

REACTA HOT TOPICS

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SUSAN POPOVICH (1948 – 2017)

We were shocked by the recent passing of our friend and colleague Susan Popovich. She died in an automobile accident near her home in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Susan retired from CTA in 2006 after serving staff and teachers in San Diego, Carlsbad and Region 4. As a member of the NODD Department, Susan was a great organizer, negotiator and trainer. She touched many lives in her career at CTA. You could not slow Susan down in retirement. She remained active with REACTA, serving as editor of the REACTOR. She was politically active in Santa Fe and was recently elected as chairperson of the Santa Fe County Democratic Party. Those of us who worked with Susan were inspired by her dedication, sincerity and passion for what she did. Susan, rest in peace. Your legacy will live on in the lives of those you touched.

Last Call For REACTA Annual Reunion and Business Meeting

The REACTA Annual Reunion and Business Meeting will be on October 2-5, 2017, at the Cambria Pines Lodge. ALL retired CTA employees are invited to join us in Cambria. If you need a room, contact Art McLoughlin at mickey3643@aol.com.

Membership Promotion Committee Report by Robin Rose

REACTA has formed a new Membership Committee who has been personally reaching out to soon-to-be retirees, new retirees and also past members or members who have recently have not paid their dues. When REACTA learns about upcoming staff retirements, the Membership Committee sends a Congratulations Letter and a REACTA invitation from Dom Summa. A member of the Committee then reaches out to each retiree, by Region, to make personal contact. Upon membership, REACTA sends new retirees a Welcome Letter from Dom Summa, the REACTA Directory, Hot Topics and the latest REACTA Newsletter.

A shout out to those REACTA members who have renewed their membership for 2016! We realize that it is easy to overlook renewing dues in January of each year; however, for ease of paying yearly dues, we are strongly encouraging REACTA members to sign up for automatic prorated dues deduction from their monthly CTA retirement check.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? How about asking a non-member colleague to join REACTA and/or bring them with you to our next Cambria meeting or Spring Luncheon? There are also REACTA members who for some reason or other, dropped and did not renew their membership. Do you know someone that you can reach out to? Eventually we hope that REACTA will be known to all CTA employees before retirement. The REACTA Membership Committee would also like to hear from you about ways to increase our membership. And, if you would like to join our Committee, please let us know.

REACTA Membership Promotion Committee:

Region 1 – Maureen Keating, Theo-Austin-Smyth, Shirley Horn, Craig Nelson

Region 2 – Steve DePue, Vicki Marien, Pat Miller Fee, Marla Reyes

Region 3 – Robin Rose, Patricia Williams, Ginny Jannotto

Region 4 – Gary Campbell, Conrad Ohlson, Merri Boston

Dues Waiver For Surviving Spouses of REACTA Members

On August 1, 2017, the REACTA officers voted unanimously to waive future dues for surviving spouses of retired CTA REACTA members. This will take effect beginning January 2018, and these individuals will be converted to Lifetime Members. This change was suggested by Membership Committee member Maureen Keating.

REACTA Scholarship Program 2018

The REACTA Scholarship Committee will meet at Cambria to develop the final application packet for the 2018 Scholarship Program. It is our intent to have these applications available by mid-November. REACTA will award up to three scholarships, each worth \$2000. If you have any questions or concerns about this program please email committee chair Marla Reyes at marlaed@earthlink.com.

CNA Rate Increase for Long Term Care Insurance

I continue to receive phone calls and emails from REACTA members upset with the latest round of rate increases from CNA for Long Term Care Insurance. This year's increase for some members has been over 100%! Although there may not be any legal recourse, there are options available when faced with a significant rate increase. REACTA member Dan Saling has done a lot of research in this area and has assisted members with questions or concerns. If you would like help, please let me know and I will make the connection.

Pension and Health Trust Updates

We expect to receive updates regarding the Pension and Health Trusts at our annual meeting in Cambria. This information will be reported in the next issue of REACTA HOT TOPICS.

Help Wanted

REACTA is looking for a volunteer to serve as editor of our newsletter, The REACTOR. Our goal is to send this out on a quarterly basis. The REACTOR articles are written by officers, committee chairs and members and sent to the editor for layout and design purposes. If you are interested, please send me an email.

CTA Retirement Update

There was only one retiree listed on the September CTA Board Report. We wish Estelle Lemieux from Governmental Relations, Sacramento, a very happy retirement!