

# 2011 Annual Reports

## Board Officers

### **President Charleen Silva Delfino**

#### **2012 Annual Report Covering CATE Activities for 2011**

#### **President's Report**

##### CATE 2011 Convention

I worked with Chair Michelle Berry on the CATE Convention 2011 in Sacramento. This convention was a great success, As President I had several duties. I arranged for the giving of awards, wrote letters notifying recipients, arranged for the time that each award would be given and selected the type of award, looking for the best type of award that would keep within the budget. I planned the President's Reception and the recognition of the Distinguished Service Award recipient and an appropriate gift which was difficult since the award was given posthumously. I also set the agenda and chaired the Annual Business Meeting. I worked with CYRM for the Saturday Luncheon and was able to secure Pam Munoz Ryan as the speaker.

##### Board Meetings

I planned the agendas and chaired the meetings. I worked with Vice President, Liz McAninch on the Advisory Conference Calls and gave the meeting agendas to Cindy Conlin to be posted on CATEWEB.

##### NCTE

I attended the NCTE Meeting in Chicago. I attended the Secondary Section Luncheon and the Affiliate Breakfast as a CATE representative. I also attended a session on improving Affiliate Websites and another session on building Student Affiliates. I also chaired the California scoring of the Young Writers contest; there was a significant increase in the number of students participating over the previous year.

##### CYRM

I attended the CYRM meeting with the intent of building a better relationship with CYRM. The goal is to improve communication between the two groups and to get more free books to give to teachers at the CYRM Luncheon at the CATE Convention. Also a new CATE Representative Vivian Boyd was appointed as a CYRM liaison. She will serve a three year term.

## Addressing the Budget

CATE has made several attempts to respond to the increased worsening of the financial situation. The decreased financial support in all areas of education has had a negative effect on CATE. With careful planning we have been able to survive better than many other subject matter organizations. Creating a budget in May 2011 demanded more cuts. The President was the only CATE Board member to receive financial help to attend NCTE and that amount was cut by 50% over the previous year. The President's budget for travel, supplies and other items was also cut by 50%. The most devastating cuts resulted in reducing the number of issues of California English from five to four issues a year and in reducing the number of board meetings from four to three. It was decided that the May Board Meeting would be canceled as a two-day meeting where we would all meet in one place saving the cost of transportation, food and lodging for about 25 people. This meeting would happen as a virtual meeting that would take place via computer on one day.

Bob Chapman and I researched various options and decided on Cisco Web Ex as the program to pilot. We will try it for two Advisory meetings (about 10 people) prior to the May Meeting and then use it with the full board for the May Board Meeting.

## CATE Registrar

We decided to replace Eddie Hase as CATE Registrar with Cindy Conlin who serves as CATE Web Master. I worked to help make this a smooth transition. We thank Eddie for the work he did for CATE.

## Representing CATE

I believe that CATE should have representation at events sponsored by those groups who share our educational goals; however, with the present economic situation, it is impossible for CATE to pay board members for food, travel or housing to attend such functions. Therefore, we asked members who live in the area where the events take place to volunteer to attend these events to represent CATE. I attended the CETA Conference (California Educational Theater Assoc.) in Asilomar, NCTE in Chicago, and four meetings of the JCIM (Joint Committee on Instructional Materials at the SDE in Sacramento. I also attended the The Asilomar Conference sponsored by the Curriculum Study Commission. I planned to attend the CTA Good Teaching Conference but illness prevented me from going.

CATE had a busy year in 2011 with many joys and some disappointments caused by the economic downturn. However, CATE remains a strong organization with many dedicated members who work diligently for the success of its goals. Willing to make difficult but sound economic decisions, CATE will remain a positive force for English language arts teachers for many years to come.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Charleen Silva Delfino

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**Past President Robert Chapman**

**Past-President's 2011 Annual Report**

Second year of this position. Duties have varied. Most important role is to oversee awards for the convention and lead the election of officers. This year I shared the NCTE liaison position with President Delfino, and we both attended the convention in Chicago. I continue to be active with the Advocacy Committee of NCTE, but I did not take part in the Washington, DC Advocacy Day in April. My main role has been to stay in contact with Senators Feinstein's and Boxer's offices. I also monitor legislation for the Policy and Censorship Committee of CATE, and each of us on the committee has become members of the CATE Resolutions Committee. My other committee responsibility is with the Executive Finance Committee, and for the last year we have been reducing the budget as much as possible.

2011 CATE Awards:

Distinguished Service Award:

Kathleen Cecil

Classroom Excellence Award:

Maureen Kearns

Redwood Council – College

Humboldt State University

Jill Butler

CCCTE – Middle

Pleasanton Middle School

Carrie Danielson

GSDCTE – Secondary

Olympia High School

Peggy Dewane-Pope

Kern – Middle

Stonecreek Junior High School

Vicki Silva

Upper – Elementary

Wyandotte Avenue School

Tara Sharp

TUCATE – Elementary

Ivanhoe Elementary

Award of Merit:

Center Theatre Young Audiences Program

Leslie K. Johnson, Director of Education

Southland – Nancy Himel

Sam Pierstorff

Slam on the Rye Poetry Slam

CCCTE - Susan Dillon

Teatro Itzcali

Macedonio Arteaga

GSDCTE - Lisa Ledri-Aguilar

Virginia Reid: This year the Virginia Reid Scholarship was the responsibility of the Central Council.

Breanne Romanno

San Jose, CA

2011 CATE Election:

Secretary: Carrie Danielson (GSDCTE)

Membership: Joan Williams (RCTE)

Member-at-Large, Middle: Kristy Orona-Ramirez (GSDCTE)

Member-at-Large, College: William Foreman (CCCTE)

Member-at-Large, Unspecified: Michelle Berry (CCCTE)

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**Vice President Liz McAninch**

**Vice-President's ANNUAL REPORT**

First of all, I extend a huge “thank you” to all the board members who made my job easier by your quick responses to room requests. In 2011, I negotiated bids from hotels for the board meetings in May, September and December. My special thanks to Punky Fristrom, who offered astute advice and counsel in handling hotel arrangements. I enjoyed the process of setting up rooms, arranging meeting space and selecting meal orders at the Town & Country Resort in San Diego, and the Doubletree Hotels in Ontario and Burlingame.

I have assisted with CATE 2012 by arranging the speakers for Two Minutes for CATE and those who introduce the presenters at meal events. I will also volunteer at registration and the CATE booth during the convention.

In my role as California Coordinator of the NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing, I distributed several hundred entries to a wide variety of readers – again, another enormous thanks to board members that volunteered to read and score student work. NCTE has instituted changes in both the Achievement Award in Writing and the Promising Young Writers. In hopes of both streamlining the process and attracting more entries, all work will be submitted online and all judging will be undertaken by online readers. NCTE eliminated state coordinators, but encourages everyone who has been a reader in the past to continue as an online scorer. However, we will no longer score California writers only, but also read essays from students across the country.

As Past President, I remain active on the Central Council Board. I joined other members of CCCTE as we hosted our annual Young Writers' Reception in Rist Hall at Mercy High School, San Francisco on Sunday, April 3. Over seventy-five guests, including writers, parents, teachers and friends filled the room. The hall echoed with laughter, applause and delight as we listened to an amazing array of young writers. The range and diversity of their work brought home the importance of CATE's writing contests in giving a voice to student writers. All of the students went home with books, gift cards and a certificate.

CCCTE funds scholarships for teachers to attend the Curriculum Study Commission conference at Asilomar through raffling tickets for Chiyo baskets and scholarships to CATE through tickets sales from Kathleen Cecil baskets. I donated material for the baskets, and assisted with the preparation and ticket selling. At CATE 2011, Central raffled tickets to the Cecil baskets and made enough money to sponsor several teachers to CATE 2012. In September, we also did very well at the CSC conference at Asilomar.

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## **Secretary Carrie Danielson**

### **Annual Report 2011**

During 2011, as secretary of the CATE Board, I have attended all board meetings and the annual business meeting. For each of those meetings, I prepared minutes and published them to the board and had our webmaster upload them to [www.CATEweb.org](http://www.CATEweb.org). I have updated our board roster at every meeting and have also published the updated version to the board and to the website. Since our board changes over the summer, the September roster is most important. This year I have been working hard to update our CATE Board Policies because they were somewhat out-of-date. We already voted to include the NCTE Policies regarding nonprofit organizations but we are just getting that formally printed up in our documents and on the website. I am also striving to update other information on CATEweb. As needed, I make business cards for the CATE board members for their use at the CATE Convention and other activities.

As a member of the CATE Board I served on three committees, Policy and Censorship, Membership, and now on Executive Finance. Through those committees, I helped to create CATE Board Resolutions, contact political leaders, update CATE Policies, set up the CATE Membership booth and assisted in several other areas.

I have the CATE Board computer and have used it and kept it working, although at this point, it is not as useful as it once was. We will discuss what to do with it at a future board meeting.

I look forward to my work with the CATE Board through 2012 and am up for reelection in the spring of 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Danielson

CATE Board Secretary

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**Treasurer Anne Fristrom**

CATE operates on a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. The amounts presented here reflect the year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 and include the 2011 convention Sacramento. On June 30, 2011 CATE'S assets included:

Checking account - \$1,020.88

Memorial CD - \$6,726.53

Kahl Memorial CD - \$16,130.23

Vanguard Investments \$61,878.24

CATE's total assets on June 30, 2011 were \$107,703.72

CATE finds its assets declining during the current financial situation. The budget for the year 2011-2012 has been further reduced so that the organization can continue to serve its members.

Informational tax returns have been filed. These returns include the financial reports of all the CATE councils.

Copies of the CATE budget and actual income and expenses for 2009-2011 will be available at the annual meeting on Feb. 12, 2012 for anyone wishing more detailed information.

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## Council Representatives

### **CCTE Representative (Capitol) Angus Dunstan**

#### **Annual Report**

Capitol Council had a good year. We provided an excellent local committee for the convention held in Sacramento. Building on the enthusiasm generated by the convention, we re-formed a small local board and held our first (for quite some time) workshop in the Fall. Lightly, though enthusiastically, attended, this gave us the impetus to plan a Spring workshop, establishing a pattern we hope will continue.

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### **CCCTE Representative (Central) Susan Dillon**

#### **Annual Report Central Council Representative**

I represented Central at board meetings and at CATE 2011. It was a pleasure to attend the Saturday banquet, dedicated to the memory of Kathleen Cecil, former Central and CATE executive board member. We also had a reception for Central members at CATE 2011. We received permission from the convention coordinator to sell opportunity tickets for a hospitality basket to raise funds for the Cecil scholarship for new teachers to CATE 2012 (convention assistance). Central held its reception for young writers in April, and it can be viewed as streaming video on our web page. We lent support to the CSU Stanislaus Shakespearean Forum in May. Central hosted a reception at Asilomar 60, and I had a chance to speak to those assembled at the opening session about CATE membership and CATE 2012. We are currently planning our Steinbeck workshop in March, the young writers reception in April, a multicultural workshop at CSU Stanislaus in May, and CATE 2013 in Santa Clara.

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### **GSDCTE Representative (San Diego) Lisa Ledri-Aguilar**

#### **Annual Report for Greater San Diego Council Teachers of English**

##### **December 2011**

GSDCTE has been very involved in our county this year. So far, we have had two very successful Promising Practices, one last spring, and our most recent one with Jim Burke, this past October. We also had our Lake Arrowhead Retreat last April which was attended by 8 people. Everyone who attended enjoyed the experience immensely. In addition, we had our GSDCTE Writing Awards for K-12 last

February with an excellent turn out of parents and staff. Carleen Hemric is our Distinguished Lifetime Award winner, and I have been nominated for the college classroom excellence award. Carleen and I are very honored by these nominations. Most recently, four of our board members participated in NCTE in Chicago, and all of us came back with great ideas for our classrooms as well as ideas to share with our teaching colleagues. Last spring, our Writing Banquet Awards dinner in May was attended by 40 people, and Dr. John Mark Reynolds of Biola University was our keynote speaker. He was well received by our writing contest winners and by the board. Our board looks forward to our spring Promising Practices and all the events we have planned for 2012.

Respectfully,

Lisa Ledri-Aguilar  
President, GSDCTE

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**SCTE Representative (Southland) Nancy Himel**

**Annual Report**

SCTE held its usual events this year. Joanne Fahey hosted our Scholarship Tea at West High School in March, over 30 of us toured downtown LA with Mike the Poet in April, and we held our Fall Conference in October with Kelly Gallagher and Neal Shusterman as our meal speaker. 134 people attended, and all had a great time.

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**TUCATE Representative (Tulare) Carol Surabian**

**Annual Report**

This past year the TUCATE Board has looked hard at the level of participation at local activities and attempted to find new avenues of developing interest in CATE. We hosted a reception in May for Tara Sharpe, our Classroom Excellence Award winner in 2011. We participated in the CATE Creative Writing contest and hope to continue to make connections with other entities around our county.

To better meet the needs of teachers, we recently updated our website. There is a link from the CATE website.

We continue to strive to be a viable council and look to local and state leaders to help us as we continue in our efforts to be of value to English teachers of Tulare and Kings Counties.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Surabian

TUCATE President

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## Members-at-Large

### **Elementary Denise Mikkonen**

#### **Annual Report – MAL Elementary**

- Attended Board meetings in Sacramento, San Diego and Ontario
  - Attended and supported CATE Convention in Sacramento
  - Participated on the Membership and Leadership committees
  - Attended Common Core Leadership Conference in Chicago
  - Attended Common Core @ San Diego County Office of Education
  - Worked with Asst. Sup and Director of Curriculum and CCC Role out for PUSD
  - Leadership Team San Marcos Writing Project liaison – keeping CATE and WP Connected, cross grade level/schools articulation
  - Registrar Promising Practices, GSDCTE
  - Attended NCTE in Chicago
  - Presented California Common Core and Writing to Elementary Principals in PUSD
  - Working on presentation for CATE, Ontario
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### **Secondary Ron Lauderbach**

#### **Annual Report MAL Ron Lauderbach**

During 2011 I attended three board meetings. At the annual convention, I assisted at registration, membership. I served on two board committees: leadership and publications. In March, I read papers

for the California Writing Project. I look forward to being the official photographer at the 2012 CATE convention.

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**College William Foreman**

**Annual Report 2011 – Member-at-Large, College**

This year is my first on the board, so I have attended only two meetings. As leader of our subcommittee on resolutions, I have drafted two resolutions: one on teacher autonomy that was presented at our September meeting and was returned for further edits, and another in support of teachers' selecting multicultural literature for their classrooms, which passed at our December meeting.

As a board member for CCCTE, I have enlisted the help of two colleagues at my university to present on teaching the work of Sandra Cisneros. This presentation, aimed at our K-12 teacher members and colleagues, will occur in late April or early May, 2012. The location will be on my campus, the California State University, Stanislaus, in Turlock, CA.

Before becoming a board member, I submitted a resolution joining the CSU English Council and the CSU Statewide Academic Senate in condemning the recently enacted "Early Start" program that requires remediating students entering the CSU system to start their pre-baccalaureat coursework during the summer before their first regular college semester. This resolution passed at our annual meeting at the convention in February 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Foreman

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**MAL Unspecified Michelle Berry,**

**CATE 2011 Chair Michelle Berry**

For the first half of 2011, my role on the CATE Board was as Convention Chair for CATE 2011, held in Sacramento from February 11-13, the theme of which was Never More Crucial. Despite some challenges, many of which are faced by convention coordinators in these tough times, and some of which were dashed only by Punky Fristrom's amazing ability to renegotiate contracts, we had a

successful run that highlighted engaging speakers (Mahbod Seraji, Jim Burke, Carol Jago, Pam Munoz Ryan, W.S. Merwin, and Sherman Alexie), a terrific array of workshops, and an environment of support in which English/language arts teachers could share successful practices, brainstorm strategies for facing the devastating economic challenges of our times, and begin in earnest to discuss the newly approved Common Core Standards. No chair works alone; without the priceless assistance of too many volunteers and friends to count, these conventions could not happen. Heartfelt thanks go especially to Punky, Anne, Cheryl, Carole, and Charleen for their tireless work and treasured friendship, and to my local convention committee who gave it their all.

I chose to run for Member-at-Large, Unspecified, as I have found working on the CATE Board to be both personally and professionally fulfilling, and was elected. By May I had convinced my friend and program chair extraordinaire, Cheryl Hogue Smith, to submit a letter of interest to the Board with me to pursue the eventual open position of Convention Coordinator. The two of us look to share the duties that have been handled so successfully and conscientiously by Punky Fristrom for quite some time. That proposal was rewarded by support of the Board, and I look forward to my continued training and shadowing of Punky so that in ten more years, when he chooses to step down, we may be ready to step into his very large shoes, figuratively speaking.

Throughout this year I served as member of the Executive/Finance Committee and the Convention Committee.

I am extremely grateful to be invited to serve with this wonderful group of committed teachers who are committed professional excellence.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle M. Berry

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## Chairpersons

**Membership Joan Williams**

**MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2011**

Membership numbers are now holding fairly steady at around 900, but our board and committee continue to look for ways to meet the needs of current members and reach out to non-members.

I served on the Leadership committee and chaired the Membership committee in 2011. I also served on the Advisory Committee and participated in the conference calls for planning meetings.

I hope to include electronic reminders in the coming year, and the new registrar and I met to discuss ways to improve roster data and accuracy, especially during convention.

During the convention, Membership booth volunteers assisted me to distribute our membership gifts of luggage tags to convention attendees. I provided council badges to attendees and have re-ordered them to distribute to the 2012 convention attendees.

I used the power point in the booth to display the variety of activities and people in CATE councils across the state and displayed posters to illustrate the councils. CATE board members were present to help greet convention attendees and collect leadership cards from members who would like to be more involved in the organization. Membership donated a free membership to the drawing at the annual business meeting.

Current membership goals include contacting NCTE members who live in California, recruiting new teachers and pre-service teachers, renewing our connection with former members of CATE, and continuing to explore ways to reach out to all of our current members.

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## **Convention**

### **Coordinator & Consultant Punky Fristrom**

In spite of the bad economy, CATE 2013 was a fine convention under the direction of Chair Michelle Berry and her committee. The financial results were also much better than expected.

With help from Carrie Danielson and great design work by Carole LeCren, the program for CATE 2011 was designed, printed and distributed. Special thanks go to Registrar Eddie Hase. Program Chair Cheryl

Smith, Exhibits Manager Tammie Harvey and Precon Chair Jayne Marlink for their contributions to the success of the convention.

Meanwhile, work on CATE 2012 at the Ontario DoubleTree Hotel and the Ontario Convention Center has proceeded under the leadership of Convention Chairs Kim Flachmann and Jill Hamilton-Bunch and their local committee. Carole LeCren designed the flyer that was mailed in September and the January issue of California English will be a convention issue that will feature complete information about CATE 2012. Editor Carol Jago will include CATE 2012 information along with many of her regular features.

Following instructions from the board:

I renegotiated the contracts for CATE 2013 with the Santa Clara Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara in order to reduce CATE's liability because of the current financial situation. Later in the year, I signed another revised contract with the Santa Clara Convention Center. We have given up the exhibit hall on Thursday, which means move-in will be Thursday night. In return we received a change in the contract, which should give CATE a \$6,600 reimbursement, a delay in when deposits are due and a payment of \$4,000 from the company that will use the hall on Thursday. The contract with Curtin guarantees that the maximum we will pay extra for a night move-in in 2013 is \$4,000.

As a condition of receiving more favorable terms in the 2013 contracts, I signed contracts for CATE 2017 with the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara and the Santa Clara Convention Center.

I signed a contract with Curtin Convention and Exposition Services, Inc. to be CATE's exhibit hall decorator until 2016. Terms are the same as in the past years.

I am working with Michelle Berry and Cheryl Smith who have been appointed by the CATE Board as convention consultants and will become Convention Coordinators in the future.

The CATE Board appointed Cindy Conlin, who has been our webmaster, to be the registrar for CATE 2012. CATE Treasurer, Anne Fristrom, and I met with Cindy to review the registrar's duties. I have continued working with her as she takes on these new responsibilities.

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**CATE 2011 Chair Michelle Berry – see Member-at-Large Unspecified (above)**

## Liaisons

### **CTA Liaison Debra Martinez**

#### **CTA Annual Report**

This year I attended 4 CTA liaison meetings which helped me to report out at the CATE board meetings. When I attend the CTA meetings I relay CATE information to my members in another written report that I must present. I also write a report to the CTA board members when I return from a CATE board meeting. In these reports is when I ask CTA for support for CATE at the annual convention. This year and last I have also asked the board to send other CTA members to the CATE conference that will be paid by CTA.

Respectfully,

Debra Martinez

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### **CCCC Liaison Bill Younglove**

#### **California Curriculum Correlating Council (4 Cs) Annual Board Report to CATE**

During 2011, I attended all CATE Board meetings for the duration. In addition, I

- served as SCTE's Policy/SLATE chair;
- presented on "Elie Wiesel: Emergence and Evolution from Night" at CATE's 52nd Annual Convention, in Sacramento, February 11-13;
- continued to serve as 4 Cs liaison,
- —attending the 15th Annual Education Summit, "e-Learning: Leading or Following?" in Sacramento, February 25th-26th, providing minutes of same;
- —attending the fall 4 Cs meeting in Sacramento, October 29th, hearing reports by the CFT, SSPI, and the CTC, providing minutes of same;
- served as a promoter and judge for the CATE Creative and Professional, plus NCTE Writing Achievement Award, Contests, plus Olga Kokino contact;
- took part in two CATE Conference Calls, August 22nd and November 14th;
- attended Central Council's Asilomar 60 Conference September 23rd-25th;
- shared UCLA-based CTA summer training in the Common Core State Standards,

- via highlights to the CATE Board September 11th and at SCTE's Fall Conference October 22nd in Whittier;
- attended the NCTE Centennial Convention November 17-20 in Chicago, completing Task Force on Council History and 2011 Year service;
- had articles published in California English and the English Journal.

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## **Communications**

### **California English Editor Carol Jago**

#### **Annual Report, 2011**

California English is the professional journal of the California Association of Teachers of English. In 2011 the magazine published 4 issues focusing on the themes: "LGTB Issues in the Classroom," "What's in a List," (two issues), and "Evergreen Ideas for Teaching." Manuscripts for the journal are garnered through calls for manuscripts focusing on a particular theme and then sent out for online review. The calls are circulated through multiple electronic forums including the UCLA California Reading and Literature Project newsletter, the English Companion ning, and the NCTE web site.

Along with articles on teaching and learning, the journal includes news of CATE work in the field: conferences, resolutions, the CATE ballot, the CATE2011 convention program, and CATE writing contest winners.

In order to garner new reviewers for the journal, I present a session on California English at the convention in order to provide information to teachers interested in reviewing and/or in writing for our professional journal. All reviews are conducted via email, forwarding reviewers manuscripts that have been submitted online.

Manuscripts submitted	102
Manuscripts published	42
Manuscripts rejected	51
Manuscripts under review	19

The quality of the manuscripts received has been consistently excellent. The editor has attempted to make the most of the magazine pages by asking writers to keep their articles under 2,000 words. This is increasingly important as we have — for economic reasons — reduced the number of pages in the magazine and reduced the number of issues for 2012 from five to four. Artists continue to be generous allowing California English to feature their work in California English.

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