



The REACTer

March – April 2005



Tribute to Stuart DeLuca 1942 - 2005

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Convention in JUNE 2005

“California, Here We Come!”

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The REACTer

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On the Cover:

Stuart DeLuca Remembered

Stuart Takes Photos at Austin (Texas) Trail of Lights

Photo by Lee Besing

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The REACTer is available on-line, in full color, at www.REACTintl.org.



From the President

By Dick Cooper

As I write this article it has been less than 24 hours since the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the *REACT* International board of directors in Suitland, Maryland. Just like after a Team meeting, Council meeting, convention or *REACT* event, my enthusiasm for *REACT* is very high.

While my enthusiasm is high right now, I also must be realistic and reflect on some of the items that the board discussed in the last two days of meetings. As you will see in the summary of the board meeting minutes in this issue, your board of directors made decisions on several items that may be considered "normal board stuff", but we also made some decisions that directly effect the future of *REACT*.

You know that *REACT*'s membership numbers have been dropping for a number of years. Some of us can still remember the days when *REACT* had a very large membership and consequently had the necessary amount of money to effectively run *REACT* International. Currently our membership numbers have dropped to the point where we cannot develop a balanced budget with the anticipated amount of income and expenses. We are no different that any business in that we have to have a certain amount of income to pay the basic expenses of the corporation. Right now our only sources of income are from membership dues and Team insurance fees plus a small amount from the sale of merchandise, etc. Just like in business or in your personal finances, when a situation occurs where your income can't cover all of your expenses, you have to do something that you probably don't want to do, for instance cut expenses.

The board looked at cutting expenses on this budget but over the years we have essentially trimmed off all of the "excess expenses" that we can. The two largest budget expense items that can be adjusted are insurance and *The REACTer*. The only way to cut the insurance is to reduce coverage, and the board realizes how important current coverage is to Teams and members. NOTE: Did you know that RI pays nearly 40% of the total insurance premium each year?

The REACTer is also important to *REACT* members, but the publication frequency could probably be changed if we were required to cut additional expenses. The board has a lead on a grant writer and we are pursuing this avenue in the hope of being able to get some grant money for RI projects, consequently relieving our budget. There is a corporate giving program on the table at this time also. Both of these

ideas and other additional funding programs take time to produce results.

In the interest of the future of *REACT*, everyone must help *REACT* International get out of the membership and financial situations that we are in right now.

All *REACT* members can help RI out of our dilemma by doing several things:

- Actively promote additional membership in your area.
- Make sure that all members of your Team are registered with RI.
- Pay the insurance fee based on all members, not just a few.
- Be alert to donors (corporations, foundations, etc.) in your areas who may be sources of income for RI projects.
- Check for corporations that want to become a "*REACT* Sponsor" through a donation.
- Anything else that will benefit RI through membership and/or finances
- Remember in your estate plans that a gift to *REACT* on the Team, Council, or International level would continue to help *REACT*

Of course, an important part of the success of any business or organization is public relations. Teams should keep publicizing the name of *REACT* in their areas. RI has developed an excellent 30 second PSA (public service announcement) for use by Teams, Councils and RI. There is still a little fine tuning to be done but it will be available for sale at the 2005 *REACT* Convention in California. RI is trying to get a grant to pay for this project but until that happens we will have to sell it at cost.

REACT International needs your help more than ever before. Don't stand back – *REACT*.

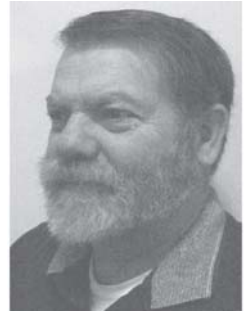
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From the Executive Vice-President: 2005 *REACT* Convention and Taxes

By Ed Greany



Folks, do you realize there is a tax deduction right in front of you? In this issue [page 9] you will see a registration form for the upcoming 2005 *REACT* International Convention hosted by CREST *REACT* and held in Corona, California.

Your entire trip could be deductible – airfare, bus fare, train fare, taxi fare, automobile mileage, car rental, hotel accommodations, supplies or materials needed, etc. It's tax time right now, and how many of you wish you had more deductions to reduce your tax burden? Well here's a way to do that for next year and enjoy a convention which many of you probably have never been able to take advantage of.

Being a *REACT* member brings many convenient or beneficial by-products. It is not all work. Most of the time you may take a deduction for your trips to and from your Team meetings, uniform cost and cleaning cost of them, and probably some of your radio equipment depending on how it is used. Why not take advantage of what is rightfully yours in the way of a taxpayer deduction?

Along with those tax benefits, we have made it as easy and economical as possible for you to further reduce your expenses. The hotel has agreed to allow the convention rate to be applied for continuous days before and/or after the convention dates for those desiring a longer stay in Southern California. Register early for the best rate available while they last. Along with the hotel savings, you will save in food expenses since the hotel will provide their guests with a free buffet breakfast every day. This is not a continental breakfast but an actual full buffet style breakfast.

They also have a continental style if you prefer however. How much savings is a good breakfast each day? Perhaps \$10, you think? I think so.

Along with the daily breakfast, you will be enjoying a CREST-style BBQ free to all registered convention attendees. That's another meal out of the way. Finally, the Convention Banquet is also included in the convention registration fee, thus eliminating yet another meal. How good is that???

The manager of the hotel will also be hosting a cocktail hour each weekday for hotel guests. This gives everyone a chance to relax from the day's activities and chat with each other. That's nice before taking on the evening.

Finally, by registering at the Ayres Suites Hotel convention site, you will save \$50 on the cost of registration. By registering at the Ayres Suites for your stay, your convention fee is only \$75. That's another savings. That will include a ticket to the BBQ, a ticket to the banquet, a free convention T-shirt, a free convention group photo, and more.

Corona, California, is a crossroads to several major freeway arteries, train service, and close to bus terminals and airports. PLEASE plan on arriving at Ontario Airport if you are flying in.

Check back often with the CREST website for updates and additional information. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you in June in California. Start today, right now, making your plans. Pick up that phone and make the call right now. Then plan to relax in the sunny Southern California skies.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE RI 2005 CONVENTION

See convention web site <<http://crestcom.org/convention>>.

**Remember, the early registration of rate of \$75 is valid only through May 1!
Registration form is at the web site and on page 9, this issue.**

1. Register for the convention by MAY 1 to save \$.
2. Reserve your room at the Ayres Suites NOW (promo code CREST *REACT*), toll free (800) 452-4995.
3. Make any airline reservations NOW. Ontario airport preferred.
4. Head for California! You may want to wait until June.

We look forward to seeing you in June!

From Headquarters

By Norman Kaplan, *REACT* International Treasurer

As any organization, *REACT* International, Inc. keeps track of the Teams and members who renew during the course of the year. By the end of February, we will need another 45 Teams and 900 members to renew to maintain the 2004 renewal pace. For the Teams that renewed, we have 360 fewer members than the Teams had at the end of 2004. This compares to the loss of 286 members between 2003 and 2004.

Looking at the numbers, there have been 2,100 members renewed by the Winter Board Meeting. Those Directors who were at the meeting were given a list of those Teams who had not renewed and the Directors not at the meeting are having that list mailed to them. On the Monday before the Winter Board Meeting, there were 1,359 renewing and 178 new regular members, 243 renewing and 37 new family members, 34 renewing and 11 new junior members, 47 renewing and 19 new additional family members and 126 renewing and 6 new life members.

The new members barely replaced those members who have passed away. *REACT* membership is getting older and we need to look towards recruiting younger members. We need to be out in the community looking for new members, especially junior, family, and additional family

members who are our future membership. Of course, new regular members are not to be ignored. With inflation and other increasing costs, *REACT* International needs between 3,500 and 4,000 members, depending on the membership class, to cover the *REACT* International budget.

The two largest budget items are insurance, \$30,000 expected, and *The REACTer*, \$21,000 expected. These two expenses are over 50% of the budget. With the uproar over last year's loss of insurance, I cannot expect to cut the insurance expense. This leaves *The REACTer* as a potential money saver. Of course, if the Teams register additional new members with *REACT* International, we would not need to consider such cutting of expenses.

When the current membership cards are sent out, a form to report the Team's volunteer hours and a request for each member's *REACT* lifetime volunteer hours were included. My article in the November - December 2004 issue indicated that *REACT* members will be recognized for their hours of volunteer service. Be sure that your Team Communications Officer sends the volunteer hours form along with the Team Monitoring Report to *REACT* International.

REACT at the Smithsonian Institution

By Norman Kaplan

In the beginning there was the word. The word was "HELP" and it was broadcast over Citizens Band Radio. When *REACT* founder Henry B. "Pete" Kreer died, his wife donated much of his radio equipment to the Smithsonian Institution. Fast forward several years, the Smithsonian Institution has put together an exhibition of the Information Age. As part of the exhibit, an exhibit case includes Citizens Band radio and mobile phones. The Smithsonian contacted *REACT* International, Inc. with a request for additional information and materials to be included in the exhibit case, which we were happy to supply.

The exhibit case includes an original Citizens Band radio, tubes and all, as well as a current mobile radio about a tenth the size, information on *REACT*, *REACT* patches and bumper stickers, a citizens band radio dictionary, and information on mobile phones. As part of the description of the items, *REACT* is mentioned prominently, including our mission statement and web address. The exhibit should be up through 2006 in the Smithsonian's



American History Museum located on the Mall at the southeast corner of 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

2005 *REACT* International Budget

	Revenues		Totals
4010	Dues, USA	54,000	
4012	Dues, International	1,000	
4017	LM Dues (transfer from LM Fund)	7,480	
4019	Affiliate Dues	1,500	
4020	Team Charters - New	120	
4009	Donations	2,000	
4011	Team Insurance	15,000	
4030	Sale of <i>REACT</i> Merchandise	8,000	
4170	<i>REACTer</i> Advertising	1,000	
4160	Interest & Dividend Income	8,000	
4990	Misc. Income (including <i>REACTer</i> subscriptions)	500	
	Total Revenue		<u>98,600</u>
	Expenses		
4034	Cost of Goods Sold	5,000	
4061	Subscriptions	1,100	
4061.1	NVOAD	750	
4061.2	Internet Service (ISP Access & Domain Names)	350	
5000	Membership Expenses	33,000	
5031	Postage Meter	2,500	
5150	Team Insurance	30,000	
5171	Misc. Postage & Supplies	500	
5172	<i>REACTer</i>	21,850	
5172.1	Printing	10,000	
5172.2	Design & Layout	6,000	
5172.3	Postage	5,000	
5172.4	Copyright Fees	135	
5172.5	<i>REACTer</i> Postage Returns	565	
5172.6	<i>REACTer</i> Advertising Commission	150	
6000	General & Administrative Expenses	52,550	
6045.1	IWIF Insurance	300	
6071.1	Phone - Local	1,300	
6071.2	Phone - Long distance	450	
6072	Supplies	3,500	
6090	Accounting	3,600	
6100	Rent	9,700	
6130	Legal	1,200	
6165	Copier Lease	3,000	
6180	Equipment Repair	100	
6220	Goebel & Other Awards	150	
6231	Credit Card Service Charge	1,000	
6304	Board Travel Expense	1,000	
6320	Summer Meeting Expense	1,400	
6990	Misc. Expense	700	
6012	Bank Service Charges	150	
6030	Postage	3,000	
6560	Payroll & Payroll Taxes	21,000	
6420	Promotion	1,000	
	Total Expenses		<u>113,500</u>

2005 Convention: An Invitation to East of Disneyland

By Wayne Barringer

If you have never attended a *REACT* International convention, this is an excellent time (at a great price) to visit Southern California.

Sometimes dreams do come true. And in the case of the 2005 *REACT* International Convention, it's a chance to dream at a price that really seems too much to believe.

Corona-West is the site of the

Early Registration Due May 1

2005 Convention, hosted by CREST Communications *REACT* Team in cooperation with the Southern California *REACT* Council and regional area *REACT* Teams. Conveniently, it's just a stone's throw from Disneyland, one of the hottest destinations in the United States, and within striking distance of Los Angeles, San Diego, Tijuana (that's in Mexico!!) and plenty of great food and friendly faces. Southern California is home to popular theme parks like Knott's Berry Farm, Universal Studios, and Six Flags Magic Mountain, just to name a few.

But if you've already been to southern California, or New York, or San Francisco, or any one of the other famous cities that beautiful people like to visit, then you already know that many times these same locations can be a bit on the "E-X-P-E-N-S-I-V-E" side, especially when you want more than just a single bed and a place to hang your hat at night. Of course, I am biased.

The 2005 Convention Planning Committee has been working overtime to arrange a really wonderful experience for everyone who attends this year. For those of you who don't know him, the Committee Chair is Michael Greany, also known locally on the radio simply as "Crest 210" and the son of Ed Greany, Executive Vice President of RI. If you haven't met already, I can assure you – meeting Michael Greany will be one of the highlights of the entire Convention!!

But even more important than that is the incredible package that is still being put together by the Committee. There'll be more on that later. But Michael has negotiated what I believe is the mother of all deals with Ayres Suites in Corona-West, which is still part of Corona and actually still part of California. And that's good, because those of you who want to attend, and don't want to leave the continental United States, won't have to bring your passports!

Each reservation at Convention Headquarters is

for an ENTIRE SUITE – that's right – an entire suite, for ONLY \$89.00 per night. And the price for two is exactly the same price as for one. I say again (that means "repeat"), the cost for a double occupancy is not one bit more than the cost for double occupancy. Essentially, you can bring your spouse and they can sleep for free! If there are more than two of you, additional adults are only \$10 each (to cover the breakfast

overhead). Kids under 12 are free.

Again, if you have never been to California, spouses (or even a friend) are ALWAYS EXTRA – NOTHING IS FREE, unless you want to walk somewhere, and even THAT will cost you lots of time!

But wait! That's not all! You can come BEFORE the Convention begins, or you can delay your departure AFTER the convention concludes, and you will still get the same exact rate. YOU CAN EVEN COME EARLY – AND – STAY LATE FOR THE SAME LOW RATE!

While I'll admit I don't know the local rates for all of the places that *REACT*ers call "home," I can assure each and every reader (are you still here?) that rates are just a "little different" out here next to the Pacific Ocean. But I'll also guarantee that each of you will get "more than a chuckle" from anyone in southern California if you plan on visiting Disneyland and will be staying anywhere in Anaheim (just "down the road" from Corona-West). Rates there for a suite are two and three times the price you're going to pay when you attend the 2005 Convention!

THE BEST REASON TO STAY AT CONVENTION HQ? For many of you who haven't visited our part of America here on the West Coast, you might be asking what's the big deal about staying at Convention Headquarters?

I can answer that question in two words: Rush Hour! Travel in and around southern California can take either 15 minutes or up to two hours -- for the SAME DISTANCE! Our version of "rush hour" is a bit unique, and definitely a pain (in multiple places), but especially just when the sun is starting to rise or just when it is starting to set. So, the only thing that is guaranteed is that you won't know exactly how long it's going to take to get from one place to another!

Staying at Ayres Suites will allow all attendees to

continued on next page `

2005 Convention Invitation, continued

maximize their time during the Convention. That means additional time to spend with other *REACTers*, attending the seminars and workshops, taking time to develop new friendships and/or renew existing ones, and most of all, learning something or getting something new to take back with you and share with your Team. It might be something new you'll learn at the educational workshops we have planned, or maybe it will be something new about how to organize your Team's operations as we discuss the National Incident Management System. NIMS is the new response standard created by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and distributed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). You'll be learning more about this important topic, including about the new Independent Study (IS-700) Course and how you can obtain the same "NIMS Certification" as other first responders and emergency management staff.

Education will be an important component of the 2005 *REACT* Convention, and you won't want to miss any of it. You'll be learning about the Incident Command System and what other Teams are doing to make sure they are in compliance with the new deployment standards. All of this, and much, much more.

For those not from the area, the Planning Committee reviewed many, many options and offerings, and selected what we feel is the absolute "best of the best" for attendees. There is "something for everyone" who attends, because the Planning Committee understand that each and every attendee has lots of other things they could be doing, and accepted the responsibility to "make it worth your while" and create an environment that will "make you glad you came" to the Convention.

Hope to see you in southern California.

**See Registration Form on page 9,
or at <<http://crestcom.org/convention>>**

Reserve Your Room Now!

Please book your room/suite early, as many local *REACTers* are now booking their room/suite.

There are **seven, fully handicap-equipped rooms** – meaning your shower room can be wheel-chair equipped and accessible.

The 2005 RI Convention Planning Committee wants to get out the word and let you know to "**book your reservations early**" and take full advantage of this really incredible deal.

Ayres Suites Corona West
1900 W. Frontage Road
Corona, CA 92882
(951) 738-9113

Toll Free Reservations (800) 452-4995

<http://www.ayreshotels.com/coronawest/>

Use promo code *CREST REACT* to get the specially-negotiated convention rates.



REACT International 2005 Convention

June 22-24, 2005
Schedule of Events
(Tentative)
Corona-West, CA

Schedule of Events

TIME PERIOD	EVENT OR ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Wednesday, June 22, 2005 — Convention Day 01		
0800 — 0900	Convention Registration	
WELCOME	~~ 2005 REACT International Convention Begins ~~	
0900 — 0930	Opening Ceremonies and Speakers	
0930 — 1030	Motivational Speaker	
1030 — 1045	Break	
1045 — 1130	Convention Overview	
1130 — 1300	Lunch — Amateur Radio Testing Session ("No Code" Technician)	
1300 — 1500	REACT International — General Session	
1500 — 1515	Break	
1530 — 1700	"Special Guest" Remarks / Presentation	
1700 — 1900	Dinner	
1900 — 20??	Break Out Sessions	
Thursday, June 23, 2005 — Convention Day 02		
0900 — 0930	Morning Madness: Schedule Review — Housekeeping Issues	
0930 — 1130	REACT International — General Session	
1130 — 1145	Break (Prepare for Photo Sessions)	
1145 — 1230	Photo Session: Convention Attendees, Life Members, Junior REACTers	
1230 — 1400	Lunch — Amateur Radio Testing Session ("Technician")	
1400 — 1600	Presentation: Lessons Learned from Hurricane Charley	
1600 — 1700	Presentation Q&A	
1730 — ????	CREST BBQ Party & Social Get-Together	
Friday, June 24, 2005 — Convention Day 03		
0900 — 0930	Morning Madness: Schedule Review — Housekeeping Issues	
0930 — 1130	Break-Out Sessions / WorkShops / Vendor Exhibits	
1130 — 1300	Lunch — Amateur Radio Testing Session ("General")	
1300 — 1500	REACT International — General Session	
1500 — 1700	Break-Out Sessions / WorkShops / Vendor Exhibits	
1900 — ????	Convention Banquet	
THANK YOU	~~ 2005 REACT International Convention Ends ~~	

REACT International, Inc. — Convention Registration Form June 22-24, 2005: Corona-West, California

Please use this form for your Convention Registration. Each Convention attendee or any individual accompanying an attendee must complete this form. Mail OR Fax to Convention Committee. Early bird registration **ends** May 1, 2005.

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ ST/Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____ Country: _____
 Phone: (____) ____ - _____ e-Mail: _____ @ _____
 Emergency Contact Name: _____
 Emergency Contact Phone: (____) ____ - _____ Alternate Phone Number: (____) ____ - _____
 FCC Licenses/Callsign: Amateur: _____ Type: Tech Tech+ Gen Adv Extra GMRS: _____
 Other License - Type: _____ Callsign: _____
 Team Name: _____ Team #: _____
 Council Name: _____ (Circle If:) SCRC
 Check if you currently are a: [] Team Delegate [] Alternate — and/or — [] Council Delegate [] Alternate
 Special Medical Conditions: _____
Dates: Arrival: _____ Departure: _____ Airport: _____
 Mode(s) of Travel: _____
 Have you previously attended a REACT Convention (circle one) YES NO What year(s): _____

MAIL OR FAX (714-994-6565) PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED @ P.O. BOX TO WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS OF FAX DATE FOR PROCESSING. ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS.

2005 REACT Convention Fees

Registration Fee — On or Before May 1, 2005 On-Site: \$75.00 Off-Site: \$125.00 _____
 "On-Site" = You are staying at the Convention hotel. "Off-Site" = You are staying somewhere else.
 Registration Fee — After May 1, 2005 On-Site: \$125.00 Off-Site: \$175.00 _____
 Junior REACT Registration Fee (no discounts) — **This is same rate as 2003 Convention** \$55.00/ea _____
OPTIONAL ITEMS:
 Convention Shirt (Circle Size): S M L 1X 2X 3X 4X 5X 6X (FREE — Included in Convention Fee) \$FREE FREE _____
 Extra Convention Shirt (Circle Size): S M L 1X 2X 3X 4X 5X 6X \$20.00/ea _____
 Full Convention Photo: FREE (w/Registration Fee) — Additional Photos: Full Junior Amateur Life \$12.00/ea _____
 Extra Banquet Ticket (Guests NOT Registered for Convention) Adults: \$40.00 12 + Under: \$20.00 _____
 Extra BBQ Ticket (Guests NOT Registered for Convention) Adults: \$8.00 12 + Under: \$5.00 _____
 Indian Casino Adventure Outing (Saturday Only) \$10.00/ea _____
 Make checks payable (U.S. Funds) to: CREST REACT, P.O. Box 395, Corona, CA 92878-0395 **\$TOTAL** _____

CANCELLATION / REFUND POLICY: 100% Refund if notified by May 15, 2005. Refunds from May 16 - June 1 will include a 25% Processing Fee. No refunds will be allowed after June 2, 2005. **All cancellation requests must be in writing.**

May Is *REACT* Month

By Don Manlove, Director, Region 2

The RI board of directors designated May 2005 as *REACT* month during the winter board meeting. This is your chance for your Team to shine, and let the public know who and what you all are about. Set up a display at a local mall or store in your area and have your members present to answer questions and give out Team, Council or *REACT* International informational materials.

REACT has been monitoring the airways since 1962. Since its inception, *REACT* volunteers have been providing a range of radio-related services to the public. It used to be that even in the remotest areas, when you never expected an answer, you would key the microphone of your CB radio and suddenly, you would be surprised to hear someone respond, "This is *REACT*. May I help you?"

A lot has changed within *REACT*. We have extended our range of communications and now include GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) and Amateur radio bands. We use cellular phones, electronic mail, and many Teams have web sites.

Remember the benefits of being in *REACT*: receive *The REACTer* magazine; authorized to wear *REACT*

apparel; authorized to use *REACT* I.D. materials; discounts on car rentals, hotels, etc.; discounts from K40 Electronics; training materials, liability insurance coverage; regional, national, and international activities.

Please contact your Council, Regional Director, or *REACT* International office for any questions that you may have. In addition, did you know that there are openings on various committees within *REACT*? Visit the RI web site and look at the link for committees. Please consider volunteering to serve on one!

MISSION STATEMENT

We will provide public service communications to individuals, organizations, and government agencies to save lives, prevent injuries, and give assistance wherever and whenever needed.

We will strive to establish a monitoring network of trained volunteer citizen-based communicators using any and all available means to deliver the message.

New *REACT* PSA Announced for 2005



REACT International unveiled their new Public Service Announcement (PSA) during the Winter Board Meeting held in Suitland, Maryland in February 2005. This 30 second PSA is on DVD format, but is also available online from the *REACT* web site in MPEG format. If your local TV station needs a copy in BetacamSP tape format, we can have those produced on an "as needed" basis, but the cost is substantially higher than the DVD version shown above.

The DVD as shown above in the vinyl DVD case, labeled and containing one special version of the *REACT* International brochure, is a professional and valuable tool for your Team or Council to use in promoting *REACT* in your area. The DVD sells for \$5 each, but that includes normal first class postage. Rush orders require additional postage cost be included to the price. Already, as of production date of *The REACTer*, orders for nearly 50 copies have been received and shipped to members, including a 20 unit order sent to the Pacific Northwest

REACT Council. Way to go folks!

The new *REACT* International, Inc. (RI) PSA was produced and filmed in Oklahoma City, OK by Brad Riggan of Liquid Radio Network. The script, which was reviewed and approved by the RI Board of Directors, was based on ideas suggested by Oklahoma County *REACT* members. The background narration was done by a professional in California. The weather scene was from an actual Oklahoma tornado, and the run was footage from a March of Dimes "WalkAmerica" in Oklahoma City. The *REACT* members in the video are Robert "Bob" Kaster, William "Scott" Meyer and Kricia Phillips-Shew. Reproduction and packaging of the DVDs is being done by Lee Besing of San Antonio, Texas.

Orders are being taken through the *REACT* International office via phone, email or snail mail, and this item is also available for order via the *REACT* International web site's online web store found at www.reactintl.org. *REACT* members are permitted to make copies of the DVD for use in promoting *REACT*, but at this low cost why bother? Order your *REACT* PSA today online!

PR by the Millions!

By Ronald W. McCracken

REACT Teams in southern Ontario, Canada, recently scored a mammoth PR bonanza.

For two weeks, shoppers at Zehrs Food Stores toted their groceries home in plastic food sacks bearing a *REACT* safety message. In that time, somewhere between 10 million and 15 million of the plastic bags were issued by the chain's 75+ stores.

Particularly great was the fact that nearly all Ontario *REACT* Teams had at least one Zehrs store in their towns. Teams were able to obtain a quantity of the bags from their local stores to use in their safety programs. Teams added safety leaflets, etc., to the bags and gave them out at speaking engagements and safety displays. Ladies' groups were especially glad to get the information from *REACT* speakers.

When *REACT* Teams alerted police and fire officials to the massive safety program, they were quick to join in and take advantage. Store managers were only too pleased to provide officers with a supply of the *REACT* bags for use in their school and community safety programs also.

9-1-1 dispatchers prompted the safety campaign when they lamented the high failure rate among calls from cell phones. The information on the bags was geared to helping cell users improve their reporting skills. Since cell phones are really disguised radios, the information was equally useful to radio operators.

The food chain supports a variety of charitable organizations by carrying their messages each week on its grocery bags. *REACT* was fortunate that the week it requested, just before Labour Day weekend, was in a quiet period so it stretched to two weeks and double the number of bags.

In this case, PR came by the skid. *REACT* had to provide the computer graphic for the bags. It cost well under \$100. Zehrs did all the rest. It was a safety campaign *REACT* could never have afforded to conduct otherwise.

The project had its surprises, too. Kirk Walker, president of Waterloo Regional *REACT*, was visiting in

Barrie, Ontario, about 100 miles from home. His wife and their hostess came back from shopping and began unpacking the groceries. Suddenly Kirk said, "Let me see that bag." Sure enough, there was the *REACT* graphic he had been waiting to see.

There may be a food chain in your area that has a similar program. Be sure to talk to them about participating. If there is none, talk to them anyway. They may like your proposal as a means of helping numerous groups like *REACT*. *REACT* Councils can take the lead here since most food chains operate state-wide. Notice that the graphic is generic so that it applies wherever the chain has stores.

REACT hopes to mount a similar safety campaign across southern Ontario again this summer. Give it a try in your area, too.



10-15 million food sacks issued by a major food chain carried this *REACT* safety graphic to Ontario, Canada, shoppers. 9-1-1 dispatchers prompted the effort to improve emergency cell phone calls.

Calendar

May 1	Deadline for "Early Bird" Registration for 2005 RI Convention
May 1-31	<i>REACT</i> Month
May 6	Deadline for May - June <i>REACTer</i>
May 13	Commonwealth Day (Canada)
June 6	Deadline for July - August <i>REACTer</i>
June 21	Summer Board Meeting, Corona, California
June 22-24	<i>REACT</i> International Convention, Corona, California
July 4	Independence Day (U.S.)
August 1	Deadline for September - October <i>REACTer</i>

Feeding the Information Highway

By Wayne Barringer, CREST REACT

The Information Written About REACT In Your Area Should Be Created and Released By Your Team or Council. Learn Why Designating a Public Information Officer For Each Is Not an Option But a Mandate.

Things happen within every organization. People come. People go. Goals are set and, with luck and strategy, they are achieved. Leaders come in. Leaders go out.

The same is true with every REACT Team and Council. Yet all too frequently, little or nothing is written about the local successes or changes that affect or happen. Each issue of our own *The REACTer* should be overflowing from cover to cover with regional information from coast-to-coast. Yet many times, little or nothing appears about events, situations, or successes within our organization.

The secret to "getting out the word" on your local REACT Team or Council is appointing a Public Information Officer, more commonly referred to as a "PIO." But the appointment should be made after careful and thoughtful consideration of what you want that person to do and what tools they have available to accomplish the goals you set.

Making a "bad" appointment would be equal to -- or worse than -- no appointment at all. There are some PIO "basics" that must be considered when making an appointment to a PIO. I know several organizations that have been "destined to fail" only because the person selected constantly spelled words incorrectly. In other cases, the "flow" was as rough as a brick wall and full of rambling sentences that never directed the reader to the point being made.

Your PIO is essentially the person responsible for making your Team or Council look really bad or really good. In some cases, the PIO function may be assigned to one gifted individual (or maybe the only person willing to accept the challenge?), or it may be shared among several members. But again, the important point here is that without a PIO, it's highly unlikely anything about your Team or Council will be written. And if it "IS" written, and you don't have a PIO, chances are it will be from someone else's perspective. And that should be a risk no Team or Council is willing to accept! So, where to begin?

1. CREATE OPPORTUNITY. First off, you need OPPORTUNITY. Past issues of *The REACTer* have covered some of the issues and prerequisites needing to be considered. But once the selection is made, there needs to be an opportunity to "feed the information highway" to the public. And believe me, the highway is always hungry for good information.

Not everything written will be published in your local newspaper or appear on your local TV outlet.

But everything your Team publishes should appear in a document or source created by your Team or Council. Does yours have a newsletter? If not, big mistake! Does yours have a web site? No? Again, big mistake. Both provide excellent and highly controlled opportunities for your Team or Council to prepare WHAT and exactly HOW you want it shared. You are controlling the information highway.

Does your Team or Council do both? Excellent! Now you can share the newsletters on your web site as well as creating the news releases on Team events, activities or successes.

2. FEED THE HIGHWAY FREQUENTLY. It's important to keep the highway filled with ongoing information about your Team or Council. So how often should you feed the highway? My suggestion: FEED IT OFTEN!! Unless the majority of your members are geographically separated and never meet each other, there is plenty to write about.

Elections, promotions, presentations, Team/Council or member achievements, Team/Council or member recognitions, Team/Council or member contributions, recruiting initiatives, new member additions, upcoming meetings, and even marriages are topics waiting for a news release.

In one newsletter I reviewed, I read the names of all member that have successfully obtained their certification on the new National Incident Management System (NIMS). In that same issue, there was an article entitled "NIMS is the word" and featured an overview of what NIMS is and how it would be implemented in that organization. Not only was it very interesting, but it personalized the issue, giving me the opportunity to feel as if I was "getting to know" the organization and a few of their members.

Almost every REACT Team or Council, if it hasn't already, will eventually experience a "silent mic" within their membership. And yes, even this situation can be written as an appreciative "celebration of membership" that many families have deeply and genuinely appreciated.

3. SHARE THE RESOURCE. Not everyone can create a Picasso painting. Some people never quite make it to that particular stage. But every person, especially when it's something they want, and they get the support and assistance they need, can be an enthusiastic contributor to "highlight" your Team or Council.

As the editor for three different newsletters and

numerous Internet web sites, I have discovered it's really easy to write about almost anything that happens. Last night, for example, we had some really bad rainstorms in southern California. And while I'm relative sure it won't have an impact on the upcoming 2005 Convention in Corona-West on June 22-24, 2005 (hey, nice "plug" about the Convention, eh??), even adverse weather conditions provide plenty of opportunity to create a news release or publish another page on your Team/Council web site. Examples:

- "REACT DEPLOYS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY DURING RAINSTORM"
- "REACT WATCHES OVER HIGHWAYS AS DELUGE HITS LOCAL AREA"
- "REACT VOLUNTEERS LOOK FOR COVER DURING RAINSTORM"

And then, quite obviously, the story follows.

But even a good PIO can "run out of steam" and need a break or a refresh. And while most Teams/Councils can't afford to send their PIO to the Bahamas to "recharge their batteries," they can form an Information Exchange or REACT Public Information Center (REACT PIC) so multiple PIOs can collaborate and create some really good information that can then be shared among all the parties.

For example, an area has four REACT Teams. The PIO from each Team get together each week

and compare notes. They then create one or more news releases, and all four PIOs proof-read them for accuracy and interest. (NOTE: A shared format is already a really nice touch. Contact me for details). The Result: Instead of none or only one or two Teams have something for their newsletter or web site -- ALL FOUR HAVE SOMETHING. Each Team/Council wins, and the public gets to learn more about our organization in the process.

4. ALWAYS BE PROFESSIONAL. While it's true that many of what we create and share won't see the light of day with the local print media or CNN, a professional article is a positive reflection on the organization publishing it. Obviously then, it's absolutely critical that each and every news release be professional.

It's not length that counts in a news release. Is it interesting? Is it informative? Is it accurate? Hopefully, these are qualities your REACT PIC will provide back to your Team/Council. Although length is not critical, every release or article should make reader want to know more. I like to "tease" my audience after I educate them. I like to "leave them something that makes them want more" from our organization. Maybe it's simply to hope they look forward to reading the next issue!

After all, if no one reads my work, I'll be out of a job! Thanks for reading. Feel free to contact me at <kb6ujw@arrl.net>.

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APRS: Mobile Data for Improving Event Coordination

By Matt Anderson, SELA REACT (Louisiana)

As many of you may have noticed, text messaging and mobile data have become very popular methods of communication with public safety agencies, utility companies, and even individuals using personal mobile phones. In many cases, information supplied in short text messages is a more effective and accurate method of transmitting rather than by voice.

Amateur Radio operators have not been left out; APRS (Automatic Packet/Position Reporting System) provides a digital protocol for exchanging information between a number of fixed and mobile stations. As a real-time multi-user data network, it is quite different from conventional packet radio.

Packet radio has proven to be valuable for point-to-point links; however, APRS offers a one-to-many protocol, providing updates to every station in real time. Programs, such as APRS DOS, APRS-SA, and Ui-View, integrate this data by displaying it on your computer's mapping software or mobile display unit (like a Kenwood TM-D700).

The inspiration for APRS started nearly 25 years ago when Bob Bruninga (WB4APR) built the first RTTY automatic message system. In 1982, he wrote the first data mapping program that took US

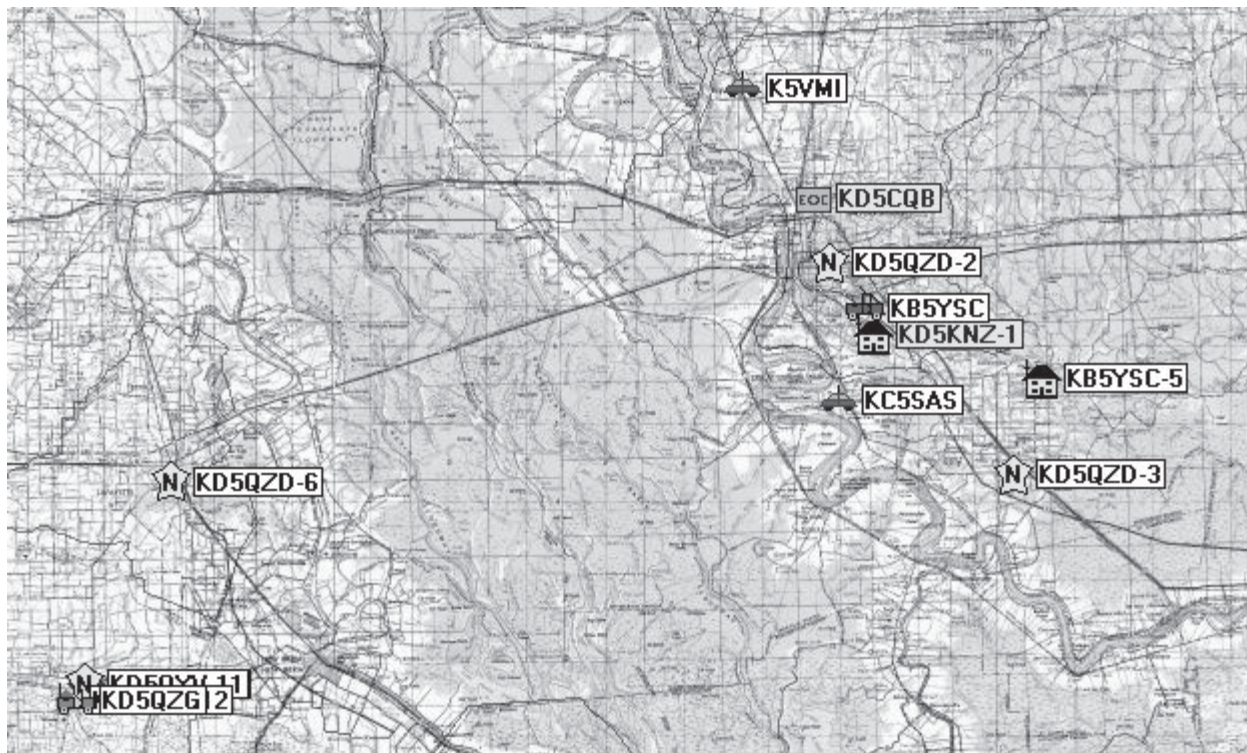
Navy HF position reports and displayed them on his Apple II computer. Bruninga began development on the current APRS protocol in 1984 and first used it to coordinate volunteers in a 100-mile cross-county race.

APRS can be a great communication asset to your Team's next event. Any station that has information to contribute simply sends it; all stations receive it simultaneously and instantly display it on maps of the operational area.

One of the greatest needs at any special event is the tracking of your assets. Where are the nearest support vehicles to location X? What are the current weather conditions? These questions (and others) can be quickly answered with APRS by viewing your display, without having to contact multiple stations to obtain needed information.

If you find yourself out of town and missing the big event; there is a **nationwide live** APRS tracking network on the Internet <<http://www.findu.com>> that you can view for the latest info on the event as well as other APRS users.

For more information on APRS, you can visit Bruninga's APRS page at <<http://www.aprs.org>> or you can contact me at <kd5knz@arrl.net>.



Map by Matt Anderson

APRS activity in Southeast Louisiana

Trinidad and Tobago Council Supports Sci-TechKnoFest 2004

By Rohan Rampersad

**Sci-TechKnoFest is a Science Fair promoted by
The NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION,
RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NIHERST),
a State Board of the Government of the
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.**

The Trinidad and Tobago *REACT* Council provided two-way radio communication and administrative expertise for Sci-TechKnoFest 2004 for NIHERST. On the invitation of NIHERST, Mr. Kenny Jagdeoosingh, President of the Trinidad and Tobago *REACT* Council (TTRC), and Mr. Rohan Rampersad, Project Coordinator of the Council, attended a meeting held at the NIHERST head office at Port of Spain on 12 November 2004. NIHERST requested the services of the TTRC for logistical communications during Sci-TechKnoFest 2004.

This Science Fair was featured at the Centre of Excellence at Macoya during 17th – 28th November 2004. (You will remember the Centre which was the first venue for the Convention in Trinidad.)

On Saturday, 13th November 2004, the Sci-TechKnoFest 2004 Operations Coordinator, Mr. Ken Manchouck, met with TTRC personnel Rohan Rampersad and David Alexander at the Centre of Excellence to discuss operation matters and setting up the *REACT* communication command centre.

On Monday, 15th November 2004, the Council President convened a planning meeting at the Chaguanas R.C. School with TTRC members and *REACT* operators to develop last minute plans for this exercise. On Tuesday, 16th November, David Alexander, assisted by Rohan Rampersad and B. Traboulay, set up the *REACT* communication command centre at the Centre of Excellence.

Our *REACT* booth proved to be an immense success with the public. Various *REACT* operators loaned their portable VHF radios, base VHF radio, VHF antennas, batteries, CB radios, power supplies and other related equipment to enhance the presentations at the booth. To complement *REACT*'s radio equipment, Mr. Kenny Jagdeoosingh sought and obtained a loan of eight trunking portable radios from Illuminat. These were used at the TechKno theatre. One portable VHF radio, with a simplex frequency that NIHERST management used, was issued to *REACT* Control.

Sci-TechKnoFest provided 16 official passes, 14 official coats, 30 complementary passes, and 244 meals to *REACT* operators during the engagement. Mr. Kenny Jagdeoosingh donated tea and coffee.

A total of 41 operators assisted with this project and together they contributed a total of 1,318 man hours. Operators served on a two shift system, receiving a meal per shift. There was an average of 10 operators per shift during the 12 days of the Science Fair.

TTRC provided logistical communications during the Science Fair and did so effectively and successfully. Some operators, by virtue of their personal skills, also rendered other extended services to offset on the floor problems. This was done in conjunction with Mr. Manchouck. Through out this project, operators were treated with a sense of appreciation and respect that was well deserved.

At the close of the project, NIHERST expressed thanks and appreciation to all *REACT* personnel for their services rendered. The President of TTRC, Mr. Kenny Jagdeoosingh, hosted a function held at the Woodford Lodge Club for all the operators who served at this project. The TTRC President thanked operators for their contribution towards making this project a success. NIHERST subsequently demonstrated its appreciation by sending a thank you letter, with a small token to each operator, and a donation of \$7,000.00 TT. [*Ed. – Approximately \$1,130 U.S.*]

This project was indeed a success given the short time to plan. This project also gave an excellent opportunity for members to meet and work with each other. The TTRC was once again successful in showing a presence of *REACT* in Trinidad and Tobago.

Thanks to all.

Flagler County Assist *REACT* (Florida) Promotes Emergency Preparedness

By Bob Pickering

The Flagler County Assist *REACT* (Florida) Team helped at the annual Home Show and Service Fair. Team Members provided assistance with securing the landing zone for FireFlight the emergency helicopter. Volunteers also helped hand out numerous

Emergency Preparedness fliers to the public.

This year has been very busy for the Team which also has helped with parking at the Humane Society for a fund raiser as well as providing assistance at a 5K race in Flagler Beach.



Photo by Bob Pickering

REACT members help set up the Special Operations Unit for display



Photo by Bob Pickering

REACT members Sam Carcione and Linda Woods (on the right) help hand out fliers. Personnel from the National Weather Service staff the table on the left.

Join In (Unofficial) *REACT* Discussions Online

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Subject: SUBSCRIBE
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The subject is only the word SUBSCRIBE. In the message area, type the same one word, SUBSCRIBE. Send it off, and you will quickly become part of this international group of *REACT* members. Do it today, so you can join in the fun.

Opening Night 2005: Oklahoma City Fireworks!

By Dale Ellis

Commonly called New Years Eve, in Oklahoma City it is called Opening Night 2005. It is celebrated in the downtown area with many bands and entertainment venues. This year it was a large party attended by 55,000 people. *REACT* was there.

Members from Oklahoma County *REACT* 2620 and University of Oklahoma *REACT* 3916 provided the ground safety perimeter for the primary fireworks

shooting site. Thirteen Team members blocked foot and vehicular traffic on city streets that surround the fireworks trailer. Working a shift of just over ten hours, central Oklahoma *REACT* Teams have provided this support for a number of years.

The safety zone provided by the *REACT* Teams is a requirement of the Fire Marshal and without the support of *REACT*, there would not be any fireworks.



Photo by Dale Ellis

Jeff Porter (in Vehicle), Chris Toner, Scott Meyer, Keith Bourque (in Vehicle) block the street at the initial entry point.



Photo by Dale Ellis

Vernon Muzney of Muzney Pyrotechnic Specialists, Chris Toner of Oklahoma County *REACT* # 2620, and Paul Sublett of KOCV radio stand in front of the trailer containing 1000 pounds of explosives (about 16 minutes of Fireworks).

Regional Director Ballots Are in the Mail for Regions 3, 6 and 9

Teams in Region 3, which includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee, will receive ballots with John Knott of Florida as the single nominee. John is a previous director for Region 3.

Teams in Region 6, which includes Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming, will receive ballots with Crichton C. "CC" Roberts of Hawaii as the one nominee. CC has attended most of the conventions, riding on a motorcycle he has picked up on the mainland.

Teams outside the U.S.A. will elect the International Director for Region 9. The single nominee on that ballot is Kenny Jagdeosingh of Trinidad and Tobago. Kenny is the current director for this region.

About Your Subscription

All Regular, Junior, and Affiliate members in the U.S. and Canada automatically receive a subscription to *The REACTer*; the subscription price is included in the annual RI dues. All Life Members also automatically receive a subscription to *The REACTer* but may discontinue their subscription if they wish.

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.

Members outside of the U.S. and Canada may subscribe to *The REACTer* but the subscription fee (\$6 U.S.) is not included in their dues. To subscribe, send your name, full address, and payment to RI headquarters. Nonmembers may subscribe for \$7.50 per year.

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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***REACT* Directory Corrections and Updates**

Robert L. "Bob" Kaster, Vice
Chairman and Region 7 Director
Correct telephone number:
(405) 685-9745 evenings

Rob Clark, Region 8 Director
Correct telephone number:
(702) 361-1045

Ed Greany, Exec. Vice President
Correct telephone number:
(951) 735-4153

Arizona State *REACT* Council
Gene McLemore
2129 E. Whitton Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85106
(602) 956-4296

Florida Council of *REACT*
Teams
Michael Cauley
833 Grenadier Drive
Orlando, FL 32807
(321) 438-5952

Illinois *REACT* Council
Archie L. Hawley
19917 South Pine Hill Road
Frankfort, IL 60423

(815) 469-6355
Michigan *REACT* Council
(989) 686-4991

Pacific NW *REACT* Council
(208) 869-5034

Texas State *REACT* Council
Allan Tyler
1309 Gifford Ln
Angleton, TX 77515
(979) 849-9489

The *REACT* International and *REACT* Council directories were published in the November-December 2004 *REACTer*.

Sparks Flew!

By Barbara Jennison, San Angelo *REACT*

Writing has always been my passion. Jerry became my next one. I used the two topics to create the book *Sparks Flew!* At his urging, I submitted it to a Print on Demand publishing house. He had faith in this book before I did. I wish I could say I sent it immediately, but that isn't true. It has been a healing process, a catharsis to put it succinctly.

I was consumed with Jerry just before his death. For those of you who didn't know, his was a Hospice death and he died at home. Our four daughters were present with us.

We had known for years that congestive heart failure and diabetes would take him. That is, we women did. Jerry was in denial as he was more optimistic than we. He kept on keeping on as he always had. This was stressful on us all. I don't know whether I was better off knowing or if I had kept my head in the sand. When he died, I felt as though a part of me had been amputated. I still have moments like that.

The book dedicated to him, *Sparks Flew!*, and the wonderful folks of *REACT* are helping fill the void. I used real events and equipment our Team and others use in them, filtered in a love story of a rancher and a *REACT* female dispatcher. In other words, it's not non-fiction, but I don't like to write non-fiction for the most part. I have my head in the clouds a lot of the time, in my own world creating.

This is very personal and emotional, but that's my nature if you know me. At present I'm writing another book, *Widowhood 101*. That's filling up my working days right now.

You may contact me at barbij@wcsonline.net or via snail mail at 3300 Voight Blvd. #226, San Angelo, TX 76905.

Sparks Flew!



By Barbara Jennison

Sparks fly between a rancher and a *REACT* female dispatcher as they battle grassfires consuming his land south of San Angelo, Texas.

Based on actual events and composites of people and equipment, a love story ignites.

The novel is dedicated to individuals who volunteer during times of disaster, especially to the late Hon. Jerry Jennison.

Available at:

www.authorhouse.com

REACT members may purchase this directly from the author for \$10 (regular price \$13.95) at: barbij@wcsonline.net

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Summary of the Minutes of The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of *REACT* International, Inc., Held at Suitland, Maryland, 18-19 February 2005

Directors Present

Larry Fry (Wis.), Region 5, Chairman
Fred Lanshe (Penna.), Region 1
Don Manlove (Va.), Region 2
Frank Jennings (Wash.), Region 6
Bob Kaster (Okla.), Region 7
Dick Cooper (N.J.), President (*ex officio*)

Directors Absent

John Knott (Fla.), Region 3
Paul Jackson (Ohio), Region 4
Rob Clark (Nev.), Region 8
Kenny Jagdeosingh (Trinidad & Tobago), Region 9

Officers Present

Dick Cooper (N.J.), President
Lee Besing (Tex.), Secretary
Norm Kaplan (Md.), Treasurer

Officers Absent

Ed Greany (Calif.), Executive Vice President
Charles A. Thompson (Tex.), General Counsel

Visitors Present: None

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting called to order at 9 a.m., Friday, 18 February 2005, by Chairman Fry.

2. **Quorum.** Secretary Besing announced there was a quorum with six directors out of ten (including the President) present. Two non-voting officers were present.

3. **Opening Remarks.** Chairman Fry dedicated the meeting in memory of *REACTer* Editor Stuart DeLuca, who died 5 January 2005.

4. **Approval of Minutes and Agenda.** All Directors had received the minutes of the August Special Meeting in Dallas. Motion to approve Mr. Lanshe, 2d Mr. Manlove. Unanimous.

5. Officer Reports.

a. *Secretary.* No report

b. *Executive VP.* Absent. Written report summarized activities by various committees.

c. *Treasurer.* Mr. Kaplan reported membership is down. He is tracking renewals by date received and submitted written report on figures to date (to be discussed later). He recommended that the Board authorize closing the office on Federal holidays, since the building was empty. If the office were to be closed, the answering machine would answer telephone calls. This would add 4-5 additional paid holidays for Office Manager Dora Wilbanks and would not impact the budget. When the office is closed, Mr. Kaplan checks the RI email account several times a day to ensure prompt response to inquiries. Motion Mr. Lanshe, 2d Mr. Kaster, to authorize the RI office to be closed during Federal holidays when the building is empty. Unanimous.

d. *President.* Mr. Cooper said that the office has been running smoothly with Dora and Norman. Membership continues to need attention at the local level.

6. **2005 Convention Report.** No details available to the Board except what has been published on the

web site and in the January/February newsletter. Mr. Cooper said the convention committee would be meeting on Sunday, February 20, and as soon as he receives a report, he will advise the Board and officers.

7. Region Director Reports.

a. *Region 1.* Mr. Lanshe gave update on Scranton, Penn., interference complaints made by local Team with taped evidence.

b. *Region 2.* Mr. Manlove reported on problems with Teams in Kentucky and Virginia, plus a new Team in Delaware. Team in Virginia objected to the last RI bylaws amendments because they were voted on by Teams, just approved by the Board. Discussion held about procedure for amending the Bylaws, which allows Teams to object to changes made by the Board. RI Policies are now available in writing for all Teams.

c. *Region 3.* Mr. Knott's email reported on recovery from last fall's hurricanes.

d. *Region 4.* Mr. Jackson had previously reported on problems in Ohio. He is working on possible *REACT* MOU with State of Ohio.

e. *Region 5.* Mr. Fry reported he is working on improving communications between Teams and Councils and need for timely messages, allowing for delays in reading email or getting US Mail.

f. *Region 6.* Mr. Jennings is working on two Teams which haven't renewed. One Team has only three members renewed, but nearly 40 others apparently affiliated (all amateur operators) who are not registered as *REACT* members.

g. *Region 7.* Mr. Kaster reported the loss of one Team in Texas because two Teams are merging. Mr. Besing will follow-up on other non-renewing Teams from Texas. Motion Mr. Lanshe, 2d Mr. Manlove, to approve merger of Bexar County #4950 and Comal County #4804 into Hill County *REACT*, charter number #4804. Unanimous.

h. *Region 8.* Mr. Clark no report.

i. Region 9. Mr. Jagdeosingh's email report concerned activities happening in Trinidad & Tobago after recent storms, a public service event, changing over to VHF radios (from CB), and working with NEMA. Philippine Team remains very active. There have been communications received from a former Australian Team in Australia interested in returning to the *REACT* family.

8. Regional problems needing Board Input.

a. Some handled during regional reports above.
b. Discussion held on problems with newest Team in Louisiana.

c. Discussion held about a non-registered former Ohio *REACT* member charged with violating West Virginia laws. President Cooper has been in close contact with W.Va. State Police and has copy of official police report with photos. He reported receiving fantastic cooperation from the W.Va. officer who was investigating. Charges have been filed.

d. Discussion about proposed New England Council, events that led up to formation, and need for paperwork to be approved. Proposed area of Council coverage is all New England states, including an existing Council in Maine, which does not wish to be absorbed by New England Council. President Cooper stated that until the New England Council removes Maine from their proposed bylaws, the Council cannot be approved. He will approve once this action is accomplished and resubmitted to RI with current officer listing.

e. Mr. Greany, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Lanshe are working on report of non-registered Triple-Cities (N.Y.) Team soliciting donations in *REACT's* name. Team has not been registered with *REACT* for 3 years.

f. Mr. Manlove discussed conflicts in North Carolina (Region 3) between state Council and one or more local Teams. Apparently there is an attempt to form new Council in an area overlapping one or more existing Councils. No Board action needed at this time.

g. Mr. Manlove reported correspondence from a proposed Texas Team, which he will forward to the Texas Council. Apparently, one of their three initial members is currently serving in a federal prison in Indiana. RI policy is that convicted felons are not eligible for membership.

9. Reports of the Committees of the Board.

a. Office Review. Mr. Jennings praised Dora and Norm for their operations of the RI office. Records and physical office are in good shape.

b. Membership. Nothing requiring action by committee.

c. Finance. Working on potential grant applications and alternative investment proposals. Still working with Smith Barney Investments. Discussion about getting annuity to cover annual withdrawal for life members of approximately \$7,000. Mr. Jennings presented proposal from McDonald Investments agent, Steven Lundquist, who felt expected growth in some specific annuity funds (Hartford) would exceed what RI earns

with Smith Barney. (Current return from Smith Barney is 6.85%, down from 8.75% in years previous.) Principal would be protected from loss.

Meeting recessed at 12:04 p.m. until 1:00 p.m. Meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m., no change in attendance.

10. Corporate Committees.

a. Communications Committee. Report from Mr. Riley on concerns and activities interfacing with the FCC. He stated concerns about lack of a GMRS repeater coordination mechanism, allowing anyone to install a repeater, and lack of a central master repeater directory. Concerns stated over increasing sales of combination FRS/GMRS radios without enforcing licensing requirements.

b. Public Relations. Mr. Kaster stressed the requirement to have anything released on behalf of RI being cleared by RI President. Local Team or Council releases are not included, provided they do not violate RI policies.

c. Ways and Means. Mr. Jennings presented a summary of ideas received about Team-level funding. He discussed a grant writer interested in applying for grants on behalf of RI, with her getting compensated for a set "project fee" plus a bonus based on a percentage of amounts raised. Discussion held on potential activities or purposes which could support grant applications.

d. Awards Committee. Discussion held about Radio Hero Award, no activity reported.

e. Team Management Handbook Revision Committee. Three members (Chuck Thompson, Tom Currie, Stuart DeLuca) were appointed to do update. Richard Gamble and wife offered to help retype the manual. Project not completed, but is on-going.

f. REACT PSA Status. Mr. Kaster presented a 30-second PSA produced by Liquid Radio Network. PSA can be duplicated on DVD inexpensively but some commercial TV stations require more expensive tape formats instead. Motion Mr. Manlove, 2d Mr. Lanshe, to approve the PSA and pay for the production. Unanimous. (Note: \$2,500 was approved at August 2004 Board meeting.)

g. Review of Corporate Committee Structure and Operation. Discussion held about Directors working with committees, soliciting members to serve on committees as chairman or members of committee.

h. Current Committee Chairman and Performances Reviewed. Discussion held.

i. REACTer. Editor position is vacant. Pat Knight and Chuck Thompson are editing March/April issue. Motion Mr. Manlove, 2d Mr. Kaster, to offer the editor

*continued on next page *

Board Minutes Summary, continued

position to Milli Thornton on the same basis as previous contract with Stuart DeLuca. Pat Knight is willing to serve as Publisher to oversee publication for a while, with General Counsel Thompson reviewing each issue before printing. Approved with one opposed (Mr. Lanshe). Motion Mr. Manlove, 2d Mr. Cooper, to compensate Pat Knight for the March/April issue at the same rate. Passed, Mr. Lanshe opposed.

11.2005 Budget. Treasurer Kaplan presented his proposed 2005 budget with a \$19,550 deficit. It was proposed to eliminate "Director & Officer Expense" since all directors and officers were paying their own expenses (other than a few needing help with travel expenses to some Board meetings, which is covered in a separate line item). This reduces the deficit to \$15,520. Mr. Kaplan noted that the \$30,000 insurance premium was an estimate based upon 3,000 members, and would fluctuate depending on the final membership reported to the insurer. Premium is based on a flat rate per member, rather having different rates for each state. Motion Mr. Manlove, 2d Mr. Jennings, to eliminate Director & Officer Expense item. Passed, Mr. Lanshe opposing. Motion Mr. Kaster, 2d Mr. Manlove, to accept the budget as modified Passed, Mr. Lanshe opposing.

12. Annual Audit Report. Annual Audit report from auditors presented by Mr. Kaplan. Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Manlove, to approve. Passed, Mr. Lanshe opposed. Motion Mr. Lanshe, 2d Mr. Manlove, to release Annual Audit Reports for the past five years to Mr. Jennings for use in preparing grant requests if needed. Unanimous.

13. BBB Wise Giving Alliance. Mr. Kaplan discussed the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance. Qualifying for this would require a few operational changes to be in compliance with their charitable giving standards. Discussion held about what changes we would be necessary, whether changes were desirable regardless of approval. Motion Mr. Manlove, 2d Mr. Cooper, to review RI policies and procedures to comply with BBB Giving Alliance Standards for Charity Accountability. Unanimous.

14. Membership Renewal Review. As of today, renewals are about 50 Teams and 800 members below this date last year. There are 47 "additional family members" who paid \$18 last year (\$5 this year) and 19 new members. So far this new class has cost \$215 compared to year, but Mr. Kaplan hoped that the program would result in younger, long-term members. Overall membership drop is 360 members, 5 Teams with 25 have disbanded, with about 2060 members renewed as of this date. Some Teams have advised that their renewals are on the way, and Mr. Kaplan hoped there will be other renewals. The RI office will follow up with Teams which haven't filed renewals or dissolution notices. Discussion about effectiveness of the additional family members program, which will be revisited at the next two meetings.

15. Affiliate Membership Policy. A new policy is not complete. Affiliate dues were about \$2,000 last year, 5 have started new Teams, and some have sent in monitor reports. Affiliates pay \$25/yr and receive *The REACTer* magazine but are not covered by RI insurance. Discussion held on business affiliate program previously proposed. Board to revisit at next meeting.

16. Midland Radio Proposal. Midland has discontinued the "Midland-1" program and the Rooster Ad Group.

17. Plaques for Past Board Members. Mr. Besing to coordinate getting plaques to former Directors and officers.

18. American Truckers Association. Discussion on holiday safety breaks and history between *REACT* and ATA. Mr. Cooper suggested trying to revive contact with ATA to see if an arrangement can be made. Mr. McCracken's recent PopComm said that was such an arrangement, but Mr. Kaplan reported that it had been terminated years ago. Mr. Kaplan to follow up with this task.

19. Radio Hero Award. Review of criteria for eligible winners, type of radios, etc. Mr. Besing to research past minutes to find the criteria for a new formal policy.

20. Smithsonian Display. A *REACT* display is part of an Information Technology display. It is about 4 feet wide. Mr. Kaplan has visited the display and will write an article for *The REACTer*.

21. REACTMonth. The Board has not declared "REACT Month" for many years. Motion Mr. Lanshe, 2d Mr. Manlove, to declare May 2005 to be *REACT*Month. Unanimous. Teams are encouraged to publicize this in their local communities. Mr. Manlove will write an article for the March/April *REACTer*.

22. Insurance Renewal. Policy will be renewed for 2005. Team premium will be set at the Summer meeting. Currently, RI subsidizes the premium by \$3 per member. Mr. Kaplan said he anticipated the actual 2005 insurance premium per member being about \$10.

23. New Membership Award from RI. Mr. Kaplan presented an idea for a new Special Recognition Award for members who achieve a certain number of service hours, to be based upon the reports filed with annual renewals. There are some members with 50,000 or more service hours. Mr. Kaplan proposed that these levels of service be recognized with a paper certificate and acknowledgment in *The REACTer*. It may also be possible to submit names and facts to the President's office to apply for the "President's Volunteer Service to America Award." This would cost \$2 per submission, not approved in current budget.

Meeting recessed at 5:30 p.m. Meeting resumed at 9:12 a.m., Saturday, with no change in attendance.

24. Board Meetings of the Future. Discussion held on alternative electronic methods of meeting to reduce the financial burdens of attending meetings in person.

Besing spoke on Mr. Knott's proposal from the summer meeting with Ventrilo conferencing software (allows voice and text chat, full duplex which allows two persons to speak, able to interrupt or control conversation.) He also said that Microsoft had a new product to allow on-line sharing of documents, chat, etc. Concerns were stated regarding privacy of such meetings and legality of having meetings that might keep out visitors. Question by Mr. Kaplan if software could enable visitors to observe but not participate. Closed meetings using the Ventrilo software are possible. Mr. Besing was tasked to have a demonstration of various methods at the next meeting. It was noted that a third meeting a year would be required to meet BBB standards. Mr. Manlove noted that FedEx/Kinko's has a video room conferencing service. Mr. Fry asked Mr. Jennings to find out if these types of solutions could be a grant request.

25. Future of REACT. Mr. Jennings long term solutions for declining membership and related finance short falls are important. Current membership is about half of what's needed to support a budget of \$100,000. Current overhead is \$30,000 for insurance, \$24,000 payroll, \$9,700 office rent, \$1,200 legal, \$3,600 accounting, \$21,000 for *The REACTer*, and \$9,000 for operations. Discussion about increasing the Team insurance fee from \$6 to \$10 per member in 2006 as opposed to increasing annual member dues.

a. Public Relations. The new PSA should be available no later than the summer convention. Mr. Kaster will get master copies prepared for DVD, streaming video, and commercial tape cassette. Directors need to promote participation by local members with committees to develop ideas for membership drives, publicity drives, training programs.

b. Membership. Mr. Kaplan thinks a minimum of 3,500-4,000 members is required to remain viable. Some Teams are apparently registering only a portion of their actual members, which places the Team at risk for lack of liability insurance coverage, 501(c)(3) status, etc. This places an unfair burden on the Teams which do an honest registration.

c. REACTer. This is about twenty-five percent of the annual budget. If finances do not improve, the frequency of publication may have to change from bi-monthly to quarterly, or change to electronic format only. Increased advertising revenue would help, but to attract more advertisers, a larger membership base is needed to support the advertising.

d. Credit Card Processing Fees. RI pays a percentage when accept payment by credit card, but this isn't a major item. Mr. Kaplan is trying to negotiate.

Using PayPal would put the fees up front, and be at a higher rate than the credit card fees. Mr. Besing has proposed a secure on-line donation page to collect donations from the web site, processing transactions in the office to save on-line processing fees.

26. Region 3 Director Resignation. In accordance with Bylaws Article V, Section 5.5(b), Director Knott (Region 3) is deemed to have resigned because of missing two consecutive Board meetings. The Bylaws allow the Board to reject this deemed resignation. It discussed hardship caused by last fall's hurricanes and damages to his house. He previously missed the winter and summer 2003 meetings and deemed resignation was not accepted. He also was not present for the February 2004 meeting, but participated electronically. Discussion about possible replacement members. Mr. Knott might be available for appointment at the summer 2005 (convention) meeting, if no one ran for the position this spring. Motion Mr. Lanshe to retain Mr. Knott, failed for lack of a second. Mr. Knott is deemed to have resigned. This position will remain vacant since it is open for election this spring.

27. Director Not to Run. Mr. Jennings reported that he would not run for reelection this spring in Region 6 for personal reasons.

28. Safety Clothing. The Board considered the possibility of handling Spiewak reflective safety clothing, including an orange jacket with optional pants and liner, reflective short-sleeve shirts, and vests (with and without sleeves). Mr. Kaplan is awaiting pricing.

29. Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be in Corona, Calif., during the convention. Directors and officers should arrive no later than Monday, 20 June 2005, as there will be a full-day meeting on Tuesday. There will also be sessions during the convention to meet with the delegates, Councils, and committees. Motion Mr. Manlove, 2d Mr. Cooper, that the meeting start on Tuesday, 21 June 2005, at 8:30 a.m. PDT. Unanimous.

30. Administrative items. President announced that the office locks will be changed. Discussion of current location of corporate seal. Discussion about Teams renewing late but failing to include late fees.

Motion to adjourn Mr. Manlove, 2d Mr. Cooper. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned sine die at 11:45 p.m., 19 February 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee W. Besing
Secretary

(General Counsel 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.)

Tribute to Stuart DeLuca

By Roger Wines, Charles Land, and Lee Besing



Photo by Lee Besing

In January 2005 we lost a great editor of *The REACTer* and a valued member of the Travis County *REACT* Team (Austin, Texas). Stuart DeLuca served *REACT* with tireless dedication for twenty-eight years, probably more than any other member we know. He truly will be missed on the home front. Stuart:

- Joined Travis County *REACT* (Austin, Texas) in January of 1977. Served as Team President and other officer positions for Travis County *REACT*.
 - Served as Council President and other officer positions for the Texas State *REACT* Council.
 - Served as editor of *The REACTer* from 1999 to 2005.
 - Was chairman of Publicity Review Committee.
 - Oversaw the revisions of most of the brochures and materials distributed by *REACT* International in the past 5 years.
 - Converted the mailing of *The REACTer* to periodical rates, saving us money on postage and allowing issues to be mailed to Hawaii and Alaska, plus other locations, at a much lower cost.
 - Wrote the *Planning a Safe Community Event* guide for *REACT* International
- Organized Texas Teams to support Texas Special Olympics State Games. Members of many Teams have provided crowd control, athlete safety and communications across multiple venues, and they continue to do so.
 - Was always the first to raise his hand to volunteer to go help another *REACT* Team or work a *REACT* Event, even when the event was 50-100 miles away from his home.

Stuart was active with many community organizations in addition to *REACT*. He was chairman and one of the founders of Another Way Texas Shares. This organization was founded to assist non-profits that United Way refused to serve, and has provided funding to the Council and Teams for several years as well as many other Texas organizations. He co-founded and was a board member of the Texas Inmate Families Association (TIFA). Stuart was also very active with the Parliamentarians Association.

With his interest in serving the public and organizations with communications, Stuart obtained his Amateur Radio License. His call KC5CFQ is now listed as a SK (silent key). He is listed with all those that have gone on before us, where one day we as "hams" will all be together up there somewhere calling "CQ, CQ, CQ." 73 Stuart - Travis County *REACT* #105.

Silent Mics

Compiled by Dora Wilbanks

Harry E. Glasgow, LM 281, passed away after an extended illness Jan. 14th, 2005. He was considered the voice of Seattle *REACT* and during the 80s and 90s he would monitor CB channel 9 during his awake hours.

Wayne D. Hempsted, Bell County *REACT*, Team 4047. He joined *REACT* in 1987 and was LM 389.

John Murdock, a member of the Harrisburg Area *REACT* Team, Inc., of Harrisburg, PA, passed way in October 2004. He was active in the Harrisburg club and the PA Council for many years

Robert A. Leslie, St. Joseph Valley *REACT*, Team C100, passed away July 2004. Robert served his

country during World War Two and was active in his community volunteering with the St. Joseph *REACT* since it inception.

Helen Smiser, Fond du Lac County *REACT*, Team 4364, passed February 2005. She had been a member for several years and held several positions on the Team's Board. Helen was also a member of the Special Needs Committee for the WI Council of *REACT* Teams.

Karen Blickle, former member of *REACT* Services Diversified, Inc., Team 4813, passed away February 2005. She was a member of RSD for about 5 years until her health deteriorated.