

REACTA HOT TOPICS

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Purchasing Power Adjustments

This is the time of year for our Trust administrators to determine which retirees are eligible for a Purchasing Power Adjustment of their pension check. In 2017 there were approximately forty-nine CTA retirees eligible for a purchasing power adjustment. I reported last month that eligible retirees had to wait nearly six months to receive their adjustment. REACTA received assurances from CSO and CAS leaders that their trustees will more closely monitor the payment of these adjustments for 2018.

In December I sent an email to the presidents of CSO and CAS to ask their trustees for a list of retirees eligible for the PPA for 2018. I have not received a response. This month our Pension and Benefits Oversight Committee chaired by Bill Empey will contact last year's eligible retirees to determine if the Trust Administrator follows through. One of the main purposes of REACTA is to protect the retirement benefits of our retirees. We are confident there will not be as long a wait for this benefit in 2018.

REACTA Scholarship Fund Application

Please remind your children, grand-children, great grand-children, nieces and nephews that the deadline for filing an application for the REACTA Scholarship is February 28, 2018. We will award up to three scholarships in the amount of \$2000 each to students currently attending or planning to register for an accredited degree granting institution or college. You may download a copy of the application packet by going to the REACTA website, www.reacta.org. The application is also available on the REACTA Facebook page or may be obtained by emailing Scholarship Committee Chair Marla Reyes at marlaed@earthlink.com.

Membership Committee Update

The REACTA Membership Committee under the leadership of Robin Rose has done outstanding work recruiting members. As of January 7, we have 323 members. Seventeen new members have joined since our meeting in Cambria. Thanks for your fine work!!

There are about twenty cash payers from that need to pay their dues for 2018. Rather than sending a check, you should take

Political Action Note!

CTA has endorsed Gavin Newsom for Governor and Tony Thurmond for State Superintendent of Public Instruction. We will have more information as it gets closer to election. Both candidates will be on the June 2018 Primary Ballot.

advantage of the ease of "retirement check" deduction. Your dues will be automatically deducted and sent to our treasurer. If you would like to change, please contact our treasurer Art McLoughlin.

CTA Management Appoints Liaison to REACTA

CTA Executive Director Joe Nunez has appointed Region 2 Assistant Manager Jim Schlotz to serve as management's liaison to REACTA. Jim previously served members in Region 2 and was part of the Negotiations and Organizational Development Department. I have known Jim for over 25 years and look forward to working with him on matters of mutual interest. CTA is faced with a Supreme Court decision that could eviscerate Agency Fees and have a detrimental impact on membership. The 2018 election will have numerous issues that impact CTA. REACTA members are willing to volunteer their expertise to ensure a favorable outcome. I will keep you informed after our meeting with Jim.

Services Set for Former Colleague

As reported on the REACTA FB page, CTA Staffer **Helen O'Donnell** passed from an apparent heart attack. Many REACTA members worked with Helen. She not only provided excellent support to her members but also was a trainer at many CTA statewide conferences. Condolences may be sent to the Helen O'Donnell Family, c/o Paula Marsh, 9866 Oakpace East, Folsom, CA 95630.

Our REACTA member and colleague **Steve McDonald** passed on December 4. Mary Ann McDonald posted the following: I wanted to let you know that Steve's Celebration of Life is Saturday, Feb.10 from 1-4 at the SDEA office, 10393 San Diego Mission Rd, 92108. I would love for you to come and share your stories about our sweet, fierce, kind, and mischievous guy.

Retirees for January

REACTA congratulates the following retirees:

- Brenda Sutton-Wills; Attorney, Santa Fe Springs
- Kimberly Hansen; Field Services Specialist, Union City
- Kathy Gonzales, Office Services, Burlingame

If you know these retirees, please invite them to join REACTA!!

The next meeting of REACTA Officers will be February 7. If you have any concerns you would like us to discuss, please let me know. Save October 1-3 for REACTA Annual Reunion and Meeting at Cambria Pines Lodge.