



# The REACTer



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**California Fires – 5**

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**Another View of the FCC – 20**



## The REACT involvement list



### We provide:

#### **Communications support for community activities**

Marathons  
 Fairs  
 Halloween patrol  
 Walkathons  
 Parades  
 Cart races  
 Bike rides  
 Chili cook-off  
 Tractor races  
 Hot air balloons  
 Triathlons  
 Drag races  
 Air shows  
 Motorboat races  
 Road rallies  
 Radio classes  
 Fireworks displays  
 Safety breaks  
 Canoe races  
 Radios for Mexico  
 Animal evacuation  
 Traffic reports  
 Amber alerts  
 Neighborhood Watch  
 National celebrations  
 Easter Seal run/walk  
 Special Populations Programs  
 Vehicle Assistance  
 Search and Rescue



American Red Cross



#### **Communications support for agencies and organizations**

American Red Cross  
 Salvation Army  
 Missing person searches  
 March of Dimes  
 Emergency Operations Centers  
 News media  
 Fire watch  
 Special Olympics  
 Toys for Tots  
 Red Flag Patrol  
 Sheriff's Department  
 City Police  
 Sky Warn and NWS/NOAA  
 Accident reports  
 Flood watch  
 CERT  
 School Districts  
 Park Departments  
 Disaster emergency drills  
 Ministry of Transportation  
 National SOS  
 U.S. Coast Guard  
 Hurricane Watch  
 Emergency Rescue Unit Fdtn.  
 Cancer Society  
 M. S. Society  
 Audubon Society  
 V.O.A.D  
 State Agencies  
 Humane Society

#### **THE REACT (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams) MISSION**

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.

**Communications volunteers needed. Information at: [www.reactintl.org](http://www.reactintl.org) and (301)316-2900**

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# The REACTer

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For information regarding advertising, please contact the Advertising Manager at the e-mail address or the Suitland office address shown at left.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dick Cooper



### Improving *REACT*:

For the next few issues you will be reading about the Rebranding Process and the Five Year Plan for *REACT* International (RI). In this case Rebranding is not the same as putting another brand on cattle, but it does mean that we will be trying to change the "brand" that people have put on *REACT* over the past few years. The public's "brand" or general perception of *REACT* is that we are just CBers that listen to our radios and handle emergency calls. While many members monitor CB for motorist assistance and use CB radio in their Team activities and for emergencies, many members use various other forms of communication including GMRS, FRS, Amateur, Marine and others.

One of the several phases of the Rebranding Process is to inform the public of what our Teams and members do and how they do it. The Public Relations Committee will be vital to achieve this phase. Publication of this information through

various media outlets will get the word out to many people and eventually the public will know *REACT*, what we do and how we do it. While the PR Committee will primarily promote *REACT* International, Teams can use much of the same press release information for local press releases. Of course it may have to be modified to appeal to your local areas, but generally that is easily accomplished. The PR committee is going to assemble a database of various media contacts for RI and the local Teams should do the same thing for your local area. Develop contacts and talk with your local newspapers, cable, radio and television media so that they become familiar with you and you become familiar with them and what they are looking for. Look for more PR articles in the *REACTer* and on the RI website.

This publicity will work to change the public's opinion of *REACT* but it will also help to increase your Team's membership. It is important that you be prepared for the inquiries about your Team. Be prepared to welcome potential members by telling them of Team activities and benefits of being a member of your *REACT* Team. You may consider a Team information sheet or flyer that you can give to each new inquiry. Consider having an information booth at local events such as police department safety days or similar activities.

All of this means that *REACT* International will need your help on the Public Relations Committee as well as the Membership Development & Retention Committee. Please contact your Regional Director or Ed Greany (RI Executive VP) if you are interested. The RI Board wants to remind you that RI's existing membership level must change for *REACT* to survive and this Rebranding Process is currently the best plan that we have to change our status. Your help is essential to the success of this program.

### Submission Guidelines for *REACTer*:

Electronic submissions are preferred. Please keep manuscripts under 800 words without prior arrangements. Send to:

[<editor1@reactintl.org>](mailto:editor1@reactintl.org).

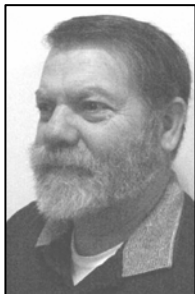
Please reduce photos if you can. Paper submissions should go to:

**Don Tarbet**  
144 Atkinson Rd.  
Bradford, ME 04410

Faxes can go to Jim  
Koritzky at (207) 942-8067



## From the Executive Vice President Ed Greany



**Hi Folks,**  
It's that time again. Renewal time is here along with elections, audits, year-end reports, and re-

registration upon us.

Some Teams are growing; some are not. If you find you are one of the Teams suffering from "grow-itis," let me encourage you that there are those out here to assist you. Many Teams belong to a state council and all Teams are represented by a Regional Director. The Director for your region can help you. Just ask. Even I will assist as a last resort, but we must know your Team is having problems first.

Membership development is just one phase of growth. Retention is the other half of the equation. You must have both to be successful otherwise, members leave via the back door as soon as you solicit them through the front door. There is a serious draft running through your house and it needs plugging up. It's kind of like pumping up a tire with a hand pump. You can never get the tire pumped up sufficiently if there is a leak. The air goes in but the air escapes out the hole.

Membership development never ends. It is a continuous project. It might take the shape of distributing Team brochures, installing a Team dedicated telephone line, developing a Team website, working a civic event and proudly displaying a Team or *REACT* banner, participating in a parade or many other possible activities. How about visiting the nearest amateur radio club or the Red Cross Disaster meetings or a Boy Scout meeting? Contact the local high school for any clubs or even school activities that could use coordinated communications to make their event run smoother. Some Teams have driven the neighborhood and posted flyers on the windshields of cars which have communication antennas or knock on the door of a home that has a CB or other antenna mounted on the roof.

Post a notice in the newspaper of your pending Team meeting that is open to the public and visitors are welcome. Refreshments will be served and no charge to attend. If your members are also hams, perhaps you want to offer ham classes or testing. Larger Teams might want to install a repeater and run a weekly net inviting those with proper license to check in.

These are just a few ideas that might help you gain even just one member before the end of the year. If these projects are simply too much work or trouble for you then no wonder your membership is declining. Your Team seriously needs a blood transfusion for a jump start. As a last resort, join hands with

another Team and merge. There is a lot of history in some older Teams and an older charter number is something to be proud to retain. Your board has attempted for some years now to forego increasing dues. This will only last with additional members joining. We cannot keep coasting – we must have growth and only YOU can do it.

**Norman Kaplan Reports:**  
"As of October 30, all renewals have been posted. This includes active Teams and councils. If you do not receive your Team renewal by November 15, please notify *REACT* International at (301) 316-2900 or <reacthq1@reactintl.org>."

## EDITOR'S CORNER Don Tarbet

**The focus** is the future. See the president's column, the vice-president's column, and the commentary by Bob Leef.

We have to prepare for the future of *REACT*, and we have to prepare for disasters and emergencies that will occur. National Preparedness Month was just to remind us of what we need to do. Now, let's do it.

Get the training you need, you and your Team. And then let us know what you've done. And let the public know. We can help; but nobody knows that unless we tell them.

**Let us know about any 45th anniversary plans your Team is working on or has completed**

## **National Preparedness Month (U.S.) was September.**

Did your Team do anything special? Maybe an SOS drill? Maybe FEMA compliance? An information booth? A disaster drill? An information session for volunteers?

Whatever you did, let the public know; and let us know.

---

## **Don't forget to let us know what your Team is doing.**

Send us your information at:

<editor1@reactintl.org>  
<reacthq1@reactintl.org>

And don't forget Ron McCracken's column in *Popular Communications*:  
ronmccr@hotmail.com.

**Preparedness Month has passed. The need to prepare has not.**

Those who are responsible for community preparedness presentations or for preparedness activities may find the following information useful. This may also be of interest to Public Information Officers, Emergency Management personnel and the Public Education community.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has made files for the *Ready* Campaign's publications available to the public to download at no cost. As a result, organizations can reproduce these materials and help expand the reach of this critical information.

There are three areas of the preparedness focus: Individual & Family Publications; Business Publications; and Ready Kids Publications.

Information concerning this material can be found at the following website:

<[www.ready.gov/america/index.html](http://www.ready.gov/america/index.html)>  
<[www.ready.gov/america/publications/allpubs.html](http://www.ready.gov/america/publications/allpubs.html)>

**Ordering Publications:** Individuals or organizations who would like to order printed copies of *Ready* publications can do so by calling **1-800-BE-READY**. Multiple copies can also be requested by calling the **FEMA Warehouse** at **1-800-480-2520**

## **Videos Available Also**

In order to encourage Americans to prepare themselves, their families and their communities, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with The Advertising Council, has created instructional videos to help educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to all kinds of emergencies. The first set of instructional videos, released in English and Spanish, are designed to detail how American families get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different types of emergencies in their community.

Homeland Security and the Ad Council have also created additional instructional videos with specific information for pet owners, older Americans and individuals with disabilities and other special needs.

To view all of the Ready Campaign's Instructional Videos go to:

<<http://www.ready.gov/america/about/instructional.html>> .

## FIRE!

By Ed Greany

Executive Vice President, RI

For one week firefighters from all over the country descended upon Southern California to battle more than 15 wild fires. These fires were initially driven by high "Santa Ana Winds" which are caused by a high pressure system in the Mojave Desert and blow westward at up to 100 mph – near tornado speeds.



Bob Click calls in report with Anthony Mack listening

The first fire was in the Malibu coastal area of Los Angeles. Then additional fires started in the resort Big Bear mountain community of Lake Arrowhead, San Diego County, and Orange County. All of these fires were major fires in size, destruction, and cost. Just like Katrina when evacuees were assembled in the sports arena, San Diego residents were huddled to the Charger's sports arena. Other area fires evacuated to high schools or fairground complexes. There were some deaths and injuries attributed to the fires and at least one (Santiago Fire) was arson. It was intentionally set at three different ignition points. A reward of over \$250,000 waits for the person responsible for the conviction of the arsonist.

Several *REACT* Teams are reported to be helping. The High Desert *REACT* Team of Hesperia and Victorville is helping with the San Bernardino County Red Cross Chapter. The Los Angeles County *REACT* Team helped with the fires in Los Angeles while the CREST Communications *RE-*

*ACT* Team assisted with the fires in Orange County (near Disneyland).

The activity of CREST involved several members who are residents of the Silverado Canyon community and refused a mandatory evacuation order in order to communicate updated information from inside the canyon to other CREST members outside at the Command Center. They are also watering and feeding animals unable to be evacuated and are helping fire personnel identify the names of property owners whose homes burned. This is a difficult task for fire personnel since when a home site burns to the ground there is no address visible for the site, making ownership identification difficult.

CREST is utilizing its GMRS repeater system for communications. One repeater is actually inside the canyon while another is above the canyon for longer distance. For a period of time, the Orange County Chapter of the Red Cross used the CREST GMRS repeater system when their primary system went down. This arrangement is by a prior MOU with the chapter. The Red Cross has a grandfathered GMRS license which allows this resource. Ironically, almost to the very hour that the Red Cross requested the use over the radio, the president of CREST and a representative of the Red Cross were to sit down to update their MOU document. That meeting was obviously postponed.

At least one CREST member lost his home to the fire and there are may be additional CREST members who either received fire damage or a total loss to their homes. The fires are still uncontrolled at this writing and details have not been confirmed yet.



Bob checks vehicle



Bulldozers at ready with a backdrop of fire

I was able to interview Anthony Mack, a resident of Silverado Canyon and a CREST member Unit 99, by cell phone. He reports of possibly saving homes in Wildcat Canyon when the fire line jumped a fire break and fire personnel were unavailable. He picked up a piece of PVC debris and beat flames 24" high making a barrier and stopping the fire advancement. Coincidentally, Anthony is also a former firefighter.

In another situation he and another CREST member working as a team were putting out spot fires and scooped up a dog and two kittens which were doomed to certain death. While these actions are far beyond that of the normal activities of *REACT*, they are to be commended and considered heroes in the eyes of the canyon residents and show the determination and dedication of the CREST members at large.



Bob and Anthony save kittens



Anthony rescues dog



## REACT News: Teams and Team Members

Ramsey County Minnesota  
*REACT*  
Paul Oby

At the request of the Minnesota Citizens Corps Ramsey County *REACT* setup a free

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display using the *REACT* DVD and other *REACT* literature at their conference on Sept 14 & 15 @ the University of Minnesota Continuing Education Center in Falcon Heights.

[www.REACTintl.org](http://www.REACTintl.org)

Our display drew so many people that I couldn't attend some of the classes offered.

All visitors to our display were told we only use Ham radio for communications and some



wanted information on upcoming classes.



When we do this next year I'll have at least one other person with me to help answer questions.

We took in several applications for membership and referred a couple of public health Nurses to an ARES organization about an hour southwest of us.

That day Rick Link (our Secretary) and several other members handled communications for a fundraiser for service dogs using 2 meter Ham radio. They too want us back next year.

**Hamilton County  
REACT (Nebraska)  
By Paul Shaneyfelt,  
KD0BSB  
Unit 801**

Members of Hamilton County REACT Team #6111 supported the Nebraska Highway Patrol recently. By using a member's cell phone and notebook computer, Hamilton Co REACT was able to assist by linking the Highway Patrol's Command Center to the video surveillance system of a convenience store that had been taken over by an

armed individual. The Highway Patrol was able to then view the interior of the store to better assess the situation. Fortunately the individual gave himself up without serious harm to anyone, and the Patrol expressed appreciation for the video assistance.

Team members also helped the Aurora Police Dept with manpower during a Parade and with closing the Downtown Square for a Halloween community event. This assistance freed up valuable Law Enforcement personnel so they could better Protect and Serve. We also conducted a Safety Patrol on Halloween night. We patrolled the streets from 6 to 11 adding to the eyes of Law Enforcement.

**Hill County REACT  
Lee Besing, Secretary,  
RI**

Below is REACT member Pat AD5BR talking on Amateur Radio, her son John assisting. Antenna leaning like the Tower of Pizza, but it worked great. We checked into the regional Central Texas Traffic System Net and announced our activity as a QST to the net, inviting other Hams listening to stop by our display and pick up some free candy or info about REACT.



REACT members Barbara KB5RLF & Charlie W5BCR are shown passing out candy to the participants. With the great weather (mild, in the low 70's, no rain or winds) we went thru the 10 huge bags of candy in less than 2 hours. The candy was donated to REACT by the Canyon Lake Chamber of Commerce who was the organizer and sponsor of this annual event. Due to the rural area and spread out nature of the communities around Canyon Lake, the various businesses and community organizations set up along a 2 mile stretch of the main road thru Sattler, Texas for this event which runs 3 hours on October 31st each year.



We did get membership inquiries from at least two participants asking to be contacted regarding their joining REACT. Other REACT members present, but not shown in two photos below were Lee N5NTG (photographer) and of course Wade W5ERX was the finely dressed member in the photo below.



Members Charlie KC5NKK and his wife, Patti, were working an event sponsored by their Neighborhood Association. Charlie loaned out a number of FRS/GMRS combo radios for coordinating "security issues" by the Association's COP program (Cellular On Patrol).

**The Training and Development** Committee congratulates *REACT*er Neil Jackman of *REACT Nicholson* in Picayune Mississippi on completing the training and performance requirements to become a *REACT Certified Emergency Communicator*.

Neil holds both an Amateur Radio Operator license as KA5QAP and GMRS license WQEU749. He had previously completed the *REACT* Emergency Communications Training and Certification training program in May, but had to wait for an actual communications emergency or a major exercise providing comparable simulated emergency conditions. On August 11th and 12th, Neil performed in multiple Emergency Communications functions during a major exercise, thus com-

pleting the requirements for certification.

Clinton Becnel, Communications Supervisor of the Southeast Emergency Respond Team in Picayune provided the successful performance evaluation on August 15th, and a few days later Neil was awarded *REACT Certified Emergency Communicator* certificate number 002.

Tom Currie,  
N4AOF/WPOL710  
Chairman, Training & Development Committee  
*REACT International, Inc.*

**Going to the dogs?** Well, not really, but Penobscot *REACT* did support the Bangor Humane Society's Paws on Parade effort this fall. The program raises funds to care for unwanted or abandoned animals that otherwise might be abandoned and possibly become problems in the community.

## Waterloo Regional *REACT* Takes possession of the new *REACT* Rescue ARGO

The members of Waterloo Regional *REACT* are proud to announce their newest acquisition – the 2007 Argo 8x8 Avenger 750 EFI "Rescue" Argo.

Manufactured by Ontario Drive & Gear in New Hamburg, Ontario, Canada, this vehicle is the



top of the line in terms of power and options. Waterloo Regional *REACT*, Fire, EMS, and ODG staff worked together many years ago to design the "first of" in rescue packages that appeared on our old ARGO. ODG took the learning from our old vehicle and applied it to their new design, resulting in an outstanding and versatile Rescue Vehicle.

If you have seen ODG's web site or promotional materials, they have used photos from a joint professional photo shoot. Recently we participated in a new video and photo shoot for the new ARGO, which resulted in us purchasing the vehicle used in the shoot, which was also the first new RESCUE model off the production line! This vehicle will continue to assist *REACT* in providing specialized equipment and volunteer manpower support to the various emergency services in the Region of Waterloo. Our old ARGO was called out many times to assist in the transportation of victims in hard to reach areas. (More pictures of all our vehicles and equipment can be seen at <[www.wrreact.com](http://www.wrreact.com)>.

Pictured below at the video shoot with EMS and Fire personnel are *REACT* members Kirk Walker (left), Tom Cress-



man (driver), and Rick Weisler (right).



# NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

An every other month magazine devoted to the entertainment and education of those interested in Scanners, CB radios, and other electronic means of communications.

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## Emergency Communications Training

The Level I *REACT* Emergency Communications training manual is available online for members to download free of charge. This program is similar to that offered by ARRL to its members, but has been expanded to include additional materials regarding other radio services (including GMRS, CB, FRS, and MURS, in addition to Amateur Radio) due to the wide variety of radio services often used by *REACT* Teams.

The *REACT* EComm program is available only to *REACT* members. See the EComm Flyer at:

<<http://www.reactintl.org/committees/EComm%20Flyer.pdf>> for more information about the Emergency Communications Training and Certification Program. *REACT* Members should send e-mail to:

<[IWantEComm@reactintl.org](mailto:IWantEComm@reactintl.org)> for information about downloading the manual online.

If you have more training ideas and want to volunteer to help the Training and Development Committee, contact Tom Currie, committee chairman, at: <[training1@reactintl.org](mailto:training1@reactintl.org)>

## CALENDAR

### November - December 2007

*-December 5:* Deadline for January-February 2008 *REACTer*.

*November 11:* Veterans Day (US)

*November 22:* Thanksgiving Day (US)

*December 4 – December 11:* Chanukah

*December 25:* Christmas

*-All Year:* *REACT*'s 45th Anniversary

## Life Membership

Did you know that *REACT* life membership is a great way to honor a member who has served your Team or Council with great dedication? Life membership applications can be downloaded at <<http://www.REACTintl.org/pubs/lifeapp.PDF>>, or you may request one from the RI office.

## **NO** TESTING REQUIRED!

Ham radio type repeater operation for the whole family without taking a test! A simple FCC part 95 GMRS license covers everyone in your household. No testing required, just a simple form that may be completed on the internet.

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## SILENT MICS

### Richard Sack

By *REACT* Team 2060

**It is with great sadness** that Oklahoma County *REACT* 2620 announces the transfer of Richard “Rick” Sack to *REACT* Team #1; God’s Team.

Rick served his country as a military warrior, his community as a volunteer, a weather spotter, an Emergency Management volunteer, an Ambassador, a father, a husband, a grandfather and a friend. He spent many hours working safety breaks; serving free coffee and donuts to weary travelers. He will be greatly missed by all.

His unit number will be retired and he will be remembered in our hearts and minds.

Every time a veteran dies, a part of this country dies with them.

### Gladys Bowman Gordon

By Dora Wilbanks

Gladys Bowman Gordon, 78, Briery Branch, died Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at Harrisonburg Health and Rehabilitation Center. Mrs. Gordon was born Aug. 20, 1929, in Bridgewater and was the daughter of the late Charles W. and Mamie Bowman.

She was a 1946 graduate of Bridgewater High School and was a member of the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. She served as Bridgewater town treasurer for more than 2 years. She served as secretary for the Bridgewater Ladies Auxiliary and the Rockingham *REACT* Team as well as president of the Northern Virginia Fire Auxiliary, and a member of the State Fire Auxiliary.

On June 21, 1947, she married Aubrey D. Gordon; he preceded her in death October 21, 1994.

Surviving are a son, David Gordon of Grottoes, and two grandsons.

Pastor Randy Cosner and Deacon Roscoe Burgess conducted funeral services at Kyger Funeral Home in Harrisonburg. Burial will be in the Oak Lawn Cemetery in Bridgewater.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bridgewater Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary, 304 N. Main Street, Bridgewater, VA 22812 or to the Clover Hill Rescue Squad, 2100 Clover Hill Road, Dayton, VA 22821.

### Dottie Thomas

By Charles Huckleberry

Circle City (Indiana) *REACT* Unit #19

**It is with heavy heart** that I report the passing of Dottie Thomas, long time member of Circle City *REACT*

The Circle City *REACT* Team would not be what it is today without both Dave and Dottie.

My brother and I were formally introduced to The Team by the Thomases and Dave was the wedding photographer for my brother’s wedding.

### Voyager Spacecraft Still Calling By Ron McCracken

Thirty years later, both Voyagers 1 and 2 continue to radio back to earth important information as they explore our solar system and beyond.

Launched two weeks apart in 1977, they have investigated Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune, as well as the Sun’s influence. The two Voyagers have now left our solar system and are probing inter-stellar space.

Both spacecraft are still healthy, NASA says, and radio back regular reports laden with new scientific data. Quite the radio achievement.

## NOTICE OF BYLAWS CHANGE

### Charles A. Thompson, General Counsel

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of *REACT* International, Inc., at its Special Meeting on Saturday, 25 August 2007, amended Section 3.3 by adding subsection (e), creating a new Business/Professional class of membership, which is excluded from insurance coverage and charitable exemption status.

In accordance with Bylaws Section 9.12, this amendment will take effect 60 days after publication of this notice in *The REACTer* (the date the issue is accepted for mailing by the United States Postal Service), unless at least 20 percent of the active Teams file objections. Objections to an amendment are filed by notifying the Secretary, in writing, addressed to the *REACT* International, Inc., office in Suitland, Maryland.

The section amended is set out, as amended, below.

### Article III - Membership

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**Section 3.3 Categories of Membership.** Qualified Teams may have several categories of membership within the Team. All must be registered with REACT International.

(a) *Regular*: An adult member of a Team.

(b) *Family*: An adult member of the family of a Regular member of a Team, residing in the same household as the Regular member.

(c) *Junior*: Any individual under the age of 18 who is a member of a Team.

(d) *Life*: A Team member who has been accepted by REACT International as a paid up Life Member.

(e) *Business/Professional*: A business organization or an individual's position title. This membership class:

(1) Will not be covered by any insurance provided by REACT International, and

(2) Will not be included in REACT International's group IRS charitable exemption status.

Are you a **SKYWARN**  
**SPOTTER?**

Do you know someone who is?

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**REACT International, Inc...**  
Special Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Held 25 August 2007  
at the Drury Inn - Airport  
Nashville, Tennessee

**Directors Present**

John Knott (Fla.), Region 3, Chairman  
Don Manlove (Va.), Region 2, Vice

Chairman

Larry Fry (Wis.), Region 5  
C.C. Roberts (Hawaii), Region 6  
Robert Kaster (Okla.), Region 7  
Joseph Toth (Calif.), Region 8  
Dick Cooper (N.J.), President (Director *ex*

*officio*)

**Directors Absent**

Fred Lanshe (Penn.), Region 1  
Paul Jackson (Ohio), Region 4  
Kenny Jagdeosingh (Trinidad and To-

bago), Region 9

**Officers Present**

Dick Cooper (N.J.), President  
Lee Besing (Tex.), Secretary  
Norman Kaplan (Md.), Treasurer and As-

sistant Secretary

Charles A. Thompson (Tex.), General

Counsel

**Officers Absent**

Ed Greany (Calif.), Executive Vice Presi-

dent

**Visitors Present:**

Michael Cauley (Fla.)  
Ken White (Ohio)  
Gary DiGuardi (Va.)  
Lester Purviance (Ind.)  
Joe DeGrace (Va.)

**1. Call to Order.** A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of *REACT* International, Inc., was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, 25 August 2006, by Chairman Knott. A moment of silence was held to note the passing of former Outside Director and Chairman Robert (Bob) Stone and other members who have passed since the last

meeting.

**2. Quorum.** Secretary Besing announced that there being seven of ten Directors present, a quorum was established. Three non-voting officers were also present.

**3. Opening Remarks.** Chairman Knott asked Directors and officers to perform their duties as if they were being paid by the Corporation. A “sense of urgency” is essential. President Cooper stressed the importance of membership at the local level, the importance of Directors making decisions that can be realistically implemented at the local level, and the importance of Directors and officers always acting and making decisions in a professional business-like manner as Directors and officers are known by their position in *REACT*, and every email, opinion, and decision reflects back upon the organization. Mr. Cooper advised that he will be unable to serve another term as President.

**4. Agenda.** The meeting agenda was presented and accepted.

**5. Minutes of Annual Meeting.** There being no changes to the previously distributed minutes of the Annual Meeting, 9-10 March 2007, they were approved.

**6. Region Director Reports.**

a. **Region 1** – Mr. Lanshe absent, sent email wishing best of luck.

b. **Region 2** – Mr. Manlove reserved comments until later

c. **Region 3** – Mr. Knott thanked Mr. Manlove for setting up today’s meeting.

d. **Region 4** – Mr. Jackson absent, no report presented.

e. **Region 5** – Mr. Fry reported problems in the Chicago area with Illinois Council resolved, several Teams active in response to bridge collapse in Minnesota.

f. **Region 6** – Mr. Roberts is following up on requests for Team charters in Montana and

Alaska. One Team in Hawaii has not renewed, only his Team remains. Announced he did not plan to stand for re-election next term, but had a possible candidate in mind for nomination. Expects one group of 3 Teams (in Pacific NW Council) to consolidate into a single Team due to falling membership levels in each Team.

g. **Region 7** – Mr. Kaster reported that the Region is fairly quiet other than a problem in Louisiana listed on today's agenda.

h. **Region 8** – Mr. Toth expressed his desire to learn the ropes as a new director, concern over stagnation in parts of California, intent to visit other states within his region. Stressed the importance of responding to official emails in a reasonable, timely manner. He mentioned that he serves in a leadership position with Civil Air Patrol but feels there is no conflict with his duties as a *REACT* director.

i. **Region 9** – Mr. Jagdeosingh. No report.

## 7. Officer Reports.

a. **Treasurer** – reported an approximate \$14,000 deficit which will be covered from retained earnings. The RI office has reduced overhead expenses to the maximum extent. He recommended increasing membership dues, stating that RI could survive approximately seven years with a deficit by using the cash reserve. The office has upgraded to QuickBooks 2007.

b. **Secretary** – No report.

c. **Executive Vice President** – sent report that he was discouraged by lack of progress by committees.

d. **President** – No report.

e. **General Counsel** – former Utah Team was sued over a vehicle sale, and RI was included in the suite and default judgment. He is trying to get set aside. Making progress on the Team Management Handbook project with help from Mr. Currie and Mr. Greany.

## 8. Corporate Committee Reports.

a. **Awards and Recognition** – Mr. Cauley's report. Unable to establish contact with new owner of K40 products, DAS Distributing.

Recommends approaching other manufacturers to obtain new sponsors. Has identified 3 possible 2007 candidates for the Radio Hero award. PopComm is willing to donate one-year subscription to each awardee (CB to each adult and a set of FRS to the juvenile awardee). Recommended small plaques, rather than certificates, and issuing press releases to CNN when awards are presented. Suggested involving Directors as presenters. Service awards being calculated and printed by RI Office will be distributed to Teams for presentation. **Motion** Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Manlove, to make the Radio Hero award to Matthew Lovo, Jr., and to have a plaque made. **Motion passed.**

b. **Training and Development** – Tom Currie – no report.

c. **Computer Services** – Mr. Besing – reported that most data files are being automatically backed up nightly using his company's software and services and that recent email changes have resulted in greatly decreased levels of spam received by Directors. Backup service has already been used to restore the membership database. High-speed DSL in office has greatly increased ability of committee to perform support services.

d. **Convention and Site Selection** – Chair vacant.

e. **5-Year Planning** – Mr. Cooper and Mr. Kaplan – written report later.

f. **Publications Review** – Daughn O'Neill – No report.

g. **Public Relations** – Ron McCracken – written report about 45th anniversary releases and SOS drills. Urged increase in electronic communications with membership.

h. **Membership Development and Retention** -- Chair vacant.

i. **Ways and Means** – Mr. Cooper – Corporate donation program sent to Computer Services Committee but not yet posted to web site. CSC directed to get a form page online ASAP. An allegation by Director Lanshe that some past donations are not accounted for was investigated and the donations were located in the corporation's books. [GuideStar.org](http://GuideStar.org) newsletter is available for subscription by anyone. RI is a member of Tech



[soup.org](http://soup.org) and can arrange for purchases or donations of software.

j. **REACTer Report** -- Don Tarbet -- Number of comp copies considered. Suggestion made to allow three complimentary copies for Teams for PR. Cost to RI would be approximately \$3,000. **Motion** Mr. Roberts, 2d Mr. Manlove, to allow each active Team (USA/Canada), starting with January/February 2008 issue, to designate up to three *REACTers* to be sent to local authorities/agencies at no charge. **Motion passed.** Postal costs have increased dramatically – suggestions made to cut costs by changing publication frequency, electronic distribution, or dues increase. RI will publicize option to download *REACTer* from web site and consider sending emails to members when new issue is available. President Cooper will ask Editor Tarbet to explore other options.

**9. Team Topics.** Suggestion made to restart Team Topics (TT). Possible articles in first issue include new IRS requirements, renewal info, promotion of FEMA and NIMS training courses, and explanation of types of articles that should **not** appear in *the REACTer*. First edition will be mailed to Teams. Teams may opt to receive future TT in email or from RI website. Continuation of TT also included in 5-year Plan.

**10. Public Image of REACT Teams.** Many articles have appeared in the *REACTer* that portray Teams in non-communications activities such as patrolling, security, traffic control, and hazardous activities. Member vehicles have been shown with light bars and other para-police markings. Some activities may jeopardize *REACT* insurance. Recommendation to have editor run all articles regarding Team events past the General Counsel prior to publication. Mr. Thompson stressed the need to emphasize training by local authorities when reported events involve non-communications activities.

**11. Membership Renewals to Date.** Membership report – Mr. Stowers and Mr. Kaplan need to

compare discrepancies between manual counts and database. 2008 renewals will start in September. Discussion held about making all forms available on the web site.

**12. New Professional/Business Membership.** Mr. Kaplan explained that some Teams register representatives of other organizations by title or organizational name, rather than as individuals. This could impact RI insurance. **Motion** Mr. Manlove, 2d Mr. Roberts, to add Bylaws Section 3.3(e) establishing a new “Professional/Business” membership class, which will be excluded from insurance coverage and the IRC Section 501(c)(3) group exemption, but will receive the *REACTer* subscription. **Motion passed.** **Motion** Mr. Manlove, 2d Mr. Roberts, to establish annual dues for the new membership class at \$30 per member. **Motion passed.**

**13. RI Member Awards.** Awards recently presented include the President’s Award given to Norman Kaplan in June 2007 and Appreciation Plaque given to Dora Wilbanks in June 2007. The President announced that the Goebel Award plaque had, at last, been sent to Frank Jennings.

**14. Membership Committee.** Chairman Knott established the Board Membership Committee by appointing Mr. Kaster (Chairman), Mr. Manlove, Mr. Toth, Mr. Roberts, Mr. DiGuardi, and Mr. DeGrace. The Committee’s duties are assigned by the Bylaws to review concerns about Teams, councils, affiliate, and life members. **Motion** Mr. Manlove, 2d Mr. Cooper, to confirm these appointments. **Motion passed.** Several matters were assigned to the Membership Committee for consideration and recommendation to the Board (details are in full Board minutes, available on website).

In closed session, the Board received the Membership Committee’s recommendations. **Motion** Mr. Kaster, 2d Mr. Roberts, to approve recommendation to revoke the charter of Team #6098 (Louisiana). **Motion passed.** **Motion** Mr. Kaster, 2d Mr.

Manlove, to approve recommendation to revoke Affiliate membership status of John Seggerson, Lima, Ohio (Affiliate #03617). **Motion passed.** **Motion** Mr. Kaster, 2d Mr. Manlove, to approve recommendation to suspend the Ohio State *REACT* Council indefinitely, and to allow the council to request restoration of recognition status after correcting deficiencies. **Motion passed.** Secretary Besing will write notification letters with advice of General Counsel.

#### **15. REACT International, Inc., (of Pennsylvania). – Closed Session**

It was determined that, despite multiple emails from the General Counsel, Director Lanshe had not, as of 25 August 2007, caused “*REACT International, Inc.*,” a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation formed in 2003, to be dissolved as required by the Board in March 2007. **Motion** Mr. Roberts, 2d Mr. Manlove to censure Director Lanshe and to initiate removal procedures outlined in Bylaws Section 5.4 with prejudice. **Motion passed.** (*Secretary’s note: Rendered moot by Mr. Lanshe’s deemed resignation at the end of this meeting.*)

**16. Dues Structure.** A possible dues increase was discussed. Mr. Thompson referred to past action of appealing to the membership for to conduct fund raisers for RI’s benefit and suggested this approach be tried to supplement the budget before instituting a dues increase (which invariably causes loss of members). **Motion** Mr. Roberts, 2d Mr. Kaster, to send a letter to this effect from the Board in the Team renewal packets. **Motion passed,** Mr. Fry abstaining.

**17. Liability Insurance.** There was no premium increase in June 2007 and no increase is anticipated next year. Premium charged to Teams will remain \$11 per member.

**18. AFCEA \$3,000 Donation for Hurricane Katrina Relief.** It was the consensus at SBM 2006 to retain the funds and advise AFCEA how the funds were used. Mr. Cooper called the donor and was informed by donor spokesperson, Patti

Johnston, that their guidelines for use of donation are much broader than stated in letter. **Motion** Mr. Roberts, 2d Mr. Manlove, that a formal procedure be drafted to reimburse ICS-trained individuals a maximum of \$75 (\$25 per day), funds permitting, for travel and lodging expense when responding to any government-declared disaster operation. **Motion passed.**

Mr. Kaplan and Mr. Thompson assigned to draft policy.

**19. New IRS Filing Requirement for Small Tax-Exempt Organizations.** Mr. Kaplan reminded the Board that Teams normally receiving less than \$25,000 annually will be required to file an online “post card” return to the IRS. It was suggested that an article be put in Team Topics, a letter in Team renewal envelopes, and an article be placed in the *REACTer* explaining the new IRS requirement. *REACT* International office will assist Teams to file their Form IRS 990-N online in 2008, if the Team doesn’t have Internet access and mails their information to the RI office prior to 1 April.

**20. REACT Policies Reviewed.** It was reported that some new traffic laws can result in felony convictions that would cause a member to become ineligible for membership under current Policy 3-01. Mr. Thompson suggested amending Policy 3-01 (revised July 2003) to place emphasis on felonies of “moral turpitude” not being acceptable. Mr. Thompson suggested that the policy be revised and brought back to the Board at the annual Board meeting in 2008. He will handle this, after reviewing the state laws mentioned.

The Board considered how Teams will be affected by the new IRS conflict of interest policy (Sarbanes-Oxley Act) discussed at the Annual Board meeting. Mr. Thompson will review requirements and propose policy for adoption at the next Board meeting.

Affiliate policy (Item 12 - 2007 Annual Meeting minutes) – proposed policy will be presented at Annual Board Meeting.

Insurance – Current policy allows Teams to opt out of the RI liability insurance by providing their

own. At the current rate of \$11 per member, this only benefits Teams with more than 35 members. Two Teams opting out in 2007 obtained insurance through the ARRL insurance program, available only to ARRL-affiliated Teams.

**21. Bylaws Review.** Mr. Manlove said that a major review hasn't been conducted since 1998, and asked if a committee should be established for this purpose. Discussion held about the merits of such review. It was pointed out that Mr. Stowers was the Bylaws Review Chairman and should be presented any proposals. Consensus not to start review.

**22. Five-Year Plan (Future of REACT).** Mr. Cooper and Mr. Kaplan reviewed highlights of their proposal, referred to as an "ambitious, multi faceted" plan that involves "rebranding" REACT to change public perception of REACT as being "CB only." **Motion** Mr. Roberts, 2d Mr. Manlove, to adopt the proposed Five-Year Plan. **Motion passed.** Some portions may be being handled at existing committee level, some at the local Team level, and some may require additional Board approval. Mr. Besing offered to obtain, at no cost, lists of news media companies from [salesgenie.com](http://salesgenie.com) to obtain possible sources to send press releases. **Motion** Mr. Roberts, 2d Mr. Fry, to accept the offer from Mr. Besing's company, Digital Fortress [www.digitalfortress.biz](http://www.digitalfortress.biz) to provide this information, and to declare this is not a conflict of interest under existing policy. **Motion passed.**

RI is prepared for a catastrophe or occurrence that endangers the operation of the RI office or other REACT operations:

- Regular computer backup with copies kept offsite (software service provided by Digital Fortress).

- Operations manuals that encompass jobs in the office.

- Backup personnel if an officer, director, or committee member becomes incapacitated.

- Location of passwords, account numbers, contact information, etc.

- Offsite backup of important files, papers, and other documents.

**23. Protecting America.** RI has become a member of Protecting America [www.protectingamerica.org](http://www.protectingamerica.org), approved at the 2007 Annual Meeting.

**24. Civil Air Patrol SOU.** Mr. Knott discussed an e-mail inquiry from a CAP director in Tennessee asking about interfacing with REACT International. Mr. Knott responded, but has not been able to make successful contact. Mr. Toth offered assistance with this project. Discussion held about specs for the types of narrow band FM radios CAP is changing over to later this year. Discussion held about learning more what REACT could be providing to CAP before approaching them for SOU talks.

**25. Highway Watch.** It was proposed that RI officially support the Highway Watch program – part of Homeland Security [www.HighwayWatch.com](http://www.HighwayWatch.com) – geared toward transportation professionals (drivers, etc.). REACT members would participate by taking online training and become part of this observer network. Recommendation that this activity be included in RI Five-Year Plan. Free training is available online and free training CD is available for local training use. Program is intended to train radio operators to watch out for strange occurrences on the road. **Motion** Mr. Manlove, 2d Mr. Cooper, to adopt this program and promote it to local Teams. **Motion passed.**

**26. Director Elections.** Mr. Kaplan reported that the ballots received at the RI office had been counted with the following results:

- Region 2 – Don Manlove re-elected

- Region 5 – no candidate.

- Region 8 – Joseph Toth elected

**Motion** Mr. Manlove, 2d Mr. Kaster, to determine that Bylaws Section 5.6 means that filling vacancies for reasons other than an increase in number of Directors will be for the remaining unexpired term. **Motion passed.** **Motion** Mr. Manlove, 2d

Mr. Roberts, to appoint Larry Fry (Wis.) Region 5 Director. **Motion passed.**

**27. Directors Who Have Missed Two Consecutive Meetings.** Directors having missed two consecutive meetings, Kenny Jagdeosingh (Region 9) and Fred Lanshe (Region 1), were deemed to have resigned in accordance with Bylaws Article V, Section 5.5(b). Board will fill vacancies at a future date. President Cooper announced creation of the position of West Indies Envoy, and appointment of Mr. Jagdeosingh (Trinidad and Tobago) to fill the position. A non-voting position, the incumbent

**MEMORY LANE:** How good is YOUR memory? Here is another of Jim Koritzky's RI convention photos. Where is this one from? Last month: left column, top to bottom: Omaha, Nebraska, 1995; San Diego, California, 1993; Omaha. Right column, Madison, Wisconsin, 1998; Corona, California, 2005.



If you have photos you'd like to share, contact Jim Koritzky by phone or fax at 207-942-8067. If you disagree with our identifications of conventions, also let Jim know.

will not be required to attend Board meetings. Other individuals are being considered for appointment as envoys from their respective countries.

**28. Future Meetings.**

--**Motion** Mr. Manlove, 2d Mr. Kaster, to hold the 2008 Annual Meeting 7-8 March 2008, starting at 8 a.m. at the Corporation's office in Suitland, Md. **Motion passed.**

-- **Motion Mr. Cooper**, 2d Mr. Manlove, to hold a special Board Meeting on 19 July 2008, in Nashville, Tenn. Drury Inn has offered to freeze room rates at this year's rate if the date and location was decided before the end of this meeting. It was noted that Nashville is within driving distance for most Directors, and Drury Inn has provided outstanding accommodations. **Motion passed.**

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous.

*Meeting adjourned sine die at 5:55 p.m., Saturday, 25 August 2007.*

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 on the REACT International, Inc., web site [www.reactintl.org](http://www.reactintl.org) or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope with \$0.89 U.S. postage (for U.S. delivery) to REACT International, Inc., 5210 Auth Road, Suite 403, Suitland, MD 20746-4330.)*





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 /s/ Norman L. Kaplan, Business Manager Date: September 12, 2007

## Turn Up The Voltage!

**Bob Leef**  
**Crest REACT unit 1**  
**Ex RI EVP**

Much of *REACT*'s original purpose has changed. For many years from our 1962 beginning it was to provide motorists with help by Citizen's Band radio. Some time around the turn of the century CB declined significantly as cell phone use increased. Now *REACT* effort goes in three different directions:

Radio assistance by using CB, GMRS, FRS, MURS, Ham, VHF Marine, and/or whatever else may exist for Communications for community events and Emergency preparedness

None of these directions assist the vast numbers of people that CB alone did when it was popular. At that time, the single *REACT* focus of CB monitoring successfully coincided with the growth and popularity of this two-way radio product. Here is where we attached our volunteer effort and interest. It was purpose-driven, gratifying, and sometimes even exciting. It was our single common thread.

Today we are without any single popular product and focused purpose connected to it. Yes, our mission statement is still on the correct wavelength of public service communications how-

ever our volunteer efforts are now diffused and therefore greatly reduced. Probably many people would agree *REACT* is operating at low voltage.

Remember the exciting and successful combination of widespread CB use together with lots of monitoring? Does required monitoring even happen today? On which radio? A current 16 page Radio Shack flyer shows only one (1) two-way radio! What does this say about public popularity of our interest?

As our membership continues to decline year after year, we clearly need good suggestions about the future of *REACT* and what changes to make if we are to continue. What technology or different course would put us back on the path to success and growth? Or, shall we modify our mission or find a new product or organization/agency to associate our efforts with – something that is growing, not declining.

It's time to give our "Five-Year Plan" committee some input. Let's turn up the voltage!

## Another View of the FCC

**Ron McCracken,**  
**KG4CVL, WPZX486**

**Kudos to the FCC.** In recent months, it has denied a sexual

predator's application for an amateur radio license. Over the same period, it also denied an application to renew an amateur license. The applicant had been cited repeatedly for causing interference, using indecent language, etc. Evidently, he thought a license made all this okay?

"Oh, but these are amateur operators and have nothing to do with *REACT*," you say. Think again. Increasing numbers of *REACT* members now hold amateur licenses. Important safety communications on behalf of their Teams could be endangered by such interference.

Remember too, that an action by the FCC affecting any radio band has spin-off benefits for *REACT*ers. Word gets around. Others with similar thoughts will hesitate when they hear that the FCC means business. That's good, because such as these are unlikely to confine their disruptive activities to one particular band.

We are first radio operators. The same code of conduct is essential to good operations on GMRS, amateur, CB, MURS, Marine, FRS, etc. When the FCC rids us of another 'bad apple' in any band, every operator in every band owes it a debt of gratitude.

This time we are doubly indebted to the FCC.

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Norman L. Kaplan, N3LDM	(301) 316-290 <n.kaplan@reactintl.org>	Treasurer
Chuck Thompson, N5IAG	HP (214) 368-8223 <c.thompson@reactintl.org> Fax (214) 691-2322	General Counsel

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Vacant		Region 9 International Teams
Kenny Jagdeosingh	HP/Fax (868) 628-2886 Work (868) 628 2886 <k.jagdeosingh@reactintl.org> Mobile (868) 762 9021	West Indies Envoy

