U.S. Department of Education asking CATE to endorse their Beginning Teacher Longitudinal Study (BLTS), "a web-based survey to collect data that will enable researchers to determine attrition rates for teachers, determine the rate of re-entry into the teaching profession, and determine the characteristics of those who stay in the teaching profession, those who move from one school to another, those who leave the profession, and those who return to the teaching profession." How would you

like me to deal with this? Can I share this with the group and get feedback? They want our endorsement by October 1st.

Website:

The website needs updating but Michelle, Charleen and I have been sending things to Cindy and she is very quickly adding them to the site. Look at it and let us know if you still see things missing. I have a few more things to send her to bring the website up to date.

NCTE:

Carrie should send, via e-mail, the CATE BOD minutes to Millie Davis when they are finished, so that we will not have to send a year's worth during the summer reporting season.

Joan & Membership:

I want to give my sincere thanks to Joan Williams, who always sends me her agenda items at least a week before I even begin to think about writing an agenda. She is awesome!

Membership Committee needs to work on the issue of increasing the membership dues, as was discussed at the May meeting.

Other:

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, September 17, 2009

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Vice President

**Charleen Silva Delfino
September 2009**

I set up the Board Meetings for the 2008-2009 year:

- September 20-21, Santa Clara
- December 6-7, Santa Clara
- February 18, Santa Clara
- May 1-2 or May 15-16, LAX

The reason that we are having three meetings in Santa Clara is that we were able to get packages that included very good room and food rates.

I set up the Advisory Committee conference call and wrote up the minutes. Anne Fristrom made the arrangements for the call. The September Board Reports are being sent to me and then I will get them posted on the CATE website.

I agreed to help Punky by making arrangements for the receptions and breakfasts at the hotel. I will also make the rooming arrangements for the board, speakers and special guests. The Convention Meals and Decorations Committee chaired by Susan Dillon will make the arrangements for the brunch, lunches and dinners where there will be speakers.

I connect with the Curriculum Study Commission as the liaison between the commission and CATE. The CSC with the help of CCCTE sponsors the Asilomar Conference that will be held September 26-28. Although registrations for the conference have declined this year, 186 regular and 3 retired CATE memberships were established. The registrar Dan Wolter works diligently to make sure all registrants have current memberships.

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Past President

September 2009

Despite the economic nastiness that befalls us as classroom teachers as well as our professional organization, I'm glad to be back at the Board meeting, surrounded by my friends and colleagues. I especially want to thank those CATE Board members who attended the NCTE Leadership Conference this summer to hear ideas for building and sustaining membership.

CATE Awards:

1. Please remember that ALL AWARDS are to be kept a secret until President Chapman notifies the winners around end-December. A nomination does not guarantee an award.
2. The Classroom Excellence Awards and Awards of Merit packets (an original AND a duplicate packet) must be filled out completely, and turned into the Past President at the start of the December meeting. Incomplete packets will not be accepted. The forms are online, and I've distributed to each of the councils a hard copy of each. For further information/clarification, please see Policy 10.2 for Award of Merit and Policy 10.4 for Classroom Excellence.
3. All councils are allowed to nominate for both awards. Classroom Excellence Awards are to be given by these councils to these grade levels this year:
 - Capitol Council Secondary
 - Central Council Elementary
 - Fresno Council Middle
 - Kern Council Elementary
 - Redwood Council Secondary
 - Greater San Diego Middle
 - Southland Council College
 - TUCATE Council College
 - Upper Council College

A council MAY choose to nominate another Classroom Excellence winner, but only after their designated grade level is completed.

Possible Action Item: to disallow second awards per council unless that council bears the costs associated with that additional award.

This year the Virginia Reid Scholarship winner will be selected by Greater San Diego Council. Policy 10.3 tells us that it is at this meeting the Past President convenes a group to peruse the Distinguished Service Award nominations to determine which ones will go forward to the final selection by an awards committee made up

of past Board members. My committee will meet during lunch break to ascertain if the candidates are qualified. I've asked Angus Dunstan, Bob Chapman, and Cheryl Smith to serve today.

Action Item: that the Awards Committee for the DSA be comprised of Dianne Lucas, Aaron Spain, and myself.

Elections:

1. Elections for officers to take positions on July 1, 2010, will be online, at the annual business meeting, and through California English. Forms are online and will be distributed at Board meeting.
2. Nominations due at the December meeting. The following are the offices presently open for election:
 - o President
 - o Vice President
 - o MAL Elementary
 - o MAL Secondary
 - o MAL Unspecified

NCTE Liaison:

1. All CATE Board members must have current NCTE memberships
2. CATE's presence/service NCTE this year
3. Bill Younglove is CATE's Intellectual Freedom Award nominee; he made it to national consideration!
4. Trevor Guina is our CATE/NCTE Leadership Development Award nominee
5. Promotional postcards for NCTE exhibitors - discussion and possible Action Item

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Convention Coordinator

Punky Fristrom September Board Report

I greatly appreciate the help from Charleen Delfino, Carrie Danielson, Liz McAninch and Nancy Himmel to make the coordinator's job easier. Charlene will handle board housing at the convention. Carrie coordinated the printing of the convention flyer and will coordinate 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.

With help from Carrie and great design work by Carole LeCren, the flyer for CATE 2010 was designed, printed and distributed. Carole deserves special thanks for making a last minute change in the flyer because of a speaker's cancellation. Special thanks goes to the convention chair Nancy Himmel, Registrar Eddie Hase. Program Chair Cheryl Smith and Precon Chair Jayne Marlink for their contributions. The flyer is now posted on CATEweb and online registration is available there.

I have developed the Request for Proposals for the 2010 AV and have sent it to companies that requested it. I expect several more requests.

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 2 proposals.

I have also worked with Webmaster Cindy Conlin to get the 2010 convention, the SCTE Fall Conference and GSDCTE's Promising Practices Conference posted on CATEweb with online registration for each.

Finding a new Convention Coordinator continues to be a priority for 2009-10.

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CCCTE Board Report

Liz McAninch, Representative

Charleen Delfino and I attended the NCTE Affiliate Leadership Conference in Charleston, S.C. in July. Affiliates around the country attempted to answer the question, "What can we do about declining membership and decreasing numbers at conferences?" The conference focused on finding creative solutions.

Central Council members also coordinate three of NCTE's writing contests: Charleen Delfino - Promising Young Writers, Charles Schaefer - Literary Magazines, and Liz McAninch - Achievement Awards in Writing. I want to extend a huge thanks to all of the CATE board members who read student work for the Achievement Awards in Writing. I appreciated your comments and forwarded them to NCTE. The National Coordinator recently contacted the state coordinators with a proposal that all submissions and scoring occur online in 2010. I have not received a final verdict on the proposal, but with the number of submissions in California, it would save pounds of paper.

A number of CCCTE members plan to attend NCTE in November: Charleen Delfino will chair the Resolutions Committee; Kathleen Cecil will serve on the Resolutions Committee and Liz McAninch will chair a session.

CCCTE will hold its first meeting of the new school year on September 26 in Carmel. In addition to addressing membership numbers and budget, we will also plan our spring conference, review constitution and policy, and recruit candidates for positions on Central's board.

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Redwood Council

Anne Sahlberg, Redwood Representative

Thanks go to Pam Cavanaugh who has graciously agreed to continue as treasurer locally for perpetuity. And also thanks to her and Megan Day, writing contest divas, for putting years of time and love into the local writing contest. On June 2, they held their final reception for the winners and passed the mantle to MaryAnn Loch of Peninsula School who is also a teacher consultant with Redwood Writing Project. The reception honored all who placed and were published. Megan and Pam always extend the invitations to family and teachers as well; the room was overflowing—with participants and tears. All entrants received certificates of participation while those who placed were honored at the ceremony, published, given copies of the anthology and in addition, first placers received a book and check. Since then, Redwood has been inactive.

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FACET Council

Tish Griggs, Representative

We are struggling this year. Our board is down to three active members and we are all stretched thin. That being said, we will be hosting a panel discussion/luncheon in November with retired teachers speaking on how to keep creativity alive while continuing to teach in this age of testing.

We are also continuing work on reviving the Yosemite/Bass Lake conference for 2011 and working on building up our web presence as well as our e-version of our newsletter and mailing list.

I'm sorry to be missing all of you. I'll be taking my younger daughter to Washington D.C. to get settled in the UC at DC dorm for her internship on the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Thanks for letting me brag.

Please welcome Shannon Taylor who is the FACET VP and has graciously agreed to attend the board meeting in my place.

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Bill Younglove, Representative

Activities since May CATE Board Meeting, by Bill Younglove (4Cs liaison rep):

- submitted and had accepted "Educational History Lessons?" piece of writing to the National Gallery of Writing. sent data requested re: Affiliate Intellectual Freedom Award, to Michelle Berry.
- sent second, promised, six-months-hence, followup questionnaire on Santa Clara CATE '09 Convention to 37 previously-indicated, willing responders about their convention experiences/uses.
- spoke to Carmen Carrillo's teacher preparation class at L.A. Harbor College on August 12th about their career choice, including a push for professional development.
- received response from HCTE (Hawaii Council of Teachers of English), as follows:

Hi Bill,

I just came across your letter expressing interest in a joint 2011 SCTE[CATE] and HCTE conference in HI. Although I meant to respond sooner to you, I think a crazy spring semester got in the way of doing so! As president of HCTE, I did share your letter with our board and we agreed it would be a great idea to pursue! If you are still interested, let's begin the discussion.

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I subsequently replied affirmatively, about beginning the discussion, on June 19th; sent a copy of the 1981 program booklet to Donna. SCTE President Nancy Himel has expressed a willingness to communicate with Donna. That is where things stand at the moment.

- did some initial recruitment on August 28th for student teacher volunteers at the CATE 2010 Convention.

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