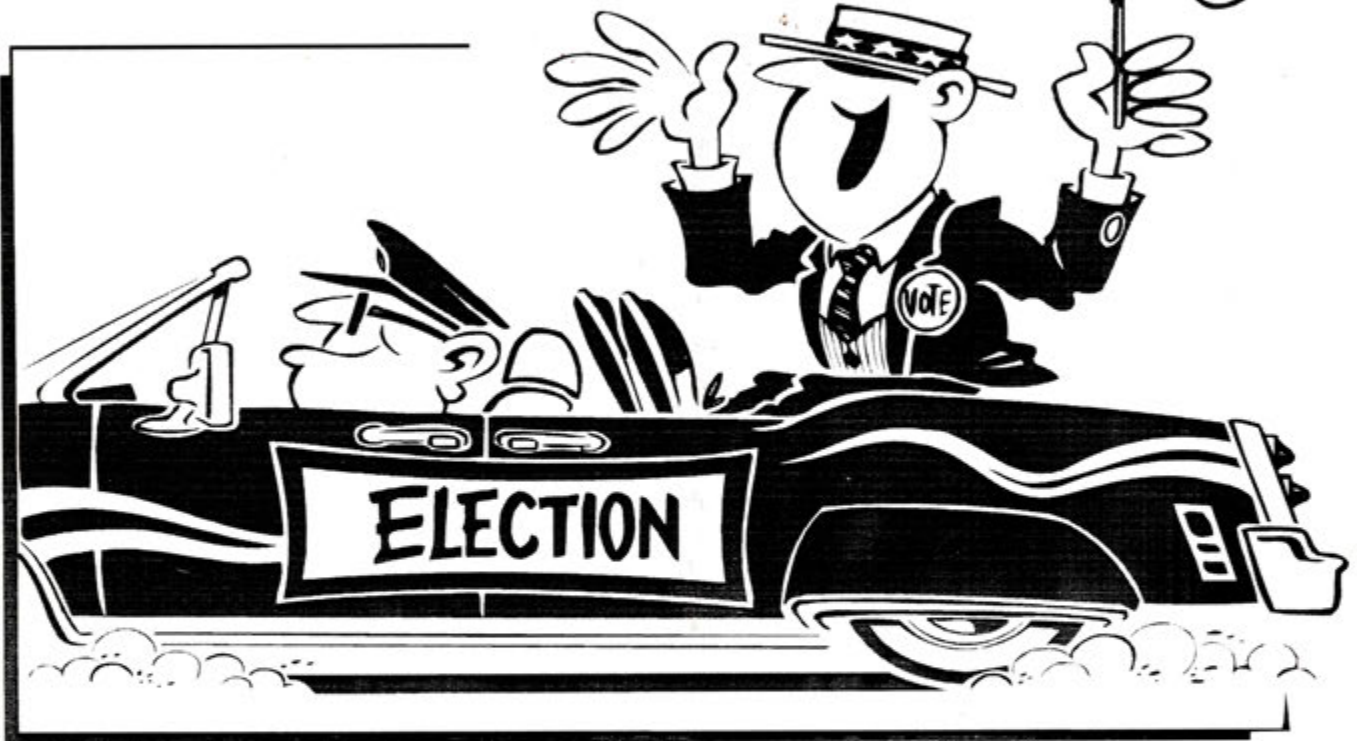


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# the REACTer

May-June, 2000



## ***Director Elections***

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## ***Convention Update***

**Page 9**

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## the REACTer

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# What Happened Was...

By Stuart M. DeLuca, Editor

You've heard the phrase, "The best laid plans of mice and men..."

Well, folks, "aft gang agley."

We intended to mail all copies of the March-April *REACTer* at the Periodicals Rate, for which (we thought) application had been made several weeks before. We thought we knew what we were doing and how to comply with the USPS's labyrinthine regulations.

Wrong.

When our printers, Valley Offset, took the magazines to the Wichita post office, the postal clerks said, "Sorry, no tickee, no washee," or words to that effect. Due to some multistate confusion and misunderstandings, our application for a permit was still on a desk in the Suitland post office, and there were still a few more hoops we had to jump through.

Fortunately, the people at Valley Offset were not only sympathetic, they were immensely helpful. On short notice, they relabelled all of the copies going to U.S. addresses, using the existing Standard Rate permit. They also discovered a special rate that could be used to send copies to our Canadian and other International members, more expensive than Standard Rate or Periodicals Rate but a lot cheaper than bundling the copies and mailing them First Class.

Thus we were able to mail *The REACTer* directly to all our members. But we still had the usual Standard Rate problems of long delivery time, copies lost in the mail, and no address corrections.

We are still trying to switch to Periodicals Rate mailing for everyone. If we didn't mess up again, you should see just the address label on the front cover of this issue. If you see the box with a permit number in it – we're still using Standard Rate.

One other problem: We explained previously that our International members, outside of the U.S. and Canada, have paid lower dues that did not include the cost of *The REACTer*. If those members want to get the magazine, they must subscribe to it individually. So far, very few members have done so. We want to make *The REACTer* indispensable to all our members, but apparently we're not there yet.

## Gift Subscriptions

Ron McCracken, co-chairman of the Public Relations Committee, has a wonderful suggestion for anyone who wants to help promote *REACT*: a gift subscription to *The REACTer* for your local library, or for the public safety and disaster relief officials your Team works with.

We already send complimentary copies to a number of agencies, but we can't afford to send them to local officials and libraries. However, we can give our members the same price for gift subscriptions that we charge to their membership dues. For U.S. members, gift subscriptions will be \$4; for Canadian members, \$5; for all other members, \$6 (all in U.S. dollars). Send gift subscription orders, *with payment*, to *REACT* International's office.

## 10-9?

\*In the March-April edition, in "Official Notices," we misidentified Larry Fry; he is, of course, Regional Director for Region 5.

\*In the "Convention 2000" article, we said that free shuttle service is available from the hotel to various attractions. The hotel misinformed us; Gatorland is not included in the free shuttle service.



## Publicizing *REACT* by Bob Leef and Ron McCracken, Co-Chairmen Public Relations Committee

### TV Debut

Tobacco Valley (Conn.) *REACT* gets a tip o' the PR hat for teaming up with public television. Your Team can, too.

Contact your public TV station and volunteer to staff the phones during their next membership drive, pledge drive, or auction. All *REACT* members should be in full uniform. You might even get a "live" interview, so have someone prepared to answer questions about your Team and its service to the community!

### Action Shots Count!

People enjoy seeing photos of *REACT* members in action. When you take pictures for *The REACTer* or for local publication, be sure the members are in uniform. Try to catch them in action – directing traffic, answering someone's questions, giving out refreshments, or whatever the event involves.

Children attract interest in photos, too, so try to include them if appropriate.

Avoid taking pictures

of members all lined up in a row, looking vaguely toward the camera. Group photos are fine for a scrapbook, but they're not very interesting to the rest of the world!

-Ron McCracken

### A Different Kind of Monitoring

We started in 1962; in 1972, we helped them get started. We're both organizations of volunteers that serve our communities. Both make a difference by promoting safety. We monitor the radio; they monitor the neighborhood.

They are Neighborhood Watch.

The National Sheriffs' Association created the National Neighborhood Watch program with financial assistance from the U.S. Dept. of Justice, to unite law enforcement agencies, private organizations, and individual citizens in an effort to reduce residential crime. Since its establishment, Neighborhood Watch has set up thousands of local

programs in which citizens work to make their own homes and families less inviting targets for criminals, and to cooperate with law enforcement through block and neighborhood groups.

At our suggestion, the national headquarters for Neighborhood Watch will update their volunteers' handbook to include *REACT* as one of the groups that should be contacted for assistance. We also have submitted an article about *REACT* to *Sheriff Magazine*.

Each of our organizations has something to offer the other. Some NW groups have organized, scheduled patrols; *REACT* could advise them on communications. And some of the community-minded NW members may be interested in joining *REACT*.

Your Team should contact the local sheriff or police community relations office to identify the NW groups in your community. Get in touch and find out how you can work together for your mutual benefit!

-Bob Leef

# **NDCAT: a new way to REACT**

*by Robert N. Lumpkin*  
**Federal City (D.C.) REACT**

**W**e are about to embark on a new and exciting project that will greatly enhance REACT's prominence and service to the public.

The RI Board of Directors, at the Winter Meeting, approved a pilot project to form the first Rapid Response Team (RRT). The Team is called the *National Disaster Communications Assistance Team*, or NDCAT.

NDCAT is a self-contained unit of 25 REACT members who receive special training by several agencies and are prepared to operate several different communications systems at the scene of a major disaster.

When activated, the NDCAT will operate for no longer than 72 hours following the onset of the disaster, or until local authorities can resume normal operations. If there is a continuing need for help, a second NDCAT team will relieve the first one.

The plan calls for the formation of eight NDCATs, one for each U.S. region, plus a possible ninth team in Canada. NDCAT members will be recruited from all of the REACT Teams in each region.

Communications equipment will be provided by State Emergency Management Agencies using funds from FEMA.

The role of the NDCAT includes providing communications with truck drivers and others bringing relief supplies into a disaster area. In addition, the NDCAT may be called on to help coordinate interagency communications. Most disaster relief agencies have their own internal communications system, but there has been no provision for communications among them.

The first team will be formed in Region 2 because both FEMA and American Red Cross headquarters are in the area. Eventually the training will be offered to all REACT Teams and members in the U.S. and, we hope, Canada.

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## Ramsey County Plans Get-together

Ramsey Co. (Minn.) REACT will host a Weekend Get-together on Oct. 21-22, 2000, at the Days Inn in Bloomington, Minn., across the street from the famed Mall of America. All REACT

members will be welcome!

There will be workshops on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, a display of emergency communications vehicles, and other activities.

Much more information will be published in the July-August REACTer, or contact Paul Oby at <poby@powermation.com>, or call (651)646-0259 for details.

# Regional Director Elections



Lee W. Besing - Region 7

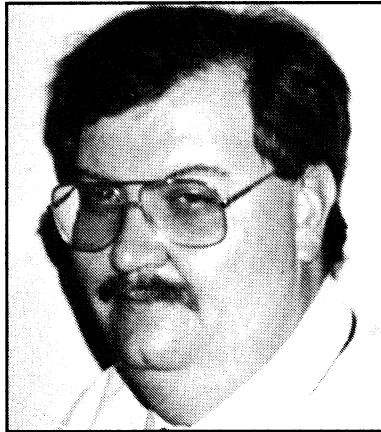
**Personal:** Married, four children; lives in San Antonio, Tex.; computer consultant; age 45.

**Education:** BS in accounting with minor in computer science, Univ. of Evansville (Ind.).

**REACT Experience:** Founding member, Bexar Co. (Tex.); former member Guadalupe Co. (Tex.). Served as Team Chairman, President, Vice-President, and Secretary. Served as Texas State Council Vice-President and Secretary (current). Served as RI Director 1997-present, Secretary 1998-present, chairman of Computer Services Committee, member of Public Relations Committee. Amateur license N5NTG.

**Candidate's Statement:**

I have been instrumental in helping to make many important changes in our organization over the past five years. If re-elected, I will continue to press forward with



Fred J. Lanshe - Region 1

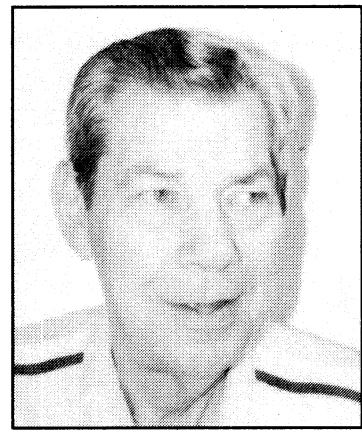
**Personal:** Single; lives in Allentown, Penn.; computer systems operator for Day-Timers, Inc.; age 46.

**Education:** Assoc. in Electronics, Ryder/Lincoln Tech; 3 years in Metallurgy at Penn State; additional study.

**REACT Experience:** Member, LEMA (Penn.) *REACT*; served as Team President (current), Vice-President, Secretary. Served as Penn. State Council Vice-President (current), President, Area Coordinator. Served as RI Director 1998-present, Treasurer 1998-present, Public Relations committee (current), Convention Site Selection committee, Amateur Radio committee. Amateur license N3QLU.

**Candidate's Statement:**

Having been instrumental with many of the improvements and with the hands on, at the *REACT* office. I'll try not to



Jack E. Murrell - Region 4

**Personal:** Married, 9 children; lives in Indianapolis, Ind.; retired; age 69.

**Education:** 2 years computer technology IUPUI.

**REACT Experience:** Member, Circle City (Ind.); served as Monitoring Officer, Vice-President, President, Council delegate. Served as Indiana State Council President (current) and Vice-President. Served as RI Director 1998-present; Vice-President, President, various committees and Forums; CB Committee chairman (current). Amateur license.

**Candidate's Statement:** I am firmly committed to the fundamental reason for *REACT*'s existence: building a network of dedicated CB Channel 9 monitors. The general public will find help when they need it and call for it on CB Channel 9 only when there are monitors listen-

### Lee W. Besing – Region 7

modernization of our organization, not accepting the phrase, “Well, we’ve always done it that way before...” If someone comes forth with a better idea or way to get the job done, I’ll be happy to consider their idea, if it shows promise of being a better and more effective way. I’m more interested in “getting the job done” than I am in whose idea it was in the first place. I try to look at the facts, not the emotion of the moment, and make my decision based upon those facts for the good of the entire organization. I prefer to lead by example, from the front, not the rear. I remain active with my Team and Council, attending meetings and working events. My radios are always in my home and car, including CB Channel 9, Amateur, and GMRS.

In 1995 I wrote the first Web site for *REACT* International, and then proceeded to maintain it for the next few years until others stepped forward and offered to assume that duty. I’m still actively involved in the process, since my company hosts the site for free and provides all the support for the mail server and the on-line shopping cart at no cost to *REACT* International. This service will continue regardless of whether I am re-elected to the Board for another term because I believe in *REACT*.

In 1997, I was elected to the Board under controversial conditions, with

### Fred J. Lanshe – Region 1

spread myself too thin this time, when re-elected.

So far to date:

*In the area of office support* – assisted the office staff to expedite the membership cards when they seemed to be stuck. As well as working with the office staff on a continuing basis, to the present time, when things need a little extra help. Weekly trips to the office.

*In the area of Public Relations* – working internal as well as external this time. Working on positive improvements in all areas. Working to build a sound foundation for the new Regional Directors to assist the Councils and Teams in their Regions for recruiting and fund raising.

Working with PBS and the Visionaries, doing a documentary of *REACT* International for PBS, 11 million viewers see their program at one time and it should be shown twice. Working with the publishers/ manufacturers to continue to promote *REACT* International in their literature and publications. Gene Hughes, Gordon West, *Popular Communications Magazine*, K-40 as well as Cobra at the Conventions with their bus.

Targeting local newspapers with recruitment ads. Attended the DELMAR Safety Expo, promoting RI, the State Council (Md.), and the local Team (Prince Georges Co. [Md.]).

Requested another letter of best wishes from the White House to the membership.

### Jack E. Murrell – Region 4

ing to CB Channel 9. I have licenses to operate in GMRS as well as on the Amateur bands and use these in support of our Team’s activities including our Channel 9 monitoring. The experience I have gained at the Team and Council level has taught me to look for solutions whenever there seem to be only problems. I am convinced that a Team working together can accomplish more than any single individual or group of people working at cross-purposes ever will. To do this we must have free and open discussion of all questions measuring the answers against the standard of how it may help our organization and our members to better serve their communities.

As things begin settling down from the relocation of our Headquarters to Suitland, there is much work to be done by the Board during the next term. I would very much appreciate the opportunity to serve on the Board during this exciting time. I need your support to be able to do this. Thank you.

-Jack E. Murrell

### Election Instructions

Only Teams in these three Regions, 1, 4, and 7, will participate in Regional Director Elections this year. The only nominees are the three incumbents; they are running for election to three-year terms. Ballots have been mailed to the Teams in these Regions; if your Team hasn’t received a ballot, contact the RI office. Follow the voting instructions carefully.



### **Lee W. Besing – Region 7**

Directors being suspended by others, all but one Director missing the convention for various personal reasons, and a delayed Board meeting that didn't seat me until October. During 1998, I was instrumental in keeping the membership informed and appointing two new Directors who were pro-growth to the Board, to fill vacancies caused by other resignations. That growth has continued in 1999 with the Bylaws modifications and new Regional Directors being elected or appointed.

I have served as both Director and Secretary for the Board for the past year, and helped with many other committees. I have been providing computer support to the RI HQ during my visits, repairing and replacing computer equipment and networking the office PCs together for better efficiency. I have the honor of being the Senior and Junior member of the Board at the same time. I have the longest continuous seniority on the Board, yet I'm the youngest member as well.

I will continue to press forward for improving communications among our members, officers, directors, and our staff. The new Web store will be on-line and usable by April to allow purchasing of REACT merchandise via the Web. New sources of supplies will be included, and a printed copy of the catalog list will be distributed via Team Topics mailing later in the year. Copies

### **Fred J. Lanshe – Region 1**

Working with the PR chair, his committee and the additional people, from the other committees, which are taking on more responsibilities, so the transition to the Regional concept goes smoothly, building, always moving forward, people working together.

*In the area of NDCAT –* Working with the three co-chairs to develop, equip, and become fully functional. The chairs, Bob Lumpkin, John Knott, and John Fiskin, are working on a handbook and a special patch. Bob Lumpkin has been asked by the Board to establish one into Region 3. Emergency management for his area has pledged full support. The Florida contingent has already volunteered to assist when there were a few severe storms in the Gulf region and up along the East Coast. Contact has been made with the FEMA representative, if support is requested. John Fiskin, one of these co-chairs, has written an article for *Radio Resource Magazine*. We would like to see each Region have an NDCAT as well as having the knowledge of what is involved.

*In the area of Volunteer Agencies –* Attended the annual NVOAD meeting in Washington, D.C., and the Falls Church, Va., facility of the American Red Cross. Always looking for an exchange of ideas as well as promoting the REACT organization at all levels. REACT was requested to do an additional standby for  
**(Continued in Next Column)**

Y2K for one of the church disaster service agencies. An assistance call was placed on the REACT-L list and a Team in Texas responded. If you could please let me know who you are and Thank You. The church disaster coordinator called back, with only a few days left to go till Y2K, and still requested coverage for their main headquarters in Manhattan, N.Y., as well as their fall-back position in Carroll Co., Md.

The Upstate New York Council was contacted and asked for assistance. Pauline Olsen, a council officer, contacted several New York Teams in that region and several said they would assist. This was done, even though many of the Teams were already standing by at their local OEM, police, and EOCs.

Contact and assistance was also requested through the Maryland Council leadership. It was suggested to contact the Carroll Co. REACT, which was done.

Clint A. Brosenne, president of the Team, coordinated with the disaster coordinators in New York and Maryland. Thanks to everyone involved.

Working to improve relations with the American Red Cross, through the additional efforts of Bob Leaf, Pat Dougherty, Al Hanger, Dick Cooper, and Chuck Thompson, during the recent storms up the East Coast as well as Hurricane Floyd. Thanks for your efforts.  
*In the area of Region 1 –* Working to help resolve friction  
**(Continued on Next Page)**

### Lee W. Besing – Region 7

of commonly available documents will be published on the Web for downloading free of charge by members or the public. Other new announcements are pending by the Board, or have already been made by the time you read this in *The REACTer*.

I don't believe in sticking my head in the sand and hoping troubles will go away by themselves. If you want me to continue this path of growth that I have stepped upon these past years, please ask your Team to vote for me in the Region 7 year 2000 elections for Director. I have been endorsed by the Texas State REACT Council and several Teams in that state. I will be at the July 2000 Convention with my new bride and family. Looking forward to meeting many of you there, so bring your families with you! Thank you.

-Lee W. Besing

### Fred J. Lanshe – Region 1

in Teams, to rebuild/enhance the Councils. Doing recruiting and renewal follow-ups. Giving recruiting support to the Teams and Councils. Whatever else is needed.

*In the area of Treasurer –* Working to cut the high costs through bartering, donations, reconditioning, exchange of services and in-kind, with regards to trying to keep the office expenses down.

Worked in cooperation with Lee Besing, the members of the computer committee, also Ken Knopp, Jim Spinx, and Johnny Stowers to help maintain the PCs, network, phone lines, and UPS backups, that run the office.

We tested, backed-up, and were prepared for the Y2K and we could have kept up operations for about a month if needed.

By using a common sense business approach and  
*(Continued in Next Column)*

having the cooperation of everyone involved, the Directors, Officers, the accountants, committee chairs, committees, Council leadership, working to trim the high overhead down to as normal as possible. We are reworking the expenses to a more manageable level, through cost-saving ideas being shared.

Was able to have a small reserve be carried over to help this year's budget.

Even with a year of a roller-coaster type market, we were able to increase our interest and dividends, in the area of investments.

Thank you to everyone involved. When re-elected, I'll continue to be pro-active and to promote growth in the organization and encourage an exchange of ideas. Please ask your Team to vote for me in the Region I election. Thank You.

- Fred J. Lanshe

## Survey Update

As this goes to press, we have received about 40 of the RI Survey Forms returned. That's good...but not good enough.

The more responses we get, the more confident we can be that our analyses are accurate. Please, if you received the survey form, fill it out and mail it back *today!*

A full report will be made at the Convention.

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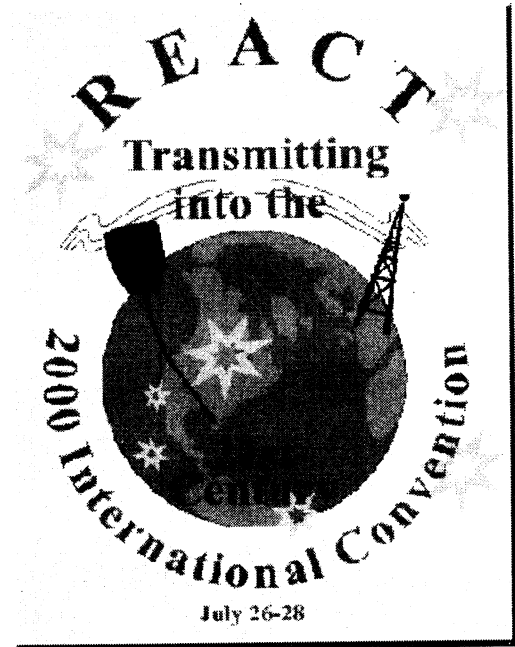
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# Convention 2000 Update



*by Walt Young, Convention Chairman*

It's almost Convention time and things are progressing well. But we do have a few reminders.

Remember, the registration went up on May 15, it's now \$75.

Folks, this is *your* Convention. Programs are planned for you based upon previous history, or suggestions from our members. Only *you* can make this a great Convention. Registering ahead of time can help solidify some of these activities. Waiting until you show up at the door can be too late for some activities. As of 7 May we have received only 45 registrations, 29 of which I brought from Nebraska.

Speaking of Nebraska, remember I promised we'd have something special for you if you signed up while I was there. I can now keep my

word on that, and you will be surprised! There will be one for each registration form I brought back. We still won't tell what you'll get, but I will say the value will be approximately \$40 each.

Remember? We had an Early Bird Registration, those who mailed their registrations in from last July through March 15. We had a total of eight and a winner has been chosen by our very scientific method (eight names written on pieces of paper, folded up, and drawn from a plastic grocery bag) at our recent Convention Committee Meeting. The winner will be announced at the Convention and their \$60. basic registration fee will be refunded (but not the extras).

For those who had sent in Convention registrations

early, especially those who registered in Nebraska, we need to know if you plan to take advantage of some of the other items on the Form. If so, send in another form with the money and mark "ADDENDUM" at the top and we'll add it to your current registration.

We *must* have an advance count of those attending the Amateur Breakfast, [so far we have four] and Life Member Luncheon [ten so far]. The hotel's minimum for these events is twenty. We also need everyone to choose which meal you prefer at the Banquet (select from three choices). We have to make deposits in advance for these functions, based on expected attendance. If we don't know you're going to be there – there may not be room for you!

We need to know the names and ages of any Junior REACTers or children that are participating in the Junior /Children's Activities. We have five so far, but we need a minimum of ten to have these special activities.

Likewise, so far we have only three registrations for the medical training classes; the minimum is twenty. If we don't receive more registrations, the classes will be cancelled.

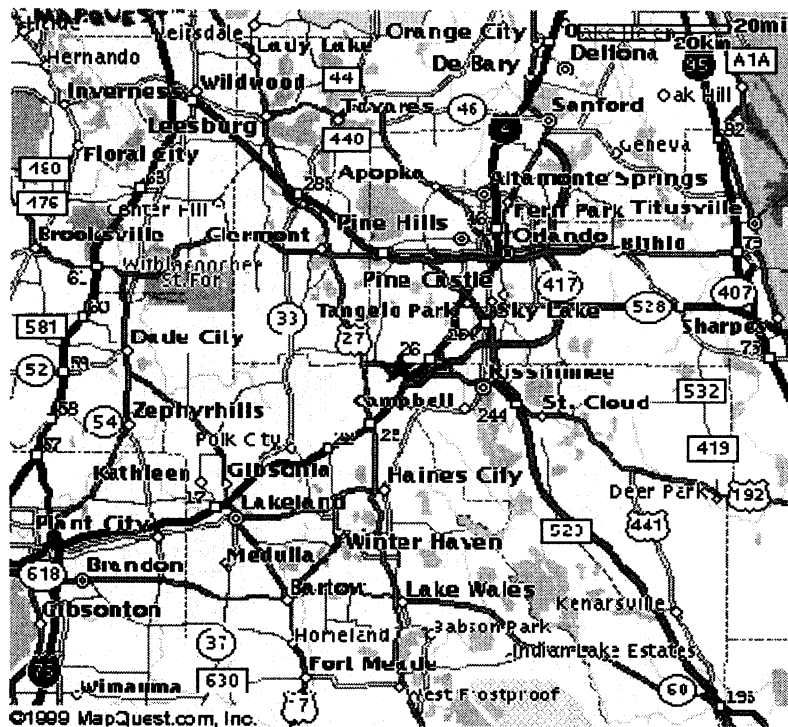
If anyone has a need for a wheelchair or mobility scooter, these will come from seventy miles away so we need to know in advance. We've had only one request so far.

If your body is a disaster after the trip getting here...fear not! We have a Licensed Masseuse in the Hospitality Room Wednesday through Friday!

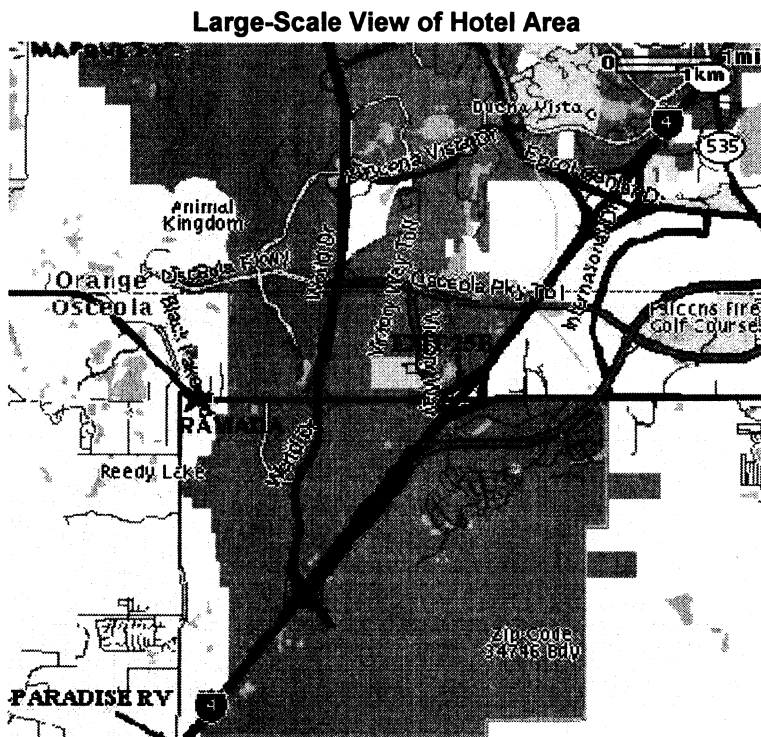
To the right are two maps; one is an overview of the area and the other shows the location of the Hotel and Campground from Exit 25B. There are also directions from various entry points to Florida and from the Airport for those renting cars.

Be particularly attentive to the Exit 25B directions. It's tricky plus there is road construction in the area. Also know that I-4 south of Orlando can be a zoo, especially during rush hour. We can't prove it but we suspect that all those who failed their drivers exams in other states have been transferred to Florida. Take your time and drive safely.

See you at the Convention!



General View of Orlando/Kissimmee Area



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## DIRECTIONS TO

### ORLANDO/KISSIMMEE:

**\*If coming East on I-10**, exit southbound onto I-75 near Lake City.

**\*If coming South on I-75** from Georgia, continue south into Florida, to Lake City.

**\*For both the above:** From Lake City continue South until you get to Wildwood.

**\*At Wildwood** take the Florida Turnpike (now called the Ronald Reagan Turnpike). Follow the Turnpike until you reach Exit 259, I-4 WEST. (You will actually turn south, but the highway is marked for east-west.)

**\*Follow I-4** through Orlando. After passing Exit 26, get in Right Lane. Watch for Exit 25B, US 192 West. Go to Exit 25B Directions below.

**\*From Georgia via I-95**, go to Daytona Beach.

**\*At Daytona Beach** take I-4 WEST (it veers off to the right.)

**\*Stay on I-4** through Orlando; continue west.

**\*After passing Exit 26** get in right lane; watch for Exit 25B, US 192 West. Go to Exit 25B Directions below.

**\*From Orlando International Airport** (if renting a car)

**\*Exit Airport** on to the Greenway SR 417 SOUTH "To Disney." At Exit 2, turn right. At US192, turn left. Get in left lane and stay there. After going under the I-4 overpass, see Exit 25B directions:

### Exit 25B Directions

For everyone. **Important:** When you exit I-4 onto US 192, get in the LEFT lane and stay there. You will pass the entrance to Disney World/MGM Studios. Keep going and stay in that LEFT lane. Drive carefully, there is a lot of construction in the area.

**\*About another mile up the road**, you will see a Ramada on the right. That's *not* ours; continue straight.

**\*You will then come to a traffic light.** Holiday Inn and Angel's Diner are on the left. Continue straight, staying in LEFT lane.

**\*You will then see our Hotel on the LEFT**, but you have to go further and make a U turn. There is construction in this area. If the traffic is light, you can probably make a U turn at a crossover. If the traffic is heavy (bumper to bumper), then go to the next traffic light.

**\*Make your U turn at the light and come back to the hotel.** NOTE: the first driveway goes into the Econo Lodge; take the *second* driveway. We will have a REACT sign out front.

### Campground Directions

Follow the directions above to get to the Convention hotel. After passing our hotel on the left, you will come to a traffic light at Entry Point Blvd. Instead of making a U turn, turn LEFT on to Entry Point Blvd. Go 1 block and turn left on Funie Steed Rd. Go 1 block and turn right onto Old Lake Wilson Blvd. Continue approximately 3.6 miles. Just over the overpass on the left is the Campground, Paradise RV Resort.

**\*If you stay at the KOA Campground in Kissimmee**, we will give you directions at the hotel.

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

There are several Ramada Hotels in the vicinity of South Orlando and Kissimmee. There is a Ramada Northgate, Southgate, Westgate, and two Ramada Plazas. Ours is the PLAZA GATEWAY. Be SURE you have the correct hotel!

Call in Radio Frequencies:  
Ama: 145.350, tone 103.5  
GMRS: 462.675, tone 141.3  
CB: Channel 11

## CONVENTION SCHEDULE

### MONDAY, July 24

**8:00a - 12N** Board Meeting as needed, Room #260

**1:00p - 5:00p** Election Committee meets as needed, Room #260

### TUESDAY, July 25

**24 hours:** Hospitality, Computer, Communications, Rooms 154, 158, 254

**9:00a - 10:00p** Admin Operations Open, Room 254

**9:00a - 5:00p** Exhibits Open, Salon 1

**9:00a - 5:00p** Registration & Credentials, Lobby

**1:00p - 5:00p** Committee Meetings (as needed), Salons 3, 4, 5

**2:00p - 5:00p** Medical CPR Class, Salon 2

**7:00p - ?** Welcome Party Covered Patio

### WEDNESDAY, July 26

**24 hours** Hospitality, Computer, Communications Open, Rooms 154 158 258

**8:00a - 10:00p** Admin Operations Open, Room 254

**8:00a - 12N** Registration and Credentials, Lobby

**8:00a - 2:00p** Exhibits Open, Salon 1

**9:00a - 6:00p** Children Activities (assemble in Fiscus Room) Off Site

**9:00a - 10:00a** Photos, Group-Life-Amateur-Juniors, Outside

**10:00a - 10:30a** First Timers Orientation, Salon 5

**10:00a - 10:50a** Board meets with Committee Chairmen, Room #260

**11:00a - 11:50a** Board meets with Council Presidents, Room #260

**12noon - 1:00p** Lunch on your own

### WEDNESDAY (Continued)

**1:00p - 1:45p** Caucus for States without Councils, Room #260

**2:00p - 4:00p** Opening Session, Welcoming, Salon 5  
**4:00p - ?p** Exhibits Open, Salon 1

**4:00p - 5:00p** Committee Meetings, Salons

**5:00p** Dinner on your own

**6:00p - 9:00p** Medical Class (First Aid), Salon 2

### THURSDAY, July 27

**24 hours** Hospitality, Computer, Communications, Room 154 159 258

**7:00a - 8:30a** Amateur Breakfast, Salon 2

**8:00a - 10p** Admin Ops Open, Room 254

**8:30a - 5:00p** Children's Activities (meet in Fiscus Room) Off Site

**8:30a - 10:00a** General Session, Salon 5

**10:00a - 2:00p** Non-REACT Spouse Tour (Meet in Lobby)

**10:00a - 10:15a** Break

**10:15a - 11:30a** General Session, Salon 5

**11:30a - 1:00p** Life Member Luncheon, Salon 2

**11:30a - 1:00p** Lunch on your own

**1:00p - 1:50p** Workshops: Grants, CERT, Salon 3, 5

**1:50p - 2:00p** Break

**2:00p - 2:50p** Workshops: Jr REACT, Rapid Response, Salon 3, 5

**3:00p - 3:50p** Workshop: Florida DCAT, Salon 5

**4:00p - 5:00p** Florida DCAT and other Units Displays (Outside)

**5:00p** Dinner on your own

**8:00p** Time Capsule Ceremony (& Collection), Salon 5

Special Awards to REACTers!

### FRIDAY, July 28

**24 hours** Hospitality Open, Room 154

**9:00a - 1:00p** Exhibits Open, Salon 1

(Continued on Next Page)

## Convention Schedule

(Continued from page 11)

**8:30a - 11:00p** Children's Activities (meet in Fiscus Room) Off-site

**8:30a - 10:20a** FCC Seminar (Guest: Mr. Riley Hollingsworth, FCC Special Counsel, Enforcement Division), Salon 5

**10:00-10:30a**, Break

**10:30 - 11:30a** General Session, Salon 5

**11:30a - 1:00p** Lunch on your own

**1:00p - 1:30p** 2001 Con-vention Presentation (or Open Board), Salon 5

**1:30p - 4:00p** Open Board Meeting, Salon 5

**6:00p - 6:45p** Cocktails (cash bar), Covered Patio

**7:00p - ?** Banquet Salon 5 (Guest: Mr Myers, Director, Florida Division of Emergency Management)

**7:00p - ?** Junior REACT Banquet, TBA

### SATURDAY, July 29

**9:00a - 12N** Amateur License Testing, Salon 3

**9:00a - 9:50a** Convention Critique, Salon 5

**10:00a - 11:00a** 2000/2001 Host Committee Meeting, Salon 5

## Maryland Council Offers Skywarn Patch

An embroidered uniform patch for SkyWarn volunteers is now available from the Maryland State Council of REACT Teams (MSCRT). The three-inch-diameter patch was designed by Dr. Jerry Bricker of the Advisory Committee of the National Weather Service. Jerry is a longtime REACT member.

The patch may be worn by SkyWarn certified spotters.

To order, contact MSCRT Patches, 6000 Cable Ave., Suitland MD 20746-3824. Cost is \$3 each (\$2.75 each for five or more).

# SkyWarn SAFELY

by Pat Spencer, KD4PWL

*This article is excerpted from an article written for the Kentucky Section ARES. Reprinted with the author's permission.)*

**Safety** is the primary concern [for Skywarn weather watchers]. Storm spotting, as we all know, can be and is a hazardous activity. These hazards can be divided into four main categories: travel, storm, situational, and aftermath.

### Travel Hazards

The act of driving during severe weather is probably one of the most overlooked hazards when spotting.

Make sure that you and your vehicle are ready to go. Most importantly, obey all traffic laws. There is a lot of adrenaline flowing through your system as you cruise into an area where there is an approaching severe thunderstorm.

The first order of business is to *slow down*. Some of the hazards you will face include wet roadways, limited visibility, high wind, high noise levels, debris on the road, large hail, flying debris, flash flooding, and tornadoes. These are *in addition to* everyday hazards such as poor drivers, potholes, and even pedestrian traffic.

### Storm Hazards

The obvious hazards are heavy rain, high wind, lightning, and tornadoes. These are added to the normal, everyday hazards of being out of our homes.

Rule Number One: Never go alone! Let one person drive while the other does the storm spotting.

Rule Number Two: Pick a

good location. Pay attention to the view when you are out and about; notice places that have a good view in various directions. Mark them on a map. Evaluate them for safety. Are there overhead utility lines? Is there more than one escape route? Is it prone to standing water or flooding? Is there nearby shelter?

### Situational Hazards

These are combinations of other hazards: various situations that can be dangerous or difficult.

Just because you are a volunteer weather spotter, you have no license to behave in an unacceptable manner. A police officer will not care that you are trying to get a good view of the storm if you're going 80 mph, or stopped in a traffic lane.

Never trespass on private property. Respect the rights of property owners.

Cooperate with spotters from other agencies, especially official agencies such as police or fire department. Be sure to have proper identification as an ARES or REACT member.

### Aftermath

If you are caught in the aftermath of a severe storm or tornado, the best advice is to leave the area unless you are asked to help by an official agency. Disaster scenes are no place for onlookers.

Residents of a disaster area may be suspicious of strangers; they are trying to cope with many problems. Don't add to them by careless conversation. Do your job carefully and safely.

# The Care & Feeding of Generators

by Anthony Whorbey, KC4JTV

Even a small generator can present hidden dangers. Care must be taken even with the smallest unit, let alone one large enough to power your home.

Never use a generator without a good ground connection. Many newer units have a safety feature that will not allow them to function if they aren't properly grounded.

The only safe way to connect a generator to house wiring is with a properly installed transfer switch. But unless you have frequent power outages or a standby unit of sufficient size to power the entire house, the expense of a transfer switch is difficult to justify.

For short-term and infrequent use, have a number of heavy-duty extension cords stored with the generator. Some companies make "generator cords," designed to connect to the generator's 240-volt outlet, with four or six 120-volt receptacles.

A generator must be placed outdoors when it is in use. Putting it in a breezeway, carport, garage, or tool shed is just asking for trouble! The unit should be placed far enough from the house to reduce noise and keep exhaust fumes from

entering the house.

Never try to refuel a generator while it is running! Turn it off, check the oil and (for larger units) coolant levels, then fill the fuel tank. Oil and fuel must be stored safely away from the unit while it is operating. Fuel for the generator should be kept separate from fuel for the lawnmower or other household motors. Keep two fuel cans: one for the generator and one for lawn equipment. Use the two cans on a rotating basis, so that one of them always contains "fresh" fuel. Gasoline stored for long periods can become contaminated with water and sediment.

Many small units, and some larger ones, have poor voltage regulation. Your furnace blower or reading lamp won't care, but you don't want to ruin your \$2,000 HF rig with a \$400 generator. Electronic gear – radios, TV, etc. – may be operated more safely from a battery (which can be recharged by the generator).

Test the generator once a month or so, and run it at full load at least once a year.

One last point: Be aware that your home may become very popular when it's the only one on the block with the lights on!

## K-40 Awards and Recognition

By Leland Johnson,  
Awards Committee  
Chairman

Thank you to all the nominators for individual and Team entries. There was only one nomination for Teams; for individuals a total of twelve nominations were received for the whole year. Winners will be announced at the Convention; congratulations to them!

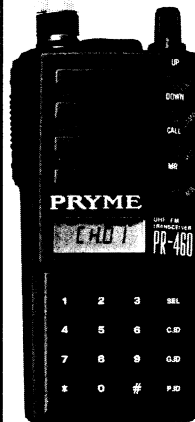
Nomination forms are available at the RI Web site, < [www.reactintl.org](http://www.reactintl.org) >, or from the RI office.

## Power in Your Palm!

For GMRS, and Conventional Land Mobile applications, check out the new PRYME MicroConnect line of radios by PREMIER Communications Corp. These units are built to last! They are very small (4.25" H x 2" W x 1.1" D) and fit comfortably in the palm of your hand! Easy operation and nice ergonomic design.



2 units or more:  
**\$199** each  
\$210 single unit price  
Plus Tax\* and  
Shipping



- 4-Watts Output
- 440 - 470 MHz
- up to 99 Channels
- CTCSS (38 tones)
- DTMF and Paging
- Includes charger and battery pack
- FCC Approved!
- License Required
- 5-Watt VHF and VHF-Low models also available

**R.K. Leef**

(949) 770-9501

\* Inside California



# REACTivities

## News from Regions/Councils/Teams

### Pacific NW Council

Eight Teams were represented at the Spring Council meeting in Spokane.

The attendees participated in a tabletop drill. The drill simulated a Team asked to assist in directing truckers bringing donated goods to a designated warehouse. Several members were assigned as the "truckers," others were given the post of warehouse managers, and still others were a "control unit" with access to the EOC. Participants were given typed instructions including problems to interpret. Instead of using radio, messages were passed in writing. As expected, there was confusion at first, as there would be for a Team working in an unfamiliar town.

The participants had to route ten trucks to five different warehouses. They had to find good routes to bypass an excavation of a major road, an accident at a major intersection, and other difficulties. They also had to coordinate the movement of workers, forklifts, and other equipment. An additional problem was that one of the trucks carrying perishable dairy products "broke down" three

miles out of town.

One problem that arose early, as it would in a real disaster, was the lack of complete information in the written messages. In a post-drill critique, members observed that truckers needed to have maps of the area. The recommendation was made that all points of entry to the state be supplied with maps showing the state-designated warehouses. One person mentioned that many truckers now use 2-meter radios, not CB. Truckers without radios might be given "loaner" radios at the points of entry, or at least advised about the radio channels or frequencies and tones to get directions.

-J. Fisken

### Garden State Council

The recipient of the Dorothy V. DePoe Memorial Award for 1999 is Mary Cooper. The award was announced at the March 12 meeting of the Garden State Council of REACT Teams.

Mary has been a member for nearly twenty years and has been a member of three Teams. She has attended

fourteen RI conventions and served on several RI committees, most notably the Awards and Recognition Committee.

The Dorothy V. DePoe Award is given annually to a New Jersey REACT member who has shown outstanding service and dedication.

-Larry Wilkins

### Oklahoma County (Okla.)

On May 6, 2000, the Oklahoma City Police Dept. held its 19th annual Police Awards and Appreciation Banquet. Robert Kaster, President of Oklahoma Co. REACT, received recognition for 15 years of public service as a Team member and officer. The Certificate of Appreciation noted his coordination of the REACT Teams in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City Federal Building bombing; for seventeen days, REACT members worked sixteen-hour days providing security and access control for the FBI command post.

Only a few weeks earlier, Bob and other Team members were back at the Mur-



rah Building site for the dedication of a memorial for those who lost their lives in the worst terrorist incident in U.S. history. Members of Oklahoma Co. and University of Oklahoma REACT Teams, under the direction of local police and Secret Service, were responsible for traffic control and assisted with security for the presence of President Clinton.

In our Team newsletter, Bob wrote, "While I was on traffic control near the general entry point, a lady and young girl approached me. The lady explained that the girl had lost a three-and-a-half-year-old friend or relative (I'm not sure which) in the bombing. She said that the girl wanted to talk to someone and thank them for their assistance in the days after the bombing. The girl, who was eight or ten, then said a few words. I'm not ashamed to admit that I didn't catch everything she said due to the emotions I was feeling. I was both honored and humbled that the lady and the girl chose me as the recipient of their thanks."

-Dale Ellis

### San Angelo (Tex.)

We have all spent a Saturday or an entire weekend doing training. It may have been basic first aid, landing a chopper, traffic control, working with a search dog, or studying for a ham ticket – none of which seem to have anything to

do with emergency communications, which is what REACT is all about.

However, on March 18, the training paid off. Three San Angelo REACT members had arrived to help with the Adult Literacy Run. It was about 8 am with the run starting at 8:30. Mark Byrd, Bill Carpenter, and I were there. Mark and Bill were unloading their bikes, preparing to ride to the top of the dam that goes around the north side of San Angelo and keeps Lake Fisher inbounds. The top of the dam is part of the course for the event.

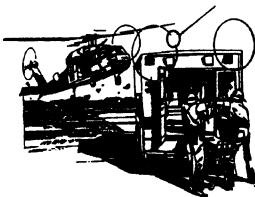
A man came running up and said that a lady was "down" just inside the gate to the dam. Bill rode his bike and Mark ran the thirty yards with his first aid kit. Sure enough, a rather large woman had stumbled off the side of the dam and tumbled downhill about ten feet or so. She had a gash on her forehead and was bleeding heavily. Bill called for EMS while Mark applied bandages.

I contacted the Fire Dept. by cell phone. EMS arrived in a few minutes and took over caring for the woman. She was transported to the hospital, but she turned out to have no other injuries (except a bruised ego).

The Literacy Run went on as scheduled, with no other untoward incidents. But now I know why I suffered through all those training classes!

those  
training  
classes!

-Jerry  
Jennison



## 100 Percenters

(The following Teams renewed with 100 per cent of their members, as of March 28.)

Madison Co., Ind.  
Great River, Ill.  
Harrison Co., Ind.  
Trinity Co., Calif.  
Tri-County, Ohio  
McDowell Co., N.C.  
Air Capital, Kan.  
Tri-City, Calif.  
Garden State, N.J.  
Youngstown, Ohio  
Livermore Valley, Calif.  
Butte, Mont.  
Lincoln Co., Neb.  
Hamilton-Mercer, N.J.  
Metro, Calif.  
Comupac, Calif.  
Pawnee, Neb.  
Harlan Co., Ky.  
Tri-County, Mo.  
Response Team, Tenn.  
Rose City-Windsor, Ont.  
Fort Sutter, Calif.  
Lee Co., Fla.  
Lincoln Railsplitter, Ill.  
St. Andrews/St. David, Trin.  
Trinidad & Tobago, Trin.  
Suffolk Co., N.Y.  
Monterey Peninsula, Calif.  
Bloomburg Area, Penn.  
Daytona Beach, Fla.  
Armstrong Co., Penn.  
Peoria-Pekin Metro, Ill.  
Porterville, Calif.  
Darlington Co., S.C.  
General Suburban Aid System,  
Mass.  
Winchester, Va.  
Westchester Co., N.Y.  
REACT Co. Caroni, Trin.  
Ogallala Area, Neb.  
McLennan Co., Tex.  
Mendocino Coast, Calif.  
Lansing, Mich.  
Memphis, Tenn.  
Durham Co., N.C.  
Brevard C.A.R.E.S., Fla.

**Congratulations to All!**

# Classified Ads

We are very pleased to announce that, beginning with the July-August 2000 issue, *The REACTer* will offer classified advertising services to our members and readers.

This is a great way to sell surplus gear – or to find that one piece of equipment you need that's no longer in stock.

There are a few rules and conditions, of course. The classified ads are intended for noncommercial use; we don't plan to offer "classified display" ads. Payment must be made at the time you place an ad. Neither REACT International nor the staff of *The REACTer* can accept any responsibility for the accuracy or legitimacy of classified ads. We reserve the right to reject, or to discontinue publishing, any ad for any reason or for no reason whatsoever. Errors must be brought to our attention as soon as possible by the advertiser; our only liability for errors, regardless of fault, is to repeat the ad (as

corrected) one time without charge.

Deadline for placing classified ads is the tenth day of the first month of the issue date. In other words, for the July-August issue, the deadline is July 10; for the September-October issue, it's Sept. 10. *Ads received after the deadline will be returned to the advertiser, they will not be held for the next edition.*

The rate for classified advertising is \$5.00 for the first ten words and \$0.50 per word thereafter, for REACT members anywhere in the world. For non-REACT members, the rate is \$7.50 for the first ten words and \$0.60 per word thereafter. Payment must be made in U.S. funds by check or money order.

To place an ad, please type or print the exact wording you want, plus your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address (if available), and your REACT Team name and number (if a member), all on one sheet of paper. Mail it *with payment* to the RI headquarters office, 5210 Auth Rd., Suite 403, Suitland MD 20746-4330.

In calculating your payment, count your entire name as one word; count your street or P.O. address, city, state, and ZIP or postal code, all as one word; count an entire phone number (including area or country code) as one word. We reserve the right to abbreviate where appropriate.

## Silent Mics

*(Please Note: In most cases, the only information we have is that the member is deceased. We would be pleased to publish more information if you will provide it to us.)*

Thomas Masucci, Bayshore (NJ) REACT  
Cheryl McLendon, LM, Lower Pinellas (Fla)  
William "Happy" Carson, Armstrong Co.,  
Kittanning Area REACT  
Noah Nelson, LM, Bell Co. (Tex.)  
Wylie Durham, LM, Bell Co. (Tex.)  
Charles Goss, Wabash Valley (Ind.)

## **Attention Convention Delegates:**

If you are attending the Convention in Kissimmee as the official Delegate or Alternate Delegate for your Team or Council, you *must* bring with you the Delegate Appointment Form signed by Team or Council officers. The form has been mailed to all Teams and Councils. If your Team or Council has not received the form, it is available for download from the RI Web site, < [www.reactintil.org](http://www.reactintil.org) >, or call the RI office, (301)316-2900 and a copy will be mailed or faxed immediately.

# ***REACT*ers**

**We welcome you to the  
2000 International Convention  
and Orlando, Florida  
July 26-28, 2000**

**We are anxious to have you as our guests  
and look forward to serving you  
as *REACT* goes...**

*Transmitting Into the 21st Century*

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