

CATE Board Reports DECEMBER 2020

Greg Johnson, Past President	
Robb Polski, President	
Sommer Iamele, Vice President	<p>Board Report for VP:</p> <p>Since our last meeting I have continued to work for the Poway Home Education Program. I am working as a kindergarten teacher and helping to guide parents through home schooling. As the Vice President of CATE, I recently attended the advisory meeting where members of the board continued the conversation of the upcoming CATE virtual conference.</p> <p>I have also been running a STEM after-school enrichment program for 1st grade girls. The program encourages these young ladies to collaborate, think critically, and, most importantly, write about their learning and findings.</p> <p>I am looking forward to 2021 in hopes that our organization will be able to continue to serve its members in a time when they need it the most.</p> <p>Sommer Iamele</p> <p>Poway Home Education Program, Poway Unified School District California Association of Teachers of English, Vice-President</p>
Carole LeCren, Secretary	<p>Since the last meeting, I've created advertisements for California English, a board roster for the treasurers for their required paperwork, a new list of e-mails based on the "preferred" e-mails provided on the roster, and been a part of the Saturday CATE event planning.</p> <p>Professionally, I have been teaching online with a modified schedule (three classes per 9-week quarter, which counts as a full 18-week semester, with Zoom meetings from 8:30-12:30, and flex time/homework time from 1-3 PM). I've used all my skills with curriculum design and leadership to help myself and others, and learned many new technological skills, including screencasting, YouTube video creation, Instagram advertising, lots of Google Classroom and Google Drive skills, and of course, Zoom. The most catastrophic school-based stress causer was our district's decision to require secondary schools to start using standards-based grading in the middle of first semester. So my most recent skill was discovering how to give public testimony at a Zoom school board meeting, asking them to postpone rollout of a non-COVID-19-related directive until Fall 2021. The answer was no.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Carole LeCren, CATE Secretary</p>
Denise Mikkonen, Co-Treasurer	<p>Patrick and I, in conjunction with our CPA have completed all the necessary tax paperwork and the forms have been signed and sent off with the appropriate checks. All monies have been disbursed for this issue of California English to Precision and the editors. Our Precision costs have gone down due to two factors, the board's vote to extend membership, so no need for late cards etc., and Joan's research streamlining postage costs. We paid Conlin Web Services for their quarterly fee. Some monies are trickling in from outstanding PO's from convention.</p> <p>Our biggest project was reconciling the past two years expenses and remittances for Pre-Con. This was large task due to the hotel invoicing lacking clear itemized expenses. We persisted and presented our findings to CWP - we are waiting for final instructions for the money's disbursement to CWP minus expenses and monies due to CATE.</p> <p>We remain in good standing and will continue to keep a close eye on the expenses in this unusual time.</p> <p>Denise and Pat</p>
Patrick Keough, Co-Treasurer	
Angus Dunstan, Capitol Rep	<p>Two items to report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are in the middle of a book give-away as a gesture of support to our members whom we cannot serve face-to-face. Currently about 20% of our members have requested one of the free books we offered to send them from a short list which included titles our board suggested and the recommendations on Carol Jago's NCTE bookmark. We may extend the offer to those who were members last year at this time to remind them we are still here and preparing for a hybrid CATE 2021. 2. We are delighted to nominate Rebecca Detrick as a candidate for member at Large Unspecified. Rebecca is completing her term on the CYRM committee and has served as Capitol's Resolutions representative for the last two years.
Susan Dillon, Central Rep	<p>Central Council Board Report December 2020</p> <p>The CCCTE board is in a rebuilding process. We have welcomed some new members who have had to excuse themselves from active participation at the moment, so we will continue to reach out to our membership to encourage active participation as we seek new ways for our council to best serve our members. Although we do not have any events planned at the moment, we look forward to offering one next spring.</p> <p>I am happy to serve as the temporary CCCTE president and writing contest coordinator. It is a joy to reconnect with the CCCTE board and the CATE board members.</p> <p>I am also happy to continue teaching high school students and to help judge writing contests for elementary students in my community sponsored by civic and church groups.</p>
Janina Schulz, FACET Rep	<p>FACET has continued working with San Joaquin Valley Writing Project to bring presenters to a workshop series for the spring.</p> <p>SJVWP + FACET SATURDAY SPEAKERS</p>

	<p>Join FACET (Fresno Area Council of English Teachers) and San Joaquin Valley Writing Project for our 2021 Speaker Series featuring Troy Hicks and Jen Roberts.</p> <p>REGISTER NOW</p> <p>Saturday, January 9, 9-11:30 • Troy Hicks • Making Remote Learning Matter: Engaging Our Students and Building Their Digital Literacies As we step into an academic year that will be unlike any other, our goals for remote learning must be guided by empathy and care, and an intentional focus on engagement, all while building students' digital literacies. In this interactive session, we will examine both tools and strategies that can help us create meaningful arcs of instruction across multiple days of "any time" (asynchronous) and "real time" (synchronous) learning. We will focus on techniques for both video conferencing sessions as well as learning activities in which students can engage over time, using collaborative tools in Google Suite and through other openly-available apps and websites. Throughout, we will discuss what it is that we value about learning, and how to translate that into meaningful remote opportunities for our students.</p> <p>Saturday, February 6, 9-11:30 • Jen Roberts • Writing Instruction With Digital Tools What we know about teaching writing well has not changed, but the tools we have available for teaching writing have expanded. Together we will work through a writing process using and learning about new methods and tools to keep our students moving forward in their writing development. You will gain practical and accessible strategies you can apply to your writing instruction immediately, no matter where your students are in the writing process. Classroom tested, teacher approved, I promise these are the tools and strategies worth learning. They will save you dozens of hours over the rest of this school year and your students will like them too.</p> <p>We hope all the councils will share this information with your members who might be interested in participating in these virtual workshops.</p> <p>Personally, my school site finally just finished our WASC visitation that was supposed to take place in spring. I also just finished my 5th year of teaching in the credential program at Fresno Pacific University. Distance learning for teaching high school continues to have its ups and downs, but we strive on!</p> <p>Janina Schulz, MA, NBCT FACET President</p>
<p>Gina Vattuone, GSDCTE Rep</p>	<p>GSDCTE December 2020 This year our council is in a covid-imposed holding pattern. Our book club is on-hold and we have no upcoming events planned. I plan for us to meet soon. The demands of teaching online and the mental strain of being constantly in front of a screen have made finding time and figurative & literal "bandwidth" quite a challenge.</p> <p>In positive news, two GSDCTE members (and graduates of the SDSU credential block that I co-lead "Generation Global") Anthony Lince and Julia Grigorian were published in California English.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>I am unable to attend this Board Meeting. It is my son's birthday and we promised that we would take him camping. In my place, I have invited Eric Ginsberg - our most recent recipient of the Classroom Excellence Award, College Level Instructor of ELA Methods Course at SDSU and English teacher at Helix High School - to join for at least a portion of the day. He and Carol Battle collaborate to encourage and recruit high school students to consider the teaching profession.</p> <p>I am sure I am not alone in feeling like it has been the most challenging professionally and probably personally too. I am looking forward to 2021 with hope.</p> <p>Warm regards to all, Gina Vattuone</p>
<p>Kim Flachmann, Kern Rep</p>	<p>CATE: KERN COUNCIL Dec 2020</p> <p>Meetings Sept 14, 2020: Set up virtual local activities for the rest of the year Oct 28, 2020: Book Club and Business meeting</p> <p>Membership Drives Planning a Reading Institute (RIAP) Alumni meeting for February 2021</p> <p>Board Member We expanded our board by two members: one from Wasco and one from Greenfield; both are communities outside of Bakersfield that will enrich our conversations and our activities</p> <p>Nominations for CATE Awards Nomination for Excellence in Teaching, 2021 (College level)</p> <p>Book Club Meetings [Sept 2015: <i>The International Bank of Bob</i> by Bob Harris (One Book/One Bakersfield)] [Dec 2015: <i>Go Set a Watchman</i> by Harper Lee] [Mar 2016: <i>The Girl on the Train</i> by Paula Hawkins] [May 2016: Book Club, <i>Reading Lolita in Tehran</i> by Azar Nafisi] [October 2016: <i>The Big Thirst</i> by Charles Fishman (One Book/One Bakersfield)]</p>

	<p>[Nov 2016: <i>Deep Down Dark: The Untold Stories of 33 Men Buried in a Chilean Mine and the Miracle That Set Them Free</i> by Hector Tober]</p> <p>[May 2017: <i>Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore</i> by Robin Sloan]</p> <p>[Sept 2017: <i>\$2.00 a Day</i> by Kathryn Edin and H. Luke Shaefer]</p> <p>[Dec 2017: <i>The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared</i> by Jonas Jonasson and Rob Bradbury]</p> <p>[Oct 2018: <i>Incarceration Nations</i> by Baz Dreisinger (One Book, One Bakersfield)]</p> <p>[Nov 2018: <i>There There</i> by Tommy Orange]</p> <p>[April 2019: <i>The Malta Exchange</i> by Steve Berry]</p> <p>[Sept 2019: <i>Florida</i> by Lauren Groff]</p> <p>[Oct 2019: <i>The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind</i> by William Kamkwamba (One Book, One Bakersfield)]</p> <p>[Nov 2019: <i>With the Fire on High</i> by Elizabeth Acevedo]</p> <p>[Dec 2019: free choice; sell your book]</p> <p>[Jan 2020: <i>The Grammarians</i> by Cathleen Schine]</p> <p>[May 2020: <i>The Glass Hotel</i> by Emily St. John Mandel]</p> <p>[July 2020: <i>This Tender Land</i> by William Kent Krueger]</p> <p>October 2020: <i>Broad Band</i> by Claire Evans (One Book, One Bakersfield)</p> <p>Essay Contests On-going in the schools all year</p> <p>Routine Recruitment Summer: Postcard Blitz and phone calls by membership chair to members in our county whom we have lost.</p> <p>Kern Online Presence KERN CATE: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKDtH2kbjQ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBtZl39Zmy4 Facebook Presence</p> <p>Submitted by Kim Flachmann President of Kern Council</p>
Vicki Kurtz, Redwood Rep	<p>Good morning, everyone:</p> <p>Redwood has been in a holding pattern; our Council is geographically very large and even when we were not affected by Covid separation, it has always been difficult to pull our membership together. Nevertheless, the coastal members of our group and our connection to the Redwood Writing Project have kept our writing contest alive, but I have not made the time to check in with them. The members I work more closely with have told me they simply cannot face adding yet another screen meeting, so I have not pursued pulling together a Zoom for us.</p> <p>At this time, I am not feeling very confident about my abilities to keep our Council viable; however, since retirement is nearing, I hope to have more time to try harder before I step down and we lose our Council completely.</p> <p>Vicki Kurtz Redwood</p>
Jennifer Silver, Southland Rep	<p>Hi, everyone.</p> <p>Our Southland program highlight this fall was a delightful collaboration with the Huntington Library. In this workshop, we (virtually) examined landscape paintings, refugee letters, and other primary texts under the theme "Journeys and Journeying." Coming up after the holidays, we are hosting a children's literature seminar, addressing the dynamic use of children's books in all classrooms. As always, you're certainly welcome to join; simply email me with a Zoom invite request or keep an eye on www.scteweb.com.</p> <p>CATE 2021's virtual event planning is progressing well. I look forward to additional collaboration time with the subcommittee to finalize the details.</p> <p>Personally, I am trying to fend off Zoom exhaustion by using digital spaces to practice things I already love, including teaching cooking classes and performing in two full-length plays, <i>Twilight: Los Angeles 1992</i> and, opening next week, <i>The Laramie Project</i>. It's been refreshing to get back to theatre as an actor after so many years directing. I also run Vistamar High School's Writing Center, where digital conferences are booming. Literacy finds a way.</p> <p>Wishing you all the best this unusual holiday season, and always.</p> <p>Jennifer Silver SCTE President</p>
Carol Surabian, TUCATE Rep	<p>December Board Report TUCATE</p> <p>Being out of the classroom I am only able to commiserate with those of you on the front lines. I have not been able to meet with my council either virtually or face to face. I have been passing on information I receive through CATE. I hope to be able to begin further interaction with the council in the coming semester. Looking forward to "seeing" everyone. I miss our conversations.</p> <p>Carol Surabian TUCATE Representative</p>
Jori Krulder, Upper Rep	<p>Hello from Upper Council,</p> <p>Still working to get my sea legs as rep for Upper Council. Determining the best way to reach out to the huge area encompassed by my region has proved challenging, as well as getting membership to respond to communications, but I am still working on ways to do this more effectively. Coordinating with local districts on the Poetry Out Loud contest as well as the CATE Creative Writing contest and nominations for Classroom Excellence.</p>

	<p>Jori Krulder Paradise High School</p>
<p>Julie Paulsen Burnett, MAL Elementary</p>	<p>December Board Report: MAL Elementary</p> <p>Greetings,</p> <p>Since our last meeting, I have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the Literacy Network with KCSOS • Scheduled and created the Eventbrite Online ticket for our CATE February Virtual Event • Begun discussing CATE 2022 Conference with Kern County Committee • Registered at Point Loma Nazarene University for Credential Classes to finish my Teaching Credential • Worked with NWP's PANDA New Teacher New Teacher Support as a Mentor Teacher to a new kindergarten teacher • Continued to do my best teaching High School English (grades 9 and 12 (including ERWC)) from home • Successfully changed my name to Mrs. Julie Burnett with the Social Security office, the DMV, the Kern High School District, PLNU, and CSUB. <p>Looking forward to continuing to collaborating with my fellow CATE Board Members this weekend.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Julie Burnett</p>
<p>Carol Battle, MAL Middle</p>	<p>December Board Report - Middle School MAL</p> <p>Since our last meeting I helped to secure an equity entry for California English.</p> <p>Personally, I continue to teach middle school Humanities 100% virtual and have a student teacher from CSUSM. I have co-created an Equity based TLC for teachers on my campus based on the book This Book is Anti-Racist and serve on both the school and district equity teams. I am nearing the end of the first year of my doctoral program and work to apply knowledge to my classroom daily.</p> <p><i>Carol Battle, M.A.</i> Oak Valley Middle School 7th Grade Humanities, 6th Exploratory CA Teachers of English, Middle School Board Member at Large UCSD/CSUSM Doctoral Student</p>
<p>[vacant] MAL Secondary</p>	
<p>Matt Olsen, MAL Secondary</p>	<p>Hi everyone—happy CATE Board Meeting Eve!</p> <p>It's been a busy few months since our last meeting. I've met with a number of you with respect to our virtual CATE 2021 convention. Excited for it! I've also met with Julie, Kim, Robb, and Jill to get started on the 2022 convention. It feels closer and closer each month.</p> <p>Additionally, my school paid for me to attend the NCTE virtual convention in November. Wow, it was pretty packed with presentations. I'm still sifting through all the ideas. I've joined a SCWriP writing group to publish something with respect to all the craziness post COVID-19. I love this.</p> <p>Finally, with respect to the Policy Committee, I had another long conversation with the principal about a parent complaint with respect to having my students take the Harvard online bias test. Trigger words, for sure. It's still a dicey situation discussing sensitive issues in our classes. Would love to further discuss what/how to address this.</p> <p>See you soon!</p> <p>Mark</p> <p>~On a personal note, my beloved BYU Cougars are playing a last minute game Saturday against Coastal Carolina Chanticleers. I promise to record it. J</p>
<p>April Parker, MAL Unspecified</p>	<p>December Board Report: Member at Large unspecified</p> <p>I participated in the convention 2021 planning committee and the membership committee. With the planning committee we had two meetings and provided input for the decision for 2021.</p> <p>I took the information from the membership committee and shared that information with my local affiliate (SCTE). Two eblasts have been sent to our members since the last board meeting to notify members of the CATE membership renewal promotions.</p> <p>Locally, I have been involved with professional development on my campus to help teachers with distance learning strategies and</p>

	<p>trying to spread good cheer.</p> <p>April Parker</p>																																																																																																																																																										
Kylowna Moton, MAL College	<p>December Board Report: MAL College</p> <p>Since our last meeting, I have attended virtual conferences for NCTE (still accessing content, actually) and JASNA--The Jane Austen Society of North America. I was interviewed on screen as part of a small group of first-time JASNA conference attendees, which was really fun. It's a great group, and there was some really impressive scholarship presented as well.</p> <p>In NCTE, I am working with the Standing Committee on Global Citizenship to put together a Member Conversation with Simon Anholt, building on the NCTE blogpost I wrote in August 2020. This Member Conversation should happen in early 2021, maybe January.</p> <p>Personally, I have been spending a lot of my writing time working with Get Out the Vote (GOTV) groups, contacting people across the nation about voting in November and now January. I am still sheltering in place, so I get to read a lot, but never as much as I would like to. I am looking forward to a vaccine so I can travel again.</p> <p>Kylowna Moton</p>																																																																																																																																																										
Bill Foreman, MAL Small Council																																																																																																																																																											
Liz McAninch, MAL Unspecified	<p>MEMBER-AT- LARGE UNSPECIFIED - December Board Report</p> <p>This has been a tumultuous year. Central's last board meeting via Zoom was in early March. Its main purpose was to certify Maddy Britt and myself as the new names on the bank account. When Maddy abruptly resigned as President in April, Central was incredibly lucky to have Susan Dillon "step into the breach" as it were. Susan and I have had a long discussion about rebuilding Central and I am excited about the energy and knowledge Susan brings to the task.</p> <p>I have also been working with the Curriculum Study Commission as Central has become partners, thanks to Miles Myers who asked me to represent Central at their meetings some time ago. While 2020's Asilomar conference was cancelled, 2021's October date is up in the air. We have a meeting scheduled next Saturday to discuss the issue. I hope teachers will be placed high on the list for the vaccine!</p> <p>My writing workshops at the Marsh Youth Conservatory remain on Zoom and we are working to produce the student work in production online. I'm also learning more about elementary teaching skills as I do Zoom classes with my granddaughter. Since I live right around the corner from 826 Valencia, I hope to become involved as a tutor when they re-open their student labs.</p> <p>Submitted by Liz McAninch</p>																																																																																																																																																										
Joan Williams, Membership	<p style="text-align: center;">CATE MEMBERSHIP REPORT December 2020</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th># COUNCIL</th> <th>12/18</th> <th>2/19</th> <th>5/19</th> <th>9/19</th> <th>12/19</th> <th>2/20</th> <th>5/20</th> <th>9/20</th> <th>12/20</th> <th>+/-</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 Redwood</td> <td>23</td> <td>11</td> <td>20</td> <td>19</td> <td>19</td> <td>14</td> <td>17</td> <td>17</td> <td>17</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Upper</td> <td>41</td> <td>28</td> <td>35</td> <td>34</td> <td>16</td> <td>7</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>18</td> <td>-2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 Capital</td> <td>123</td> <td>49</td> <td>121</td> <td>121</td> <td>112</td> <td>38</td> <td>55</td> <td>55</td> <td>56</td> <td>+1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 Central</td> <td>287</td> <td>210</td> <td>355</td> <td>346</td> <td>314</td> <td>186</td> <td>230</td> <td>222</td> <td>240</td> <td>+18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 Fresno</td> <td>80</td> <td>46</td> <td>59</td> <td>58</td> <td>57</td> <td>20</td> <td>54</td> <td>58</td> <td>57</td> <td>-1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 TUCATE</td> <td>19</td> <td>7</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>17</td> <td>8</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>19</td> <td>+2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 Kern</td> <td>131</td> <td>122</td> <td>196</td> <td>197</td> <td>221</td> <td>166</td> <td>161</td> <td>161</td> <td>163</td> <td>+2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 Southland</td> <td>502</td> <td>169</td> <td>327</td> <td>333</td> <td>337</td> <td>174</td> <td>555</td> <td>544</td> <td>559</td> <td>+15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9 San Diego</td> <td>209</td> <td>53</td> <td>62</td> <td>66</td> <td>64</td> <td>54</td> <td>64</td> <td>59</td> <td>63</td> <td>+4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50 Out-of-state</td> <td>28</td> <td>12</td> <td>23</td> <td>27</td> <td>23</td> <td>13</td> <td>23</td> <td>23</td> <td>26</td> <td>+3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>55 Libraries</td> <td>12</td> <td>12</td> <td>12</td> <td>12</td> <td>12</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>--</td> </tr> <tr> <td>99 Comps 1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>--</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>1456</td> <td>720</td> <td>1228</td> <td>1232</td> <td>1193</td> <td>691</td> <td>1205</td> <td>1187</td> <td>1229</td> <td>+42</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Since the last board meeting in September, I helped write a draft of the CATE letter that we used to inform the members of our decisions to cancel convention, extend membership to 8/31/2021, offer a half price membership, and to announce that we would provide free professional opportunities.</p> <p>I also worked with Carole LeCren to create a postcard that we sent out to all of the current CATE members.</p> <p>I worked with Bob at Precision to have him change all of the memberships that would expire prior to 8/31/2021 to expire on that date. In addition, he will not be sending out reminder notices via paper or email until summer of 2021. He continues to send me updated rosters and monthly reports as we increase our membership.</p> <p>I helped to clarify the 4 CATE Board positions that are up for re-election in 2021 and informed the current office holders of the election and encouraged them to consider running again. I also sent all council presidents a copy of the nomination form as well as deadline reminders and encouraged them to seek candidates for the positions.</p> <p>I participated in the Advisory meeting and created the agenda items and report.</p> <p>I assisted with rosters, membership questions, and general information regarding the changes to membership during the pandemic.</p> <p>I assisted with the online ceremony for the Redwood Writing Contest and continue to work with our local library and the Children's Author Festival.</p>	# COUNCIL	12/18	2/19	5/19	9/19	12/19	2/20	5/20	9/20	12/20	+/-	1 Redwood	23	11	20	19	19	14	17	17	17	--	2 Upper	41	28	35	34	16	7	19	20	18	-2	3 Capital	123	49	121	121	112	38	55	55	56	+1	4 Central	287	210	355	346	314	186	230	222	240	+18	5 Fresno	80	46	59	58	57	20	54	58	57	-1	6 TUCATE	19	7	17	18	17	8	16	17	19	+2	7 Kern	131	122	196	197	221	166	161	161	163	+2	8 Southland	502	169	327	333	337	174	555	544	559	+15	9 San Diego	209	53	62	66	64	54	64	59	63	+4	50 Out-of-state	28	12	23	27	23	13	23	23	26	+3	55 Libraries	12	12	12	12	12	10	10	10	10	--	99 Comps 1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	--		TOTAL	1456	720	1228	1232	1193	691	1205	1187	1229	+42
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Michelle Berry, Convention	Convention Coordinator Report - December 2020																																																																																																																																																										

Coordinator	<p>Thanks to the following folks who gave their valuable time to three Conference Subcommittee virtual meetings, along with several group emails, as we begin preparations in earnest for our virtual conference coming up February 20th: Jennifer Silver, Annie Gervais, Carole LeCren, Mark Olsen, Liz McAninch, Joan Williams, Julie Burnett, April Parker, and Bill Foreman.</p> <p>We initially “met” with two companies who facilitate online conferences: eventPower and Open Water. Julie had quite a bit of experience with EventBrite so she further investigated that platform as well. As we reported to Advisory, the costs of the first two were quite high, depending on the level of service we requested from them, starting at \$10,000 and moving to triple that. EventBrite is a free service. The first two also specialize in prerecorded presentations (recording, editing, broadcasting), and after much discussion, it was decided by our subcommittee and the followup Advisory call that we would recommend to the Board that for the sake of live interaction, as well as cost and wanting to keep things as simple as possible, that we launch our February “maiden voyage” virtual conference with EventBrite. Thanks to Julie for so far taking the lead on securing the information we need to do so. We also wish to recommend that this conference will be free to all, members and nonmembers. Not only does it simplify the registration process, but it also indicates CATE’s good will, and potentially draws in new members for future events, once our attendees witness our stellar professional development.</p> <p>It should be reported that after deciding on EventBrite, two other companies solicited consideration, should we decide at a later date to go for a collaborating company that charges a substantial amount and facilitates prerecorded presentations. On the other hand, we are already looking forward to going back to in-person conventions, most definitely.</p> <p>We have secured our keynote speaker and three workshop presenters for Feb. 20th.</p> <p>Keynote:</p> <p>Carol Jago <i>Reading Fast and Slow: The reading brain in a digital world</i></p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Jill Hamilton-Bunch <i>I Still Don’t Get It: Strategies for providing access to text for all students</i></p> <p>Carol Battle <i>Equity in ELA: Social justice in our hearts, words and work</i></p> <p>Judy Duran, Marci Haas, and Kristen Norton (from San Joaquin Valley Writing Project)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Using Writing to Support Students’ Social-Emotional Health</i></p> <p>I also wish to report correspondence I received and acted on. Two longtime and dedicated CATE Board members’ spouses reached out to ask for help to coordinate a campaign of letter-writing for Cheryl Joseph and Bob Infantino, both in the throes of serious illness, and both of whom consider their work for CATE a most proud time in their professional lives. The present “veteran” Board folks as well as many no longer serving our Board were asked to do so, which resulted in lovely generosity of spirit and compassion. I would like to mention that the Fristroms, who miss CATE so much, have also reached out, and would much appreciate a note from individuals who remember them as they are so isolated at their retirement village. Please ask me for their address.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p>Michelle Berry</p>
Annie Gervais, Assistant Convention Coordinator	[see above]
Jennifer Silver, Assistant Convention Coordinator	[see above]
Mindy Montanio, Liaison CTA	<p>Good afternoon!</p> <p>My report from the California Teachers Association (CTA) is fairly brief. October State Council is usually mundane unless there’s a large election (☹) occurring. These were points worth noting from our State Council session that took place between October 20-24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposition 15 was defeated--52% of voters voted against Proposition 15. This proposition would have generated new tax revenue by allowing more frequent valuations of commercial and industrial property holdings worth \$3 million or more. Many of the exit poll studies showed that Prop 13 still has a lot of influence over potential voters. <i>(added following the final vote counts in November. I’m not clairvoyant.)</i> • Curriculum and Instruction Report: We discussed the following in our C&I committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draft read of the California State Literacy Plan ○ Focus Group discussion of the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum framework. Joint letter sent to the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) from C&I and CRE to discuss the need for further revision. ○ A small subcommittee began looking through the math framework revision.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment and Testing Committee Report—This committee took action on upcoming state mandated tests (the SBAC, CAASPP, etc) and got approval to ask the CDE and SBE to request a waiver from the Federal Department of Education so that districts don't have to figure out testing in the Spring during a pandemic. • For those of you who are not aware, Becky Pringle was elected President of NEA (National Education Association). She recently removed her name from the short list of potential education secretaries (bye, Betsy), as did Dr. Linda Darling Hammond. Personally, I am very interested to see who is appointed. Top names circulating right now are American Federation of Teachers (AFT) president, Randi Weingarten, and former NEA President, Lily Eskelsen Garcia. <p>In my personal/professional life, I'm keeping busy supporting teachers with curriculum and instruction virtually. Like many of you mentioned, the Zoom fatigue is real. My treadmill broke in September, and my husband finally realized how necessary that piece of equipment was to maintaining my sanity (and the balance of our household). ☹ Needless to say, I've been getting my miles lately.</p> <p>Looking forward to seeing everyone on Saturday.</p> <p>Have a great day,</p> <p>Mindy</p>
<p>Bill Younglove, Liaison Common Core Consultant</p>	<p>CATE Board Report—Bill Younglove, Common Core Consultant, liaison Since September:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Took part in two SCTE Board meetings. • Contributed <i>CE</i> November issue article, "Transformed in the Night and the Fog." • Provided 2 and ½ page feedback on CA's Comprehensive Literacy Plan draft, via CDE's Jennifer Howerter. • Continued Listserv to/for former CSULB student—and early career—teachers who are subbing (day-today; long term) and under contract. • Zoomed Dr. Jill Baker, Long Beach USD Superintendent (first woman ever!) district's pandemic update. • Zoomed Assemblymember Anthony Rendon's Conference on Special Needs Student options during the pandemic. • Zoomed Men of Mystery (am on Board) Conference with writers Jefferson Parker, Craig Johnson, and Kent Kruger. • Zoomed with Keene College (NH) on/during Kristallnacht (November 9-10). • Zoomed L.A. Museum of Tolerance Anne Frank Exhibit Tour (2 and ½ hours). • Zoomed via Raritan Valley Community College (NJ) Anne Frank House (Amsterdam) virtual tour.
<p>Gale Caswell, CETA Liaison</p>	<p>Board Report from Gale Caswell, CETA liaison</p> <p>The California Educational Theatre Association's High School Festival has gone virtual. Schools are submitting 8-minute scenes, recorded digitally with state and county health guidelines observed. Instead of the three- part evaluation (Acting, Technical , and Directing), adjudication will focus on acting only. There is a separated category for student-written scenes. The Technical theatre festival requires entrants to study a one-act or full-length play and to submit a detailed design for some aspect of technical theatre, eg. costume, set design, makeup, lighting, sound.</p> <p>Our conference this year (October) was quite a success with Kristen Bell kicking off the event with her appearance at our welcome Zoom cocktail party. As a result of this experience, CETA will likely keep a video/zoom component for future conferences because this would enable us to serve a greater number of teachers.</p> <p>Finally, I have been elected to the position of President Elect of CETA. This means that I will serve in position until the fall of 2022 when I will then move into the position of President. (Whew!)</p> <p>Hope you are all well during these challenging times!</p>
<p>Tim Dewar, Liaison CWP</p>	<p>December Board Report: CWP Liaison The California Writing Project wishes to report two relevant activities to the CATE Board.</p> <p>1. CWP Leadership has worked with the CATE Convention Planning Group to arrange a Pre-Convention workshop for Thursday, February 18, 2021 and a session during the Convention proper on Saturday, February 20, 2021. CWP is very excited to be able to contribute to the revised format of the annual CATE Convention. Thursday's Pre-Convention session will feature Mary Ann Smith and Sandy Murphy, authors of <i>Writing to Make an Impact</i>, along with two current classroom teachers and their students' work. On Saturday, a team of teachers from the San Joaquin Valley Writing Project at CSU Fresno will share the work they have been doing on the uses of writing to promote social-emotional health for students and teachers.</p>

2. Inspired by work from the Northern California Writing Project at CSU Chico, CWP has launched CWP Writes!, a state-wide collection of writing groups to support teacher writers in drafting, crafting, and publishing texts that capture the current work of teaching. We hope these pieces in their varied forms and formats communicate to a diverse audience what it is like to teach now - during a pandemic, after George Floyd, on a computer, with limited funding. We expect much of this work to be submitted to *California English*.

The 15 regional CWP sites continue to offer high-quality professional learning opportunities to teachers of all grade levels and content areas and work with other state-wide partners to shape policy and practices in literacy.

Personally, I continue to teach in the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education at UC Santa Barbara, but from my garage. I spend most of my days talking to a piece of glass or sending emails. Fortunately, the good health of friends and family has so far prevailed over disease and disappointment.

Respectfully submitted,
 Tim Dewar
 Executive Director
 California Writing Project

Jennifer Howerter,
 Liaison CDE

Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant

The California Department of Education (CDE) presented an updated draft of the Comprehensive State Literacy Plan (Plan) to the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) in September 2020 with a request to open a public comment period. The draft plan, a key element of the CLSD grant program, aligns and integrates state literacy initiatives, content standards, and state guidance documents to support teachers of students birth through grade twelve.

Between September 17 and October 28, interested parties were encouraged to review the draft and complete a public comment survey on the CDE [CLSD web page](#). At the November 18 IQC meeting, the CDE presented the public comment for, and proposed changes to, the draft Plan. The CDE received 347 distinct comments, including from 62 individuals and 12 stakeholder organizations representing students with disabilities, English learners, multilingual learners, teachers, parents, and librarians. For a complete list of comments and proposed actions, see Item 3 on the [IQC November Agenda web page](#).

Based on these comments, the CDE recommended revisions including but not limited to: incorporating the California Model School Library Standards and guidance, adding additional existing guidance on biliteracy and primary language development, removing the designation of the *Dyslexia Guidelines* and the *Practitioner’s Guide for Educating English Learners with Disabilities* as “additional resources,” adding a Glossary of Terms, including the *Common Core en Español* and the *Spanish Language Development Standards*. The IQC took action to recommend all of the proposed revisions. The Educator Excellence and Equity Division (EEED) is currently making revisions to the Plan, and will present an updated draft to the State Board of Education (SBE) for their review and feedback in January 2021. A final draft will be presented to the SBE in March 2021.

Additionally, State Literacy Team members have volunteered their time to develop a series of videos on critical topics in literacy and curate resources for an online resource repository. The topics that the team members will cover at this time are:

- Supporting students with dyslexia and students who struggle to read
- Intervention/Coaching
- Media Literacy
- Literacy Across Disciplines
- Foundational Skills/Core Literacy Instruction
- Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy
- Using Assessment to Inform Instruction
- Early Education
- Family and Community Engagement (liaison to other groups)

Members anticipate being able to post the videos and resources in March 2021, which will coincide with the anticipated approval of the SLP by the SBE.

Stay informed by joining the CLSD listserv by sending a blank email to join-california-literacy-state-development-program@mlist.cde.ca.gov.

Early Literacy Support Block Grant

Section 113 of the Education Omnibus Trailer Bill ([Senate Bill 98](#)) for the 2020–21 California State Budget appropriates \$50 million to establish the [Early Literacy Support Block \(ELSB\) grant program](#). The legislation requires the CDE to award funds to local educational agencies (LEAs) with the 75 schools that have the highest percentage of students in grade three scoring at the lowest achievement standard level on the state summative English Language Arts assessment. The CDE may use \$3 million of this sum to offset its costs associated with activities required to administer the program.

District and school personnel from the 73 schools that applied participated in a technical assistance webinar in November to learn more about the process for engaging in a rigorous Root Cause Analysis and Literacy Needs Assessment, and received guidance on the supports they will receive to write local Literacy Action Plans, a required grant deliverable. LEAs also received information about funding tiers and other grant requirements.

Additionally, Section 114 of the Education Omnibus Trailer Bill appropriates \$3 million from the General Fund to establish an Expert Lead in Literacy within the Statewide System of Support. The grantee is the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE), selected through a competitive application process by the CDE in partnership with the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence. In this capacity, SCOE will support grantees and their county offices of education to build statewide professional learning networks and provide technical assistance to increase statewide capacity in implementing effective literacy instruction. The 3-year grant period for the Expert Lead in Literacy began on December 1, 2020.

State Seal of Civic Engagement

At its September 10, 2020 meeting, the SBE approved the criteria for California students to earn a new State Seal of Civic Engagement (SSCE). The criteria and accompanying guidance for LEAs are available on the CDE [SSCE web page](#). Additionally, the [Resources to](#)

	<p>Support Civic Engagement web page includes several resources to support civic engagement during distance learning.</p> <p>The EEED has prepared a message from the Instruction and Measurement Branch Deputy to LEAs to provide general information on next steps as LEAs begin to develop and implement local programs to award the SSCE. The EEED has reached out to partner organizations with additional details regarding implementation of the SSCE and is developing an overview presentation to provide general guidance and next steps for LEAs. These, along with additional resources such as the insignia request form and technical guidance documents, will be added to the SSCE web page as they become available.</p> <p>Using Interim Assessments During Distance Learning</p> <p>As LEAs use various approaches to support students via distance learning, staff have the option to use the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments to support instruction and assess student progress. That option was presented last month in "Using Interim Assessments During Distance Learning," a 90-minute webinar hosted by Educational Testing Service on behalf of the CDE. In the webinar, California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) coordinators from four California LEAs shared their experiences, plans, and ideas for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using interim assessments in their local context • Administering interim assessments remotely • Analyzing data from interim assessments to guide instruction <p>The webinar contained a wealth of information, was well received, and was attended by nearly 800 LEA staff. A recording is now available on the CAASPP website.</p> <p>Building a Network of Safety for School Communities Webinar Series</p> <p>The CDE's Student Mental Health Policy Workgroup's Suicide Prevention Committee recently kicked off a webinar series on cultivating compassion and resilience during COVID-19. Presenters from the San Diego COE will lead a series of webinars centered on various topics related to preventing suicides in school communities with a specific focus on suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. These topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining and sharing the relevance of wellness and resilience • Strategies to identify and cope with stressors • Identify self-supportive practices that can address anxiety and enhance resiliency during challenging times <p>Webinars are held monthly, from October 2020 through May 2021. Visit this page for a list of webinar dates, and to register for the series.</p> <p>World Languages Web Page</p> <p>The EEED has recently launched a comprehensive new World Languages web page. This new content area page provides the world languages community, including program administrators, teachers, and families, easy access to information and resources about world languages programs and practices.</p> <p>In an ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting adjustments made by schools and districts to the delivery of learning activities and instruction, this new web page highlights key distance learning resources from the CDE and our state, national, and international partners in professional learning.</p> <p>Together with the launch of the new web page, the EEED is releasing the 2020 summary report on the Professional Learning Needs Assessment Survey for World Languages Educators. This is the first needs assessment specifically addressing the professional learning priorities of the world languages community and was disseminated in December 2019. The report is intended for a broad audience and summarizes the data gathered by the survey to inform the field, in particular when considering provision of professional learning support to California's world languages educators. The report is available under the Updates tab on the World Languages web page.</p> <p>Arts Education and World Languages Instructional Materials Adoption for 2021</p> <p>At its July 8, 2020, public meeting, the SBE approved the California Arts Education Framework for Public Schools, Transitional Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve and the California World Languages Framework for Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve. At this same meeting, the SBE approved the Schedule of Significant Events for the 2021 Arts Education Instructional Materials Adoption and the Schedule of Significant Events for the 2021 California World Languages Adoption of Instructional Materials. These adoptions will consider publisher submissions for instructional materials programs designed for kindergarten through grade eight. Final SBE consideration of submitted programs will occur in November 2021. For additional information, please visit the CDE Arts Instructional Materials and the CDE World Languages Instructional Materials web pages.</p> <p>New CDE Multilingual Learner publication</p> <p><i>Improving Education for Multilingual and English Learner Students: Research to Practice</i> is designed to support local educational agencies (LEAs) to implement the English Learner Roadmap policy in schools and improve instruction for both English learners and other students learning multiple languages. The publication demonstrates how LEAs have implemented research-based practices that positively impact multilingual and English learner students as it relates to social emotional learning, early learning and care, integrated and designated English language development, multilingual education, systems improvement, teacher development, and parent engagement. The publication is available for free download on the CDE Improving Education for Multilingual and English Learner Students: Research to Practice web page.</p>
<p>Carol Jago, <i>California English</i> Editor</p>	<p>December 1, 2020</p> <p>TO: CATE Board FROM: Carol Jago, <i>California English</i> editor RE: December board report</p> <p>I attended the NCTE Affiliate Awards ceremony (virtually, of course) to accept the journal of excellence award for <i>California English</i>. Among ourselves, this seemed to me to be a pretty pointless virtual gathering. Not sure what was achieved in terms of honoring the various affiliate awardees as it was simply a series of announcements. Something to think about for our CATE 2021 Awards ...</p>

The next two themes for *California English* invite writers to reflect upon their experiences reading, writing, and teaching in a pandemic. I felt it important to offer opportunities for CATE members to share what they are learning and to imagine where we go from here. If you have ideas for future issues of our journal, please send them along as I won't have access to members at the traditional CE editor's session.

Also, if your local council is sponsoring an event in the coming months, please let me know so that we can feature news of it in the magazine. It might be an interesting idea to have presenters for virtual CATE2021 write a short piece if they are willing.

Stay well, my friends!

California English

Call for Manuscripts

February 2021

Deadline January 1, 2021

Reading in a Pandemic: How Did It Suddenly Become So Difficult?

With Covid19 has come upheaval. So much anxiety. So many uncertainties. Many readers are finding it hard to stick with a book. Virtual instruction and the accompanying complex digital texts have posed challenges for both students and their teachers. How have you approached this issue? What have been your students' responses? How are you surviving?

May 2021

Deadline April 1, 2021

Writing Their Way to Social and Emotional Strength

With limited instructional minutes at teachers' disposal, writing seems to be getting short shrift. But what if writing were seen as a powerful tool for engaging students in their own learning. What have you discovered as you taught writing virtually? How can personal and/or creative writing help students become more reflective? Describe a writing task that your students found compelling.

Manuscripts are peer reviewed. Please send submissions to *California English* editor, Carol Jago cjago@caroljago.com. Articles should be limited to 2,500 words.