



The REACTer

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**On the Cover:
Conventioneers Stand Still
for a Moment
(Photo by Rich Ryan)**

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From the President

by Charles A. Thompson

We continue to emphasize the importance, the first priority of *REACT* International, of recruiting new Teams and new members. As I'm writing this column, I have learned through the *REACT*-List of two newly chartered Teams: *CARE REACT*—Los Angeles (6059) and *Mountain REACT* (6060) with a total of 30 new members. Both are in the Los Angeles area. *Well Done* to all those who assisted these two Teams join our family of volunteers.

At the recently concluded Special Meeting of the Board of Directors at the Convention in Des Moines, the Board approved our recommendation for a special incentive to new Teams. Effective immediately, when a new Team applies for a charter, it must include full member dues for *next* year (plus the Team payment for insurance premium). *This* year is free. There's one exception: if the new Team is to be chartered before March 31st, this year's insurance premium must also be paid, but the dues are still free for this year. This arrangement applies only to the "charter members," those listed on the charter application. New members signed up after the charter is granted still pay regular dues (prorated if after June 30th).

We know that starting a new Team can be expensive – dues, equipment, supplies, etc., can mount up. The new arrangement will allow the charter members of a new Team to remain as paid-up members for as much as twelve additional months at no charge.

We hope this new policy will encourage prospective new Teams to register immediately, rather than wait for the beginning of a new year, and will encourage them to include as many charter members as possible on their initial application. This will benefit the Team, and it will also benefit *REACT*.

*

At *REACT* International, we try to interfere as

little as possible in the operation of our Member Teams. Our philosophy is that each Member Team is an independent entity that has chosen to affiliate with *REACT* International, and it's responsible for its own management.

Occasionally, however, it seems that some guidance might be helpful. We recently became aware of a Team where a minority of the total Team membership, which composed a majority of the Board of Directors, voted at a Team meeting to transfer most of the Team's considerable equipment, and a significant part of the cash in the bank, to another organization where they were the only members. Obviously such a move would devastate the *REACT* Team.

A review of the Team Bylaws indicates that what they did was, at least as far as the Bylaws govern, probably legitimate. There was no requirement for notice of an unusual expenditure, no requirement that any action of the Board receive Team approval, no safeguards for the Team Members.

This situation reflects two errors. First, in this Team's Bylaws the Board was everything and had all the power, the Team Members had virtually none. Secondly, there was no requirement that all Team Members receive notice of special items which were to be brought before the Membership.

I urge all Teams to review their Bylaws. The purpose of Bylaws is to provide for the

best interests of both the organization and the members of the organization, and after something unfortunate happens, it's too late to change the Bylaws. Each organization should ensure that its Bylaws protect the Members and the assets of the organization from being mishandled.

Even if the organization chooses to have its Board of Directors take care of most decisions, there should be a limit. And, in the case of unusual expenditures to be presented to the Membership (including disposition of assets), there should be a requirement that the entire Membership be notified at least seventy-two hours ahead of the meeting.

With respect to expelling a Member, there should be a very specific procedure requiring notice, a vote by the entire Membership, and perhaps other safeguards.

Bylaws and their provisions cannot guarantee that a

Team's activities will always be conducted in total harmony – but properly written, they can assure that when disagreements arise, there are safeguards to protect the Team and the majority of its members from the “tyranny of the few.”



*Coming in the
November-December
REACTer
*Complete
Directors, Officers,
and Committees
Directory!*



Publicizing *REACT*

by Ron McCracken, Chairman, PR Committee

[Editor's Note: Ron McCracken recently resigned as chairman of the Public Relations Committee, but he left behind these items that he wrote for previous issues of The REACTer. As usual, most of his suggestions are timeless and should be part of every Team's PR program.]

Join *REACT-L*

Do yourself a favor. Subscribe to *REACT-L* to keep up to the minute on *REACT* developments of all kinds. *REACT-L* supplements your bi-monthly *REACTer* with news flashes, discussions, opportunities of all kinds. And it's *free*. Just type the address *REACT-L@gibbousmoon.com*. On the subject line just type the word "subscribe." That's it! Do it now, before you forget. You'll be glad you did.

New 'REACT Month' Team

Tobacco Valley *REACT* (Conn.) used *REACT* Month to launch Pioneer Valley *REACT*, a new Team in nearby Massachusetts. How's that for 'hands across the border'? The new Team already has a meeting place/office in a former radio station with a 150-foot tower and all the trimmings.

How about your Team helping to launch a new Team in your area? It's our 40th year, so let's go for 40 new Teams. Thanks for the challenge, Tobacco Valley. We just need 39 more now. Let's go, gang.

40th Anniversary Decals

Decals sporting the 40th Anniversary logo are now available. A sheet containing decals in several sizes can be ordered from International Headquarters for \$2.00. Slap those decals on anything that moves, even stuff that doesn't. Get the word out that *REACT* is celebrating another milestone in its history.

60m Band

Thanks to those who wrote the FCC to support the ARRL 60-meter band initiative. The Comment Period will open soon. Watch for it, and write again. This time will count even more. The new band will benefit *REACT* Teams that use the amateur radio service in weather emergencies particularly. Write even if your Team isn't affected. Let's give FCC a huge pile of mail from *REACT* Teams. They need to know your Team is out there. Let them hear from you. Individual members can write too, by all means.

CB-9 Decal Sheets

Stock of these is almost out. They have been very popular, but will not be re-ordered. Send your Team's order to Suitland fast or you will miss out. When they're gone, they're gone. You've been warned.

REACT Litter Bags

This amazingly enduring PR tool also serves as a HELP sign. Check your supply. Be sure to

have a good number on hand for your upcoming Safety Break, mall display, etc. Put safety leaflets from police, railways, USCG, etc., in them and pass them out to people. They will thank you, and it could save their lives.

Feedback Please

We love to hear about your Team's successes and share them with the entire *REACT* family. Send us an e-mail at PR@REACTintl.org or drop us a letter. Send photos too. Let us know what has worked well for your Team. We will pass it along so others can give it a try. Have a great summer.

Texas Team Offers New Patches

With the approval of the RI Board of Directors, Travis County (Tex.) *REACT* is pleased to offer two new embroidered patches for use on Team uniforms.

Both patches have the standard *REACT* logo in the center, with additional lettering above and below the logo. One patch has the words "Amateur Radio" above the logo; the other patch has the following lettering above the logo: "GMRS - CB - AMATEUR - FRS - MURS." Both patches have the single word, "Communications," below the logo. A dark blue border in the rounded-triangle shape surrounds the added lettering.

The patches are \$4.25 each plus \$0.50 each for shipping and handling. Orders will be accepted only from registered *REACT* Teams and Councils. To order, send request and payment to Travis Co. *REACT*, P.O. Box 180922, Austin, TX 78718. Please allow six to eight weeks for delivery.

G. M. R. S. !

Pryme PR460
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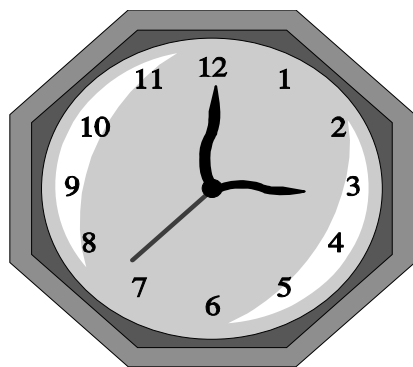
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REACT in Cyberspace

Dealing with the Internet

Web Site Happenings

by Johnny Stowers
RI Webmaster

A number of changes have been made to the REACT International Web site in the last few months. The majority of these changes have been minor touches to improve the looks of the pages or to keep the information current.

A major change, although minor in looks, is the manner in which the pages that contain the Team & Council listing are updated. In the past, any changes to the information on these pages had to be manually entered. To do a complete update to the pages could take up to two or three weeks, depending on how much data had to be changed.

As of May 19, 2002, a system has been in place whereby the Web pages can be automatically updated using the information in the database at the REACT International office. It now takes about ten minutes to download a copy of the database and another ten minutes to make the Web pages and upload them to the Web site. Needless to say, this is a vast improvement. We should now be able to do a total update of the Team and Council listing at least once a month.

However, in order for this system to work, the information contained in the database *must* be accurate. If the information on the Web site is not correct, it is because the information in the database is not correct. The information on the Web page is exactly as it is entered in the database. If your Team information changes, you have to contact the International office directly and give Dora the correct information. This can be done via e-mail, phone, regular mail or carrier pigeon, as long as it goes to the office. For information, the office (Dora) *is not* on the REACT-L mailing list. It is fine

Continued on next page, left column

A Web Site for Your Team

by Lee Besing
RI Secretary/Treasurer

At the 2002 Convention, all attendees were encouraged to obtain an e-mail account for themselves and their Team. Free e-mail accounts are available from sources such as Hotmail, Yahoo, Netscape, or Juno in most cities.

If you do not have a computer, you usually can find free access at your local public library or a friend's house. If you shop around, you can usually find affordable access for twenty dollars per month or less with local Internet service providers (ISPs) or national ones. America Online (AOL), Earthlink, CompuServe and MicroSoft Network (MSN) all have national access numbers in most cities, but they cost \$21.95 per month or more. If you sign up with Earthlink, feel free to give REACT International as the name of your referral so that we can earn a free month's access on our own account.

REACT International is encouraging all members and Teams to obtain an e-mail address so that we can distribute news and information via e-mail to our members in a more timely manner. We are working on obtaining free e-mail alias accounts for each member. This means you could log onto the RI Web site and sign up in a members-only area. This e-mail account would be redirected to your personal account and would not be a "real" pop/smtp type account like your local Internet Provider would offer. We are working with my Web hosting company in San Antonio, the host of the RI Web site, to develop a plan for implementing this idea in the near future. More news will be released when available.

At the 2002 Winter Board meeting in Feb
Continued on next page, right column

Stowers, *continued:*

to drop a note to the list if your Team information changes, but you must still notify the office directly.

The Council information also has been moved. All Council information is now on a single page. The link to this is labeled, "All Councils." It is located at the top of the list of states and a link is also on all the individual state pages.

If you have any suggestions on ways to improve the Web site or other computer systems used by *REACT*, please contact the Computer Services Committee .

2003 Convention Set for Indiana

The site for 2003 *REACT* International Convention was approved by the Board of Directors at the 2002 Convention in Iowa. The Indiana *REACT* Council will host the Convention in Evansville, Ind., during the week of July 21-24, 2003.

Evansville is the third largest city in the state, located on the Ohio River, in Vanderburgh County, with a population of 121,582. The Evansville region is also strategically located 75 miles south of the median center of the U.S. population (at the point where latitude and longitude lines intersect, the population is the same on all sides). Evansville, founded in 1812, is tucked serenely into the southwest tip of Indiana, with the average temperature in July being 89.1 degrees.

Our Theme Is "Evansville, Where the Midwest Meets" and REACTers Worldwide Will Meet in 2003!

Vanderburgh County *REACT* is looking forward to providing us all a memorable *REACT* International Convention in 2003, so mark your calendars now and plan to attend this one.



Besing, *continued:*

ruary, the board approved my offer to host Team or Council Web sites for a low cost of \$60 per year including the cost of registering the domain name each year. Free e-mail for the Team will be offered as well, in the form of one account such as <info@teamname.org> or whatever the Team requests. Payment is due up front since this figures out to be only five dollars per month, which is not feasible to bill on a monthly basis.

For this low fee, you will receive a registered domain name (such as the name <southwesternreact.org> which is being used for the Team in San Diego, California, already), one free e-mail account (can be a real pop/smtp style account that you access with a normal mail program like Eudora or Outlook Express, a Web based mail account that you access like Hotmail or Yahoo, or simply an alias to be redirected to a designated member's personal account), and a reasonable amount of space for the site.

Everybody asks what a "reasonable amount" of space would be. Most Web sites use way less than 5MB of space, but others with lots of photos might use more. We aren't really too worried about space, but if a Team exceeds 10MB we might need to talk a bit about how they are using their space. Graphics that are too large take too long to download and view, thus discouraging visitors to the site.

Files can be uploaded to the site by using your existing Web browser. You must have a Java-enabled browser, such as Netscape 4.x or higher, or Internet Explorer 4.x or higher. We do support the latest versions as well. You will receive written instructions on how to access this hidden-password-protected system to upload changes to your Web site, plus tips on how to make your Web site more effective and suggestions on what type of content might be interesting to both your members and non-members. Custom scripts or utilities can be submitted to us for consideration by those who wish to push the edge, and we can show you how to write form pages that automatically submit the data back to you by e-mail. Our servers do support the use of Front Page and Cold Fusion.

For more information, send an e-mail to me at "Websites@reactintl.org" or call me direct at 210-771-7075 (mobile) or 210-680-2680 (home) between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. CT.

INTERNATIONAL

TEXT AND PHOTOS

As the sun gleamed off the golden dome of the Iowa State Capitol, nearly a hundred *REACT* members from around the U.S. and Canada gathered at the Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center for Convention 2002 – An Iowa Odyssey.



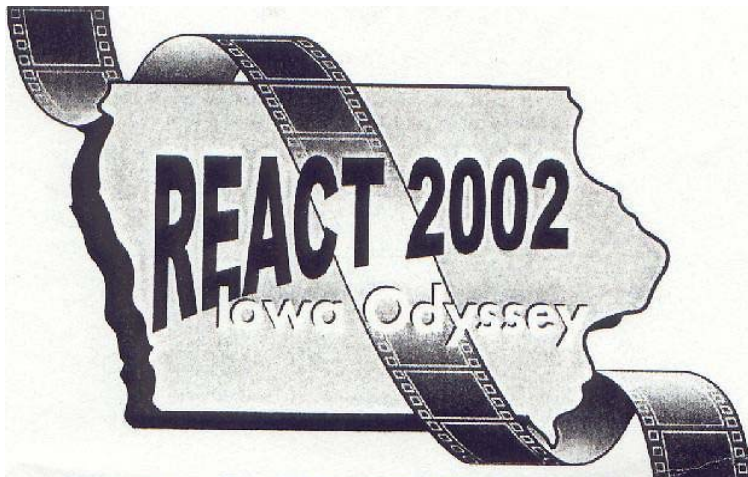
Tom Jenkins, Sr., of ValleyWide (Ida.) *REACT*, checks out the offerings at the *REACT* store. Rick Blandin, Finance Chair for the Convention, hopes for the sale!

At the heart of the Holiday Inn is the Holidome, decked out as a tropical forest, with a sidewalk café, banquet area, video games arcade, and indoor pool. This was everyone's favorite place to meet when not involved in a meeting!



CONVENTION 2002

BY STUART M. DELUCA



Joe Hoepfner, Iowa REACT Council president, reviews the agenda with the Board of Directors.

Meetings are, of course, the *raison d'être* for conventions. Here the RI Board of Directors considers weighty issues while other conventioners were frolicking. From left: John Knott (Reg. 3), Dick Cooper (Reg. 2, back to camera), Bob Kaster (Reg. 7), Lee Besing (Secretary/Treasurer), Chuck Thompson (President), Jack Murrell (Reg. 4), Frank Jennings (Reg. 6, Chairman). Larry Fry (Reg. 5) and Bob Leef (Reg. 8) were out of the room when the photo was taken.



The Life Members in attendance at Convention.

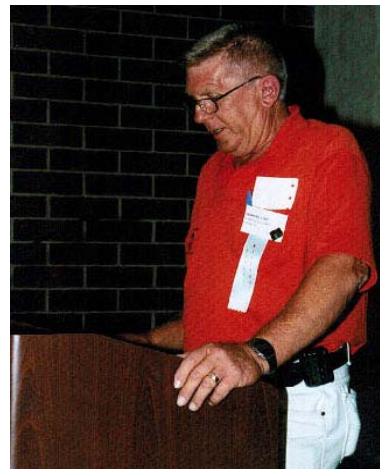


His Honor the Mayor of Des Moines, Preston Daniels, welcomed the *REACT* Convention to his city and invited everyone to enjoy the city's hospitality, at the Opening General Session.



When things started to get a little out of hand during the second General Session, fortunately Larry Fry (Reg. 5 Director) was there to wield the gavel and restore order.

The Open Board Meeting on the Convention's closing day always attracts the attention of everyone at the Convention. George Lynn of Vanderburgh Co. (Ind.) *REACT* invited conventioners to Evansville, Ind., in 2003.





REACT Amateur radio operators got together for this group photo. Notice that *not one* of them was talking on the radio when the picture was taken!



As usual, the 2002 Convention ended with a banquet. Meteorologist Bryan Kerrick of KCCI Television served as master of ceremonies. Bob Goldhamer, Director of the Polk County Emergency Management Agency, spoke of the importance of *REACT* volunteers in these uncertain times. The point was underscored by Lt. Todd Misel, Iowa State Police, who presented a slide show of previously unpublicized photos of the World Trade Center attacks. Below left, RI Chairman Frank Jennings and his lovely wife, Lynn, enjoy the banquet. The evening ended by comic-magician Gayle Becwar explaining the importance of grooming. Or something like that. .



**Summary of the Minutes of
A Special Meeting
of the Board of Directors of
REACT International, Inc.,
Held at Des Moines, Iowa, July 15-18, 2002**

Directors Present:

Frank Jennings (Wash.), Chairman & Region 6
Dick Cooper (N.J.), Region 2
John Knott (Fla.), Region 3
Jack Murrell (Ind.), Region 4
Larry Fry (Wis.), Region 5
Bob Kaster (Okla.), Region 7
Robert Leef (Calif.), Region 8 (arrived 9.20 am.)
Charles A. "Chuck" Thompson (Tex.), President,
ex officio

Officers Present:

Charles A. "Chuck" Thompson, President
Dick Cooper, Executive Vice President
Lee Besing (Tex.), Secretary/Treasurer

Directors Absent:

Vacant, Region 1
Ron Faulkner (Ont.), Region 9

Officers Absent:

Norman Kaplan (Md.), Assistant Treasurer

Guests (at various times during the meeting):

Michael Cauley (Fla.), Ron Mayes (Kans.),
Robert Lumpkin (D.C.), Stuart DeLuca (Tex.),
Ron McCracken (Ont.).

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jennings at 8:45 a.m., Monday, July 15, 2002. The Chairman expressed appreciation to those in attendance.

1. Establishment of Quorum; Agenda. The Secretary announced there were eight of nine Directors present, and there was a quorum. The President distributed copies of the agenda.

2. Resignation of Director. President Thompson presented a written resignation as Region 9 Director and a withdrawal from the election for Region 9 from Ron Faulkner. The Secretary accepted Mr. Faulkner's resignation.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting. Motion Mr. Knott, second Mr. Cooper, to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board Meeting held at the corporate office in Suitland, Maryland, in February. Unanimous.

4. Election results. The President announced results of the Director Elections. Reelected were John Knott (Region 3), Frank Jennings

(Region 6), and Ron Faulkner (Region 9). Mr. Faulkner, however, had withdrawn from the election. Ballots were counted by Singleton & Bardowski, LLC, Certified Public Accountants, who certified the results in a letter to the Board. Motion Mr. Fry, second Mr. Kaster to approve results. Unanimous.

5. Director Vacancies. Region 1 and Region 9 positions are vacant. Motion Mr. Thompson, second Mr. Cooper to appoint Kenny Jagdeosingh (Trinidad & Tobago, West Indies) as Region 9 Director if he accepts. Unanimous. Mr. Thompson called Mr. Jagdeosingh who accepted, effective at the close of 2002 convention. Discussion held regarding potential Region 1 candidates. Mr. Jennings and Mr. Thompson will write letters to each Region 1 team asking for nominees.

6. 2002 Convention Status. The Board discussed various arrangements and made several recommendations to the hosts.

7. Treasurer's Report. Copies were mailed to officers and Directors, but

several did not have them at hand. Detailed review of the report for the period ending June 30, 2002 was deferred. Treasurer Besing advised that Norm Kaplan was doing a good job as assistant treasurer, and was able to visit the office regularly. Office Manager Dora Wilbanks and Mr. Kaplan have been signing all checks' Mr. Besing receives copies of all checks. Mr. Besing and Mr. Thompson are not receiving copies of the Salomon Smith Barney (SSB) investment reports, but Mr. Jennings has been receiving his copy. Mr. Jennings read current report showing growth in all investment accounts. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Besing will arrange to receive copies of these reports, and ensure that except for the office, no others would receive copies from SSB.

Mr. Leef joined the meeting.

8. Officer Reports. No formal reports received. Mr. Cooper reported resignation of chairpersons of Convention & Site Selection Committee (Selma Dassa), Public Relations Committee (Ron McCracken), and

Awards Committee (Florence Hedges).

9. Reports of Committees of the Board. None received. Discussion held about providing assistance for Office Manager Wilbanks in office, cover for time off, etc. Motion Mr. Murrell, second Mr. Leef, to seek part time person from temp agency. Unanimous.

10. Corporate Committee Reports. Mr. Cooper presented several reports.

a. Life Membership. Dick Gamble (Nev.) submitted a written report that also included his resignation as Life Membership Chair. Life Members will select a new chair during convention. The Board confirmed that "Life Membership" is not a corporate committee (the Life Membership Chair represents all Life Members).

b. Membership Development & Retention. Ed Greany (Calif.) has built a team of committee members from all parts of the USA. They are working on revising forms for officer approval. Discussion held on recommended procedure for new team charter applications to set 30-day response limit. Some councils take up to six months to approve a prospective charter. Mr. Thompson advised that proposed RI policy will allow 35 days limit from date info is mailed from REACT office. Recommendation that the Board approve printing of new bumper stickers, develop Spanish version brochures and section of the Web site to reach potential members speaking that language. Discussion held on toll free numbers being checked for availability. Board preferred 877-REACT-INFO (but see items 19d and 37c below).

c. Training and Development Committee. Chair Tom Currie (Ky.) is working with other committees to revise RI training manuals. No one has yet earned Emergency Communications Course certification. Board suggested added publicity to encourage REACT Member participation. Mr. Leef said his Team

spends 1/2 hour at each meeting studying a section of this course. Mr. Thompson said promotion of this course could be made in *the REACTer* (but not the Web site at this time).

d. FCC Liaison. William Riley (Md.) has been working on encouraging GMRS manufacturers (especially those producing radios which contain both GMRS and FRS frequencies) to publicize the requirement of obtaining a GMRS license.

e. Public Relations. Ron McCracken (Ont.) has resigned as PR Chair. He is present at convention, but no report at this point.

f. Publications Review/REACTer. Stuart DeLuca (Tex.) is present at convention, report to be submitted later.

g. Emergency Communications. There has been a problem contacting Chair Chris Myers (Fla.). Mr. Knott provided a new address; e-mail sent to the old address is not returned.

h. Convention & Site Selection. Mr. Cooper reported that Vanderburgh County REACT in Evansville, Ind., had submitted a bid for 2003 convention on behalf of the Indiana State Council. Acting as Site Selection Committee, the RI officers had approved the application, subject to approval by the Convention and the Board. George Lynn, host Team president, will present details Thursday prior to the open Board meeting.

Recessed 11:50 a.m., reconvened 1:05 p.m. No change in attendance.

i. Committee Structure and Operation Review. Mr. Thompson explained further his idea of abolishing the office of VP and making the office of Executive VP permanent, and providing for additional vice presidents as needed. He also confirmed that the role of the Executive VP in supervising administrative committees would remain. After discussion, the matter was postponed pending receipt of specific Bylaws amendments (possibly

to Annual Meeting).

j. Current Committee Chairmen and Performance. Mr. Cooper discussed each committee and its performance. He will meet with Mr. McCracken during convention to discuss the PR Committee chairmanship. An attempt will be made during the convention to identify persons for vacant positions.

11. Bylaws Amendments.

a. Committee Chair Appointments. Mr. Leef suggested that clarification was needed on who appoints committee chairs. Section 7.8 of the Bylaws is not clear. Currently, the President is appointing corporate committee chairs (unless otherwise specified, the Chairman of the Board appoints Board committee chairs). Motion Mr. Leef, second Mr. Knott, to direct the President to develop proposed amendments to Bylaws Article 7 to clarify the differences between committees of the Board and committees of the membership (corporate committees), and to submit his proposals at the Annual Meeting of the Board. Unanimous.

b. Nominating Committee for Directors. Motion Mr. Leef, second Mr. Cooper, to establish a nominating committee to find a minimum of two qualified candidates in each region at least six months prior to the election. Discussion held. Mr. Thompson suggested any nominating committee should be formed in the region, rather than have the Board involved in any way. He felt that a candidate "endorsed" by such a committee would have an advantage over a candidate nominated from the field. Mr. Cooper felt this should be expanded to cover the search for committee chairpersons. A question was raised about how a nominating committee would obtain information on which to base their recommendations. Mr. Leef suggested that by monitoring who published on the REACT-List, and by watching *the REACTer* or Team/Council newsletters, a number of potential candidates could be deter-

mined. He has identified a few potential members to serve on a nominating committee. Mr. Jennings commented that the Board has been remiss publicizing the Director elections. Mr. Thompson advised that he had requested that *the REACTer* run a calendar of events which would include reminders of various filing dates, deadlines, etc. Mr. Thompson stated his general opposition to a nominating committee, but that if formed, the resolution should include full details on the committee's composition and duties. The Board referred to Bylaws Sec. 7.6 regarding the creation of a special or temporary committee. A question was raised about regional or organization wide committees. Mr. Cooper asked Mr. Leef to work up a "duties and responsibility" mission statement for the proposed nominating committee, and withdrew his second to the motion pending further details.

c. Two-Year Term for President. The two-year term for the President proposed by Mr. Thompson at the Annual Meeting was discussed. Mr. Murrell said the first year was a learning experience and that when he served as President, he had only begun to know his job when his term was up. Consensus of the Board to have the President draft an appropriate Bylaws amendment for the Board's consideration.

12. Awards. Discussion about the lack of standards for awards issued by the Board and the President, including the appearance, qualifications, and who determines the awards. The Eugene Goebel award has varied in wording, size, and appearance over the years, depending upon who ordered the plaque. Some have been in the form of walnut style plaques while others were computer-generated certificates with or without a frame or mounting. Discussion of various sources. The office should stock a supply to allow less expensive awards in the future (while maintaining a level of quality). Referred to

the President for implementation.

13. Financial Review. Mr. Besing presented copies of financial reports as of end of June 2002, including P&L, Balance Sheet, and April 28, 2002, Investment Statements. Budget items included on the printouts from Quick Books were incorrectly based upon the initial 2002 proposed budget rather than the actual 2002 adopted budget. Mr. Knott suggested that Treasurer's Reports be created in PDF format and e-mailed to save costs, and that the "Pie Charts" be eliminated. (It was noted that the March 2002 report showed \$15,000+ in miscellaneous expense, which should have been insurance expense.)

14. Insurance. The President advised that Mr. Lanshe had purchased bonding insurance in 2001, and the policy is up for renewal. The policy, issued by Travelers and Aetna covering "volunteers in service," covers July 1 through June 30 and costs \$1,485 per year. Deductibles of \$250 or \$500 apply to each loss. The policy should cover a *REACT* Team in the event a member mishandles funds for their team or another organization in the conduct of their services. Some teams routinely work events where their members have access to cash belonging to another organization. Questions were raised about several provisions in the policy. Consensus that this policy should be renewed if the President can verify that Teams are covered.

15. Review of WPRT-970 License Progress. Mr. Thompson was unable to obtain local help on this license modification and asked FCC Liaison William Riley to work on the modifications needed to permit local *REACT* Teams to use the license. Some teams are apparently using the license without authorization, and action was referred to the applicable Director.

16. Proposed *REACT* International Computer System. Mr. Besing reported that a "member only" area needed to be set up. It

would use the database to screen access, perhaps by member number and team number. Computer Committee Chairman Johnny Stowers has automated the Team/Council Web page sections, using macros to generate the Team/Council pages from the database. It takes about 45 minutes to download the database, generate new pages, and upload them to the Web site. If the information is wrong in the database, it will be wrong on the Web site. There are three update form pages on the Web site to allow update of Council, Team, or personal information. Updates are sent to the RI office for processing. Southwestern *REACT* of San Diego has created a new Web site under the new \$60/year hosting program offered (with Board approval) by Mr. Besing's company. Other RI forms will be added to the Web site once the new member only area has been established. Discussion held about the prospect of offering free e-mail alias accounts to *REACT* members. RI would have use of the domain name "react.org" which is owned by an affiliate of Dallas County *REACT*. Mr. Besing will investigate the technicalities and expense of providing this service.

17. ECOMM Program. The Emergency Communications Course (Level 1) was further discussed. It is available by download over the Internet, computer disk, or paper copy (Tom Currie coordinates distribution). Motion Mr. Fry, second Mr. Murrell, to support resuming promotion of this course. Unanimous. *Recessed at 5:30 p.m. Reconvened 8:15 a.m., Tuesday, 16 July. All present.*

18. Fundraising proposal. Mr. Thompson presented a proposal from a member of Reli *REACT* to market TeleWrx Communications long distance and Internet service to *REACT* members. Mr. Besing suggested referring proposal to Charlie Land (Tex.) who works in the industry for evaluation. Mr. Fry discussed three-cents per minute call-

ing cards and cell phone offers. Mr. Knott said *REACTers* were capable of selecting their own phone service and *REACT International* shouldn't be involved, especially if the provider failed.

19. Agenda Items requested by Director Leef.

a. Regional statistics. Directors need a membership count by region on a regular basis to allow comparison with previous year. Mr. Besing is to ask Computer Services Committee to modify database and start accumulating this data.

b. Civil Air Patrol MOU. Mr. Leef reported the MOU is being passed (slowly) for discussion among various CAP personnel.

c. Calendar. Mr. Leef reported members have not been submitting photos for this project, and the project is considered dead.

c. REACT in Mexico City, Philippines, Caracas. Translation of current brochures into Spanish is proceeding.

d. Toll Free Number for New Member Inquiries. Motion Mr. Leef, second Mr. Knott, to acquire 877-*REACT-INFO*, if available, for a toll free number. Unanimous. Mr. Land will cover the cost as long as usage remains "reasonable," but will bill RI should usage rise above the level he is willing to donate. New

bumper stickers will use the new number. A new answering machine may be needed.

e. Team/Council Web site Contest. It was the consensus of the Board that the Team/Council Web site contest should be handled by the Awards Committee instead of convention host.

f. Computer Services. It was requested that the RI Web site's "members only" area allow Team officers to enter new member info.

g. Publications Mr. Leef noted that several training modules were factually obsolete but were still being distributed. He has been working with Tom Currie and Stuart DeLuca to develop a combined module that addresses those subjects plus new materials.

h. Monitoring Reports. Mr. Leef discussed the disappearance of annual Team monitoring reports. Less than 10% of Teams are reporting. Discussion held on simplifying the report to keep the usefulness while increasing likelihood of submission. Mr. Leef suggested that "man hours" be tracked for monitoring and event communications, plus reporting any unusual or significant events or calls (which would be referred to PR for action). Mr. Besing suggested a version of the

"early bird" contest for those teams who submit their "man hours report." Motion Mr. Leef, second Mr. Knott, to eliminate the existing monitoring report form and substitute a new annual reporting procedure, using an existing form, to collect total team hours spent for monitoring and public service activities. Unanimous. Mr. Knott also suggested that this information be collected via the Web site on the team update form.

i. Insurance Claims. Mr. Leef asked if the RI office is receiving copies of liability claims filed with the insurance company. Mr. Thompson reported that there have been no claims filed.

20. MOU updates. Mr. Cooper attended a "partners" meeting held by the American Red Cross and got a contact directory of these other agencies. Mr. Thompson has reviewed our existing agreements but we have not approached any of the other agencies for updates.

21. Team Handbook Status. The Team Handbook is very much out of date. There is a master hard copy in the RI office, and a substantial part of the Handbook has been re-typed in electronic format. Mr. Besing suggested that the Handbook be scanned and distributed by disk or the Web site.

22. New Cap Bids. The Board

Calendar

- October 1** Team Registration/Renewal for 2003 begins
- 7** Deadline for submissions for November-December *REACTer*
- December 2** Deadline for submissions for January-February *REACTer*
- January 1** Deadline for proposed changes to RI Bylaws (to be submitted to Bylaws Committee)
- February 1** Deadline for committee reports to Board of Directors
- 3** Deadline for submissions for March-April *REACTer*
- 15** Deadline for nominations for Regional Director (Regions 1, 4, and 7)
- 22** (Date tentative) Annual Meeting of Board of Directors, *REACT International*

adopted a new standard, black cap at the February 2002 meeting. President Thompson presented samples of black caps with *REACT* patches. Two bids are on hand. One is for made-in-USA caps, including standard *REACT* patches sewn on. (This same hat is provided to the US Air Force). The second bid, slightly lower, is for foreign-made caps with standard *REACT* patch heat-glued on. Both caps met the Board's standards. The choice between US-made and foreign-made caps will be placed before delegates at open Board meeting. It was suggested that the new "Volunteer Communications" flash also be put on the hats. Mr. Thompson noted that "Volunteer Communications" is 24 characters (including the space), resulting in tiny lettering if put on one line. Consensus of the Board to procure a 2-line flash and not to include it on the standard *REACT* hat.

23. Mid-Term Budget review. After reviewing revenues and expenses to date, it was determined that without unusual expenditures arising, *REACT* International would again finish the year even or ahead of budget.

24. Report on President's Ad Hoc Committee on Disaster Response Procedures. Mr. Kaster presented a one-page draft version of his report and a one-page recommendation submitted by Mr. Leef shortly after the September 11, 2001, events. An Emergency Plan, based upon the Florida Council's plan, was distributed. Discussions on procedures and on Homeland Security followed. Mr. Besing suggested that RI's functions in a disaster were (1) coordinate manpower & equipment offers from outside teams/sources, (2) coordinate information flow in both directions, and (3) coordinate donations. Tabled until later in this meeting.

Recessed 10:15 a.m. for opening ceremonies, reconvened 4:00 p.m. Mr. Leef was not present.

25. Review/Revision of Standing Policies. The Board reviewed *REACT* International policies which had been revised by Bylaws Committee Chairman Johnny Stowers (Calif.) with additional revisions by Mr. Thompson. The policies have been numbered to correspond with the applicable Bylaws section. Each of the following items was considered in detail.

Policy 1.2 - Compliance with Internal Revenue Code and Regulations.
Policy 3.1 - Membership Dues & Renewals. Motion Mr. Thompson, second Mr. Kaster, to eliminate the two-year membership requirement for *REACT*ers 65 and older to apply for Life Membership. Life Members recommended change. Unanimous. With that change, Policy 3.1 was approved.

Policy 3.3 - Councils. It is now required that there must be at least two Teams to form or retain a council.

Policy 3.6 - Charter of New Teams. The time for considering a proposed charter is reduced to 35 days.

Policy 4.1 - Convention Site Locations. Bids should be submitted at least 2 years prior to proposed convention date.

Policy 5.2 - Regional Election of Directors. Elected/Re-elected Directors are seated at the first session of the Board (convention).

Policy 6.1 - Resolution of Complaints with RI.

Policy 6.2 - Releasing of Documents.

Policy 9.1 - Expenses of RI Officers, Directors, and Staff.

Policy 9.3 - National Projects.

Policy 9.4 - RI Mailing lists.

Policy 9.10 - RI Trademarks. (New.) Confirms that RI trademarks (logo, stylized name) are to be used by Teams only for their own local purposes, and that all other uses must be approved by the Board. Motion Mr. Knott, second Mr. Kaster, to approve the revised policies (as amended). Unanimous.

Recessed 5:33 p.m. Reconvened 10:50 a.m., Wednesday, July 17. No

change in attendance

26. Announcement of Officer Changes. The Chairman asked if the President proposed any changes in officers. There were none.

27. Consider Director Vacancy. The Region 1 Director's position is vacant (Region 9 was filled earlier). The President and the Chairman will send a letter to each Team in Region 1 asking for nominations for consideration. Remaining term of office for Region 1 is one year, with elections to be held in 2003.

There were differing points of view as to what role RI should play in a major emergency.

28. Awards and Recognition Matters. Mr. Thompson noted that certificates will be awarded to committee chairs stepping down, and plaques given to former Directors Lanshe and Faulkner. The winner of the 40th Anniversary Logo design contest will receive a refund of his 2002 *REACT* International dues. *Recessed 11:30 a.m. Reconvened 8:45 a.m., Thursday, July 18, 2002. Mr. Murrell not present (arrived at 9:10 a.m.)*

29. Disaster Response – Continued. The scope and responsibility of *REACT* International's duties in a disaster situation were further explored (that is, RI above the council level). Scope of Mr. Kaster's committee was to review the occurrences after September 11 and other recent major disasters, and to recommend policies to improve RI's response. There were differing points of view as to what role RI should play in a major emergency. It was the consensus that RI should,

in the event of a significant disaster, develop a database of manpower and other resources and appoint a contact person to coordinate requests for assistance and information flow. Mr. Kaster will use recommendations in the discussion to complete his report. Mr. Murrell suggested that this be handled via e-mail and verify any votes at the February Board Meeting. Mr. Thompson noted that, unfortunately, virtually no input had been received from any participant (except Mr. Cooper) in September 11 disaster support.

30. Convention Supplies. Motion Mr. Fry, second Mr. Cooper, to establish a level of convention ribbons to be kept in RI office for delivery to each year's convention host. The convention host will pay the cost of ribbons used during the convention. This will maintain consistency over the years and ensure adequate supply during conventions. Unanimous.

31. Fundraising. Mr. DeLuca described the operation of Another Way Texas Shares, in which the Texas State REACT Council participates and receives several thousand dollars each year. He suggested that RI and councils should consider joining regional or national federations of similar scope and purpose. Motion Mr. Leef, second Mr. Thompson, to direct the Treasurer to investigate. Unanimous.

32. Additional RI Policies. Mr. Thompson reported that two additional RI policies had surfaced, those dealing with state council policy and Team charter revocation. They are not in electronic format and will have to be retyped. He will review these and distribute to Directors for consideration via e-mail "Real Soon."

33. Open Board Meeting Agenda. The Agenda was discussed.

34. Life Member Problem. The Board discussed a pending situation involving alleged misappropriation of Team funds by a Life Member, discovered when the Life Member moved to another state. The appropriate councils and Directors directly September-October, 2002

involved have been informed of the details. It was noted that expulsions have, in the past, gone through the Life Member group. The current By-laws require any life membership or team charter revocation be reviewed and decided by the Membership Committee of the Board.

35. Board meeting with Committee Chairs.

a. Publication Review. Stuart DeLuca (Tex.) reported *the REACTer* will be under budget because former members have been deleted from the mailing list, resulting in about a one-third reduction in the number of copies printed and mailed. He had stopped in Wichita, Kan., to visit Valley Offset Printing's facility and met with the staff, and reported that they have an outstanding printing plant. He discussed the new "REACT Radio Systems" and "Planning a Safe Community Event" manuals. Discussion held on process of obtaining approval and printing of new documents on paper or PDF electronic format. Mr. Thompson recommended keeping the masters in electronic format and printing "as needed" in the office.

b. Emergency Response. Bob Lumpkin (D.C.) suggested that the NDCAT model was not as effective as implementing a regional/local team basis. Referred to Chris Myers (Fla.).

c. Public Relations. Joe Nadeau (Conn.) reported that <www.cyberstationusa.com> carries his radio show live 4:30-5:00 p.m. EST on Thursdays. He presented copies of the 30- and 60-second PSAs he uses to make announcements about REACT.

Former PR Chair Ron McCracken (Ont.) commented on his resignation in May. He offered to submit a written report after the convention. He urged that a replacement be selected who is on the same "wavelength" as the Board to avoid wasted efforts. He mentioned his feelings on the 800-number topic, the 40th anniversary logo design, and the length of time needed

to get something approved.

36. Board meeting with Council Presidents. Presidents from Wisconsin, Iowa, Pacific Northwest (Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Alaska, and Hawaii), Michigan, Florida, Texas, Indiana, Minnesota, and Illinois were present. The process to approve new team charter applications was explained. When RI receives a new charter application from a prospective Team, it will send copies to the appropriate council and Director. Response will be required within 35 days. The charter will be approved if no response is received. Mr. Thompson explained the new policy concerning newly chartered Team dues. In effect, charter members of new Teams will pay the next year's dues, and the Team will pay the insurance premium for the next year; the remainder of the current year will be free. Only members submitted with the charter application will receive this benefit. Mr. Thompson instructed the Secretary to see that each council annually receives a full membership list of all Teams within the council and of new Teams when chartered.

Meeting adjourned 12:00 noon. (Prior to the open Board Meeting, a 2003 Convention Presentation was made by the Indiana Council.)

37. Open Board Meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jennings at 1:45 p.m., July 18, 2002. All Directors were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by an invocation and moment of silence.

a. Chairman Jennings made opening remarks.

b. President Thompson announced the appointment of Paul Oby (Minn.) as Chairman of the Convention and Site Selection Committee and Leland Johnson (Minn.) as Chairman of the Awards and Recognition Committee, both for the remainder of the term expiring in February 2003. He announced that C. C. "Rob" Roberts had been

selected by the Life Members as the Life Member Chairman for the following year.

c. The President announced that the “new member information only” toll free number for REACT International will be 866-REACT-99 (REACT-INFO was not available).

d. Mr. Thompson explained the revised dues structure for charter members of newly chartered teams.

e. Stuart DeLuca (Travis County REACT, Tex.) asked for clarification from the Board regarding use of REACT trademarks by Teams/Councils. Ron McCracken (Lake Simcoe REACT, Ont.) commented negatively on any restrictions on Team use of the REACT trademarks. Craig Hoepfner (Iowa), C.C. Roberts (Hawaii), Joan Shrigley (Ill.), Tom Jenkins (Idaho), and Pat Knight (Tex.) also spoke on the subject. The President explained that the trademarks were owned by REACT International, Inc., and not the Teams, that Teams were given virtually unlimited use of REACT trademarks for local Team use, and that it was not the function of local Teams to compete with REACT International in the sale of trademarked items. He said that RI was not able to obtain and stock a large number of “REACT” items, and would carefully consider any offers by local Teams to produce anything incorporating a REACT trademark, but that REACT International should receive some benefit from approved uses. Paul Deaver (Okla.) asked Mr. Thompson what procedure to follow. Mr. Thompson asked for a letter outlining the Team or council proposal.

f. C. C. Roberts, Life Member Chairman, reported that the Life Members had approved waiving the two-year regular membership requirement to apply for Life Membership for persons 65 and over. Doc Gruis (Iowa) addressed the topic in support. The Board has already ap-

proved this policy.

g. With the Convention & Site Selection Committee chair vacant, Executive Vice President Cooper had been directed by the President to act in that capacity. He received the bid from Vanderburgh County REACT (on behalf of the Indiana Council) and forwarded it with recommendation to accept to the officers and then to the Board. The bid was reviewed and is now presented to the delegates for consideration. Motion made by Iowa, second Illinois, to recommend that the Board approve the bid to hold the 2003 REACT Convention in Indiana, July 21-24, 2003. Motion Mr. Knott, second Mr. Kaster, to accept the bid. Unanimous. Chairman Jennings passed the traveling gavel to Indiana Council President (and RI Director) Jack Murrell.

h. Stuart DeLuca (Tex.) reported that advertising rates in *the REACTer* have been reduced by about 50% to attract more advertisers, and he expects to see an ad increase in future issues. Assistance in selling advertising is needed (a small commission will be paid).

i. Tom Jenkins (Idaho) reported the new 40th Anniversary logo stickers were available in the REACT store at the convention. Price for 26 decals, 3 sizes, is \$2 package.

j. Bob Kaster (Okla.) presented two work-in-progress video PSAs in development as a class project of Oklahoma City Community College. One featured World Trade Center photos, the other was severe weather related. Various suggestions were made, including a request for a longer version suitable for a “loop” presentation at a hamfest, etc.

k. Mr. Thompson asked the delegates if they would be interested in having a personal e-mail forwarding address through REACT International with the address <yourname@REACT.org>. The consensus was that this service

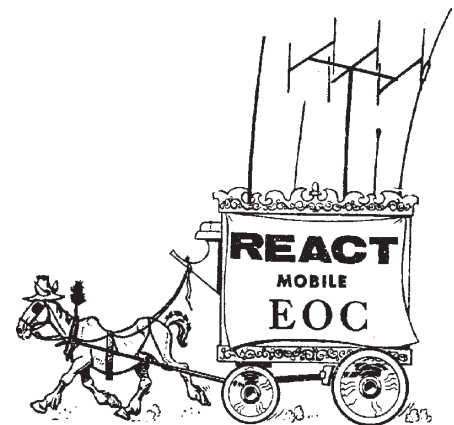
would be welcomed and used.

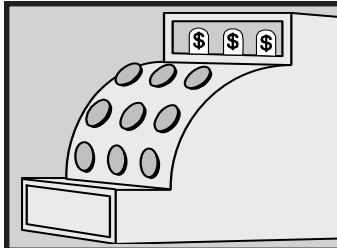
l. Paul Oby displayed his Team’s original charter, for those who had not seen one. Stuart DeLuca reminded attendees that any Team can get an updated charter for \$5 through the RI office.

m. Mr. Thompson displayed two caps, one made in the US and one foreign made. It was the overwhelming consensus that RI should stock “made in USA” caps. Upon motion by Mr. Thompson, second Mr. Kaster, the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors was recessed, and providing no additional business arose, will stand adjourned at 12 midnight, 18 July 2002, *sine die*.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee W. Besing
Secretary

(President Charles A. Thompson prepared this summary from the extensive minutes submitted by the Secretary. The complete minutes are available electronically by sending e-mail to <secretary@reactintl.org> or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope with \$0.83 U.S. postage (for U.S. delivery) to REACT International, Inc., 5210 Auth Road, Suite 403, Suitland, MD 20746-4330.)





Treasurer's Report

by Lee W. Besing, Secretary/Treasurer

Still in the Black

As of the end of June 2002, we have had \$85,848 in income, and \$62,092 in expenses, leaving a balance of \$23,756 for the year. With our average expenses per month, we should finish the year still in the black by a thousand dollars or so under budget.

At the Winter Board meeting last February, we made some changes to the check signing procedures which now allow Dora Wilbanks, our office manager, to sign checks with single signatures for routine amounts under \$250, plus specified other routine regular bills like the phone bill, rent payment, etc. In addition, we asked Norm Kaplan to be the assistant Treasurer, because of his good reputation within *REACT* over the past many years and because he lived in the area of the office. Norm has been visiting the office on a regular basis and signing those checks on which our internal procedures require two signatures, such as payroll. I continue to get copies of every check written by the office on a weekly basis so that I am aware of what expenses we have incurred.

Our accountants remain Singleton & Bardowski, LLC, the same ones we have used since moving to the DC area in 1998.

I would like to note that the directors and officers have donated \$7,721 back to *REACT* International in expenses during the past fiscal year (since January 2002), while we have paid out \$4,488 for their expenses during the same time frame. Our liability insurance premium ended up being higher than expected at \$19,871 for the year, while we only collected \$4 per member or \$11,530 total from all teams. The difference has been absorbed by the general fund in the budget. There will be no increases in dues or insurance premiums being charged to the teams for the year 2003. The dues structure will remain set at \$20 for Regular members, \$18 for Family and Junior members, and \$300 for new Life Membership. We will continue to

absorb the difference in insurance premiums for the following year as well.

President Chuck Thompson and I are the signers on the investment accounts with Salomon Smith Barney. Our assets have remained stable with smaller earnings than originally expected due to the change in the stock market, but we continue to earn higher than market average on all of our accounts, thanks to the expertise of our brokers. All of our accounts are in low-risk, moderate investment funds, rather than playing the stock market actively on a daily or weekly basis.

Two changes were announced at the convention regarding dues. The first was that new Team charters will pay the current year's insurance fees per member if application is made before March 31 of the year, but not if the charter submission date was afterward. All charter members (those listed on the application) will pay a full year's dues and receive both the current year and following year registrations for the same amount. They will have to pay the insurance fee for the second year. Members who were signed up for the new Team after the charter has been submitted will have to pay the normal, full dues before July 1, half dues after that date, and full dues for the subsequent year. This measure is intended to encourage new Teams to add as many members on the charter application as possible, thus starting out with more members than just the minimum three.

The second change did not really affect the dues, but the conditions of applying for Life Membership. The two years of regular membership required before applying for Life Members has been waived for those aged 65 or older. Now a person aged 65 or older may apply for Life Membership immediately upon joining a Team if they so desire and if they get the appropriate signatures from their Team officers as required. All other requirements remain in effect.

REACTivities: Team, Council, & Region News

Dallas Co. (Tex.)

Dallas County *REACT* Team members contributed about two hundred volunteer hours to the 2002 Special Olympics/Texas Summer Games, held in Arlington, Texas, the weekend before Memorial Day in May. Buses and parking went smoothly; the only problems during the event involved several “temporarily misplaced” athletes, but all were found in good health. We will miss having the Summer Games in Arlington for the next few years and will welcome them back in 2006. Best wishes to the *REACT* Teams that work the Summer Games in San Marcos in 2003-2005.



Dallas Co. *REACT* members get ready for Special Olympics Summer Games' opening ceremonies. From left: Terry Allen, Richard Bartlett, Martin Schneider, Candice Cotton, Bryan McGee, John Powell, Larry Powell, Carolyn Kanter, Rick Short and Bernie Parker. Below: Dallas County's Martin Schneider ready to safely direct traffic.



Fayette Co. (W. Va.)

Fayette County (W. Va.) *REACT* teamed up with Fayette Co. ARES/RACES to provide a *REACT* Safety Break over the Memorial Day weekend last May.

Virgil Berry, president of Fayette Co. *REACT*, is also an active Amateur radio operator (KC8NKF), as is his wife, Roseanne (KC8NKE). She is also Executive Director of the county Red Cross chapter. When they realized that their Team isn't big enough to support a weekend-long Safety Break, they called on their friends in ARES/RACES. The two groups got together and had a great time helping weary travelers.

Ramsey Co. (Minn.)

On Wednesday night, July 24, members of Ramsey County *REACT* in St. Paul, Minn., provided communications between parade officials and a local cable TV station for the annual Rice Street Parade. At a reception after the parade, Team President Paul Oby was called to the front of the room where he was knighted by the King of the St. Paul Winter Carnival. This was a very unexpected honor for him and a first for any member of the Team.

The certificate reads, “We, Boreas Rex, King of the 20

Winter Carnival, in token of our esteem and reposing the utmost confidence in your ability to do honor to this the illustrious position, do hereby appoint Paul Oby, Commander of Communications. Sir Paul surveys the parade line-up, looking for any last minute changes, then notifies the TV commentators, so that their script rearranges. To have and to hold the said office with all rights, responsibilities, appurtenances and hereditaments thereto belonging, or by law in anywise appertaining, for the full term of our reign. In Testimony Whereof, We have hereunto set our hand and caused the Great Seal of our Do-

minion to be affixed in the City of St. Paul, Minnesota, our right royal Winter Capital, this 24th day of July in the year of our Lord 2002.” It's signed Boreas Rex LXVI.

Below: “Sir Paul” Oby admires the certificate proclaiming his knighthood.



The REACTer

CREST (Calif.)

The Crest *REACT* Team participated in attempting to locate two kidnapped teenagers, an incident that was widely reported in the national news media.

It began at about 1 a.m. when two girls, ages 16 and 17, were with their boyfriends on a lookout hill in the town of Quartz Hill, California., northeast of Los Angeles, near Edwards AFB where the space shuttle occasionally lands.

The suspect apparently hijacked a car in Las Vegas from an elderly couple but the car became disabled in the Quartz Hill area with a flat tire. The alleged kidnapper, who had a long criminal record, tied up the two boys at gunpoint and stole one of the boys' car, taking the two girls with him. One boy got loose and hiked on foot out of the area and notified authorities, who immediately put the "Amber Alert" program into effect for the first time in Cali-

fornia.

The "Amber Alert" system was established after the murder of a little girl from Orange County, Calif. Coincidentally, a Santiago *REACT* member, Peter Lent, and I had discussed a program whereby we could broadcast information about abducted children over the GMRS repeater system operated by The Repeater Users Group (RUG) of Southern California. This theory was presented to RUG at their membership meeting in Irvine, about two weeks ago. It was well received but we hadn't completed the details yet. The program is called EDIS, which stands for Emergency Digital Information Service. (See <http://www.incident.com/edismail.html> for more information).

I had to drive my son Michael to LAX this morning. On the return trip, I saw a freeway message sign, normally reserved for "serious accident ahead" information, but this time the message was to watch for a white 1980 Bronco with a certain li-

cense number. I was listening to my car broadcast radio and learned of the abduction of the two teenagers.

I decided this was the time to implement the EDIS program for our members. Upon arriving home, I put together an alert message and read it on the radio to another member who was commuting to work. At the same time, I did an e-mail broadcast to two YahooGroups lists giving details of the crime and description of the auto.

The vehicle was spotted in the early afternoon near Ridgecrest, Calif., where the alleged kidnapper was shot dead by the police. The two girls were alive and relatively unharmed, due largely (as we subsequently learned) to their own extraordinary courage.

While we did not have any direct impact on this incident, it gave *REACT* an opportunity to further test and develop the EDIS program, which we plan to implement nationwide.

-Ed Greany

U.S. Search & Rescue (Penn.)



Penn. State Rep. Ellen Bard presents the citation she sponsored to U.S. SAR members David C. Marantz, Chief Steven L. Labov, and Bill Ludwig III
September-October, 2002

On May 28, 2002, the United States Search and Rescue Task Force (also known as U.S. Search and Rescue *REACT*) was honored by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. The Citation reads in part as follows:

"September 11, 2001, saw the worst terrorist attack on United States soil and the United States Search and Rescue Task Force was requested to assist in this mission. In the finest tradition of a volunteer rescue department, it assisted by supplying materials, personnel and equipment for the good of this nation; the efforts of the Task Force

helped in the support, search, rescue and recovery operation of victims in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. The members of the United States Search and Rescue Task Force have brought great credit to themselves, their communities, this Commonwealth and nation.

"Now therefore, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania proudly salutes the members of the United States Search and Rescue Task Force; [and] proudly notes the courageous work they have accomplished."

Dallas County Plans Special Radio Event for 35th Anniversary

As part of its 35th anniversary celebration, Dallas County *REACT* will operate a special event station on Saturday, September 28, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The FCC has granted DCR permission to use special event call sign W5D. DCR's regular amateur call sign is W5DCR.

The Team will use, depending on conditions, four frequencies: 7280 kHz, 14280 kHz, 21380 kHz, and 28480 kHz (all plus or minus 20 kHz to avoid interference). These frequencies fall in the general license class portions of the bands. Station operations will be conducted at the Dallas Area Red Cross Radio Communications Center, which is managed and operated by Dallas County *REACT*.

Licensed *REACT*ers are encouraged to try to contact Dallas County *REACT* during this special event. If a contact is made, be sure to identify yourself as a *REACT*er.

Charles County & St. Mary's County (Md.)

On April 28, 2002, the small town of Laplata, Md., was struck by the biggest tornado to hit the town since 1928. The F-5 storm shattered many homes and businesses.

Forrest Tucker, president of Charles Co. *REACT*, and members of his Team assisted the Red Cross in evacuating people to Thomas Stone High School. Team members helped to set up a shelter for victims of the disaster, and collected clothing, food, and other supplies.

Meanwhile, Larry Norris, president of St. Mary's Co. *REACT*, and members of his Team assisted the Newburn Ambulance Service and the Bel Alton Fire Dept. by providing communications. Team members arrived within half an hour after the tornado struck, and remained until early the following morning

-Aaron J. Kellerman

10-9?

Oops. In the Calendar listings in the July-August *REACT*er, we said that the deadline for nominations for Regional Director would be Feb. 15, 2003. That part was correct. But the Regional Directors up for election in 2003 are those in Regions 1, 4, and 7 (*not* Region 2!)

The Council Directory on the inside back cover had some listings in boldface; that was unintentional.

*The REACT*er

Letters We Love To Get!

From the Shelby, N.C., Parks and Recreation Department:

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of the City of Shelby Parks and Recreation Dept., I would like to commend the local *REACT* organization for their help with the annual Foothills Merry-Go-Round Festival. This year's festival was the biggest ever and the parking was handled beautifully by this fine organization. Lloyd Idol and the entire group are very professional and a pleasure to work with. I certainly hope they will be available for the 2003 festival.

Sincerely,
Charlie Holtzclaw,
Director, Parks & Recreation

From St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Tarpon Springs, Fla.

The Men in Mission at St. Timothy Lutheran Church ...would like to thank Gary Thomas and Daniel Spears of the Suncoast *REACT*. On Wednesday evenings, St. Timothy serves dinner to their church members. The local homeless and others in need of a hot meal are also invited. When several church members expressed concerns about walking to their cars after dark, Gary and Daniel stepped up and volunteered to watch the parking lot to ensure their safety. They did this every Wednesday from September through May. A whole hearted thanks goes out to both men for offering their assistance in a very important ministry of our church...

Welcome New Teams!

Region 8 Director R. K. Leef reports: Five new Teams have been formed in the Region since February, with more on the way:

Central Valley *REACT* (Calif.). Team number 6054. Formed by Kurt Ervin, President of Kings County *REACT*. Members live in three adjoining counties.

Pahrump Valley *REACT* (Nev.). Formed by Life Member Richard Gamble. Small community fifty miles west of Las Vegas. (This may be close enough to Area 51 to report UFO's). All members are licensed Amateurs.

Mountain *REACT* (Calif.). Team number 6059. Formed by

Harold Cole of South Gate *REACT*. Covers Crestline/Lake Arrowhead district seventy miles east of Los Angeles. Working closely with local Fire Department.

C.A.R.E. *REACT* (Calif.). Team number 6060. Formed by Nomis Bayan, a former member of Mabuhay *REACT*. Starting with twenty-three members in the Los Angeles area. Over half are licensed Amateurs.

N-Watch *REACT* (Calif.). Formed by Curt Knoppel. Another Los Angeles area team. Starting with ten members, all licensed Amateurs except one or two. Used to be a Neighborhood Watch group.

Silent Mic

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of W. W. "Don" Gilpin, Life member and Unit 2 of Seacoast (Calif.) *REACT*.

Don was the last remaining charter member of Seacoast *REACT*, having started Oceanside Radio Emergency Squad in 1961. The next year, Don and company chartered with *REACT* International as Oceanside Seacoast *REACT*

Don was the main reason I am in *REACT*, and for that I am grateful. On many occasions, he put in over 1500 hours of monitoring time in a year. Several times he was called in by local law enforcement agencies to testify when he took calls over CB radio.

Eric Hutchins
Rio Grande Valley *REACT*
Albuquerque, N.Mex.

100%ers

The following Teams have renewed 100 percent of their members for 2002; list continued from the last issue of The *REACT*er:

- 6031 - Loudon/Monroe, Sweetwater Tenn
- C614 - Charleston, S.C.
- 4752 - Edmunston, N.B.
- 4364 - Fond du Lac, Wis.
- 4815 - Chicago (Ill.) Metro
- 2804 - Johnston Co., Smithfield, N.C.
- C336 - Mark Twain, Waynesville, Mo.
- 6019 - Henry Co., McClure, Ohio
- 2599 - Fayette Co., Oak Hill, W.Va.
- C480 - Summit Co., Akron, Ohio
- 4089 - Waukesha (Wis.) Area
- 4517 - Champaign Co., Mechanicsburg, Ohio
- 4299 - Northern Tier, Minot, N.D.
- 6032 - Angelina Co., Lufkin, Tex.
- C490 - National Capital, Alexandria, Va.
- 4984 - Outback, Anza, Calif.
- 3973 - Tulare, Shafter, Calif.
- 4879 - Portage (Wis.) Area
- 2356 - Nova, Alexandria, Va.
- C622 - Dallas (Tex.) County
- 6001 - Sentry Skywatch Patrol, Marion, N.D.
- 6008 - *REACT* St. Andrews/St. David, Arima, W. Indies
- 3810 - CBA Potter Co., Amarillo, Tex.
- 6030 - Cullman Co., Vinemont, Ala.
- C222 - Augusta, Ga.
- 2106 - Prince George's (Md.) County

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If for any reason you do not wish to receive *The REACTer*, let us know. Send a note or e-mail to RI headquarters. However, your dues will not be reduced.

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Members may order an extra subscription for a family member at a different address, a friend, a local library, or anyone else, at the same rate as members' subscriptions: \$4 per year in the U.S., \$5 in Canada, or \$6 anywhere else.

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Suitland, MD 20746



Unsquelched

by Stuart M. DeLuca, Editor

You've probably never given a moment's thought to how this magazine got into your hands.

Naturally, it's something that I think about a lot. My job is to put together the best, most useful, and most interesting issue of *The REACTer* every other month; then I turn it over to the people who print the copies and see that they get into the mail.



Since 1988, when *REACT*'s headquarters moved from suburban Chicago to Wichita, Kansas, the people who have been responsible for those vital tasks are the staff of family-owned Valley Offset Printing of Valley Center, a suburb of Wichita.

In fact, we were one of their first regular customers. Back then, the whole company fit into one small prefab steel building. Today, Valley Offset occupies a block-long complex of buildings and is filled with state-of-the-art printing, binding, and mailing equipment.

En route to Des Moines last month, my wife and I stopped off to visit the Valley staff – people I've talked to on the phone and e-mailed frequently, but had not actually met. It was a real treat to shake hands with Larry Vickers (at right), the Electronic Pre-press Manager, who uses his arsenal of gadgets to ensure that every bit and byte I send him actually gets onto the printed page. Much of the improvement in the appearance of *The REACTer* over the past couple of years is due to Larry's suggestions and his crew's good work.



We were also highly impressed by Valley's physical plant. I'm no expert but I've been in printing plants of one sort or another many times; Valley's shop struck me as unusually well organized and capable of anything from a postcard-size short run to a phone-book sized government document (and they do a lot of those!). The photo below shows the press on which the cover for *The REACTer* is printed.



But it's not the machinery that gets the job done, it's the people. And the person who keeps track of everything, the person who gets – and somehow answers – all the questions from scheduling to billing to printing to labelling – is customer service manager Kris Bryant (right).

To all the folks at Valley who help us communicate – a big *REACT* THANKS!

