



# The REACTer



Wide Vigilance Drill – P 13

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## 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



SKYWARN



### **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 Fdn.  
Cancer Society  
M. S. Society  
Audubon Society  
V.O.A.D  
State Agencies  
Humane Society  
American Diabetes Association  
National Multiple Sclerosis 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**

**REACT International,  
Inc.**

**Officers**

**President:** Don Manlove  
**Executive Vice-President:**  
Ed Greany, KB6DOL  
**Secretary:** Lee W. Besing, N5NTG  
**Treasurer:**  
Norman Kaplan, N3LDM

**Board of Directors**

**Chairman:**  
John Knott, N4JTK  
**Vice-Chairman:**  
Stan Walters

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**Region 2:** Don Manlove  
**Region 3:** John Knott, N4JTK  
**Region 4:** Ed Kerby, Jr.  
**Region 5:** Larry Fry, K9FRY  
**Region 6:** B.F. "Frank" Jennings, N7TRL  
**Region 7:** Robert Kaster, K5MIE  
**Region 8:** Joseph Toth, KG6BJJ  
**Region 9:** Kenny Jagdeosingh

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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

By Don Manlove,  
President, RI



## Members of REACT;

**By the time** you get this edition of the *REACT*er, the holidays will most likely have passed. Here at the RI office, we hope they were good to you and yours as they have been to us and ours. With the winter blues upon us, and parts of the world going into severe weather, this would be a great time to improve your level of preparedness training as dictated by your Team, county/state/ local EMA, or yourself. The training web sites of the various government agencies, *REACT*'s member only area web site, and others, just to name a few, are a good place to start. If you need help or guidance, you can send in a request by email, phone, SKYPE, or any of the other ways to get in touch with your regional Director, the Training committee, or the officers of RI. We are here to assist you.

## 10 New Teams in 2008

Did you know that from March 2008 to the end of the 2009, that we have had 10 new Teams join the *REACT* family? They are Team #6135, 6136, 6137, 6138, 6139, 6140, 6141, 6142, 6143, 6144, and 6145.

Please join me in welcoming these members in to *REACT* International.

## Renewal Paperwork Due Now

By now, all Teams should have the renewal paperwork the office sent out in October / November. If not, please call the office, and the staff (Dora) will get one out to you ASAP. When filling out the forms, please print or type all information that is needed. Doing this would help us in the office to avoid errors when we are processing the renewals, by not having to decipher your handwriting.

*Just a reminder, we have lowered the dues for family members (US / Canada rates) for 2009 by \$3, from \$18 to \$15, and any additional family members are only \$5 each. What a bargain!*

## We Need Your Current Email Account!

If you or anyone on your Team has an email account, please let us know when you renew or if you change your address. Email simply gives us another avenue to communicate information to you, the member of *REACT* International, in a timely fashion. We are here for you, to try and provide you with the tools you need to run things more smoothly during any function / situation that your Team/Council may face. You will have noticed that we are stressing the use of email for official contacts with your directors, RI committees, or the office. This saves time and money for all of us.

## Compliance with Record Keeping Policy

After your Team has finished filling out the renewal packet, from *REACT* International, do not forget to also enclose the required Team paperwork that is needed to be maintained in the office. If you will look at your information sheet from us, or look at the policies of *REACT* International, you can see what is needed. Starting in June 2009, the office will be going thru each Team file to generate a list of Teams that have not complied with this policy. This information will be given to your Director, who in turn, will be in touch with the Teams that are not in compliance.

If you know that your Team or council hasn't been doing this for the past few years, please start now to get in compliance. If you have any questions as to what is needed, please read the policy and then contact your Regional Director or the office for help.

## Members Only Area / Blog Area

You should visit the members only part of the web site for information and downloads, and the blog area where you the member can input or ask for information of your fellow *REACT*ers, that have been placed there by the computer committee.

How do you get on the members only area?

<[www.reactintl.org/members](http://www.reactintl.org/members)>

Remember us asking for your email address for RI? This is

how we will send to you the current user ID and password for the month. Please remember that *REACT* International will never give out, sell, pass along, or lend your email address that you have entrusted to us, to anyone, person, or company. We have a very strict Privacy Policy (policy #3-21) that we follow to the letter. You can view this policy at the member's area on our web site, or contact me direct, and I will forward it to you.

### **Free Dues?**

Are you aware of a standing board policy which basically says that if any member serves as chairman of a RI committee, that his/her Team may not have to pay dues for that person to RI during the following year? For more info, please send me an email at: <d.manlove@reactintl.org>.

### **New Committee Chairpersons / Members**

#### **MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & RETENTION**

**COMMITTEE** has a new member, Mr. C.L. Hankins, of Central Indiana. Please join us in welcoming him to this very important committee. Contact C.L. at: <c.hankins@reactintl.org>.

#### **COMPUTER SERVICES COMMITTEE**

also has a few new members, since Mr. Stowers has moved on to other things with his Team. First off, please help me in welcoming our new Committee Chairperson, Mr. Roy Drury, of Tampa Bay, Fla. and a new committee member, Mr. Mike Cauley of

Orlando Fla. Mr. Lee Besing of San Antonio, Tex. also remains on this committee. You will be seeing some new looks and improvements with the RI web site that are taking shape in the background during first quarter of 2009. Contact the committee at: <computer1@reactintl.org>.

**DESIGN COMMITTEE** is now chaired by Mr. George Homes of NC. The responsibilities of this new committee include making recommendations to the Board for the design a possible 50th anniversary patch and possibly updating the existing *REACT* logo / patch. Please pass along any ideas that you or a family member may have for the new look. I am sure George would love to hear from you all. Contact George at: <g.holmes@reactintl.org>.

### **50th Anniversary Convention Plans**

Have you heard, the Indiana Council has requested information on hosting the convention in 2012 (the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *REACT*) If they are selected, they are going to need help from all of us to make it a great convention. I hope that wherever it is, we all can take part.

### **2009 Budget & Fund Raising Plans**

Your Board of Directors formed a new Finance Committee in the fall of 2008, to develop a budget for 2009 and come up with some fund raising ideas that will enable us to take advantage of that offer of matching funds mentioned via

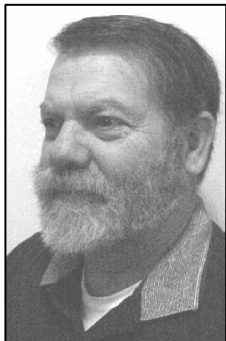
email during the last quarter of 2008. The initial proposal for a matching fund raising program was not accepted by the board, following much discussion and feedback from you the member, but a new proposal arose from that discussion and we are confident that we can make it happen if the Teams support the plan when announced by the committee. We are confident that this new committee, consisting of the Treasurer Norman Kaplan, Directors Stan Walters and Frank Jennings, plus member Ron Mayes (former RI Executive Director), will be proposing some new ideas that will benefit us not only at the RI level, but perhaps even at the local Team or Council level. Of course, the only true long term solution to our financial condition is for all Teams to attract and keep more members, and for us to get more new Teams.

As always, please keep those cards, letters, photos, emails, and phone calls coming. We love to hear from you. Please let us know what is happening in your neck of the woods. If you have any ideas and or concerns, please contact me at <d.manlove@reactintl.org>, 804-439-3017, or USPS @ 4019 West Dogwood Ave. Chester, VA 23831-7311

And, again to you and yours,  
Happy New Year  
Don E. Manlove  
President

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**From the  
Executive  
Vice President  
REACT International,  
Inc.  
Ed Greany**



**I want to wish** every-

one a safe

holiday season and wish for a more fruitful and prosperous 2009. Many *REACT* members are on a fixed or retirement income and the recent stock market declines certainly do not help with the household budgets. Your Board of Directors has done its small part to help by actually reducing dues in some categories. The Family and Junior classes of membership declined to only \$15 as an enticement to sign up additional members of our family. If your spouse is not a *REACT* member why not take this inexpensive way to sign them up?

The financial condition of *REACT* International is also under scrutiny. *REACT* has been operating on a deficit budget for two years and it has caught up with us. Not unlike some businesses and even governmental offices, *REACT* is suffering a financial hardship which will possibly result in a decline in some services we previously

enjoyed. Things such as the *REACT*er every other month will probably be reduced to quarterly issues. At this writing, this is being reviewed. Watch your Team Topics for additional information or ask your Regional Director. They are all listed on the *REACT* International website:

<[www.REACTINTL.org](http://www.REACTINTL.org)> by clicking Board of Directors in the menu.

Meanwhile, I would like to have more input from local Teams and more conversation between *REACT* International and the Team or member level. Your officers and directors need to know your concerns and opinions. Sometimes you might address an issue to your Team officers but the message may stop at that level or require input from the national or international level. Most questions can probably be addressed by the Team president or Region Director but if that inquiry needs more information, please contact headquarters and allow one of us to help.

One of the easiest ways to do that is through e-mail. Today is the age of technology. Electronic technology has come a long way over the past decades and especially over the last decade. I remember when we used to inquire if you had a telephone. Today, literally everyone has a telephone if not two or three and that doesn't even include the cell phones most people now have. Just think back when we considered fax machines as being

unique. Today, many computers and printers have them built in standard. E-mail and personal computers are now becoming standard in society. The postal service raises postage rates because of less first class mail being delivered. They lose money with each e-mail we send. Communicating via e-mail is the fastest and best way to communicate with *REACT* International. It is fast and allows a record of the conversation. It also allows you to print that response for accurate archiving and it is cheaper saving *REACT* the postage that normally would be required to answer your inquiry.

By the same token, sending the *REACT*er would be more economical sending it electronically. For years now, the *REACT*er Magazine has been published on the *REACT* International website for your reading in an archive. It is even in living color instead of the black and white issue you get in the mail. It allows you to research or browse back issues easier rather than asking has anyone seen your *REACT*er from last June laying around. Sending you the *REACT*er Magazine electronically allows *REACT* to save lots of income in printing and mailing expense. Each year we ask during renewal to update your personal data including e-mail addresses. Several times we sent an e-mail regarding very important *REACT* information that simply could not wait until the next *REACT*er issue. If we have your e-mail address it makes the process faster, eas-

ier, and cheaper. If you don't have a computer, check with your library for a public access computer. They are usually free. Please communicate to us your feelings on this subject. Your Board of Directors and officers need to know.

## EDITOR'S CORNER

Don Tarbet

As you will note, this issue could be titled, "notes from headquarters." With the continuing dialog about directions for *REACT*, it is felt necessary to get information to the members so that they can make informed decisions and contact their representative to the Board of Directors.

That is also why the last two issues have been so late: we needed to include some important material that wasn't available earlier.

We hope you will read the communications from Board and Officers. Make sure you read the material supplied by Lee Besing on the electronic newsletter and changes in the RI website.

But still, we haven't neglected the field entirely. Congratulations to Los Angeles County *REACT* for the recognition received at both the local and national level. Congratulations.

We hope to have more from the field for you with the next issue. After all, what the Teams do is our strength and our reason for existence.

## 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**

*We welcome your ideas (though we much prefer complete stories), but decisions as to when and whether to publish must remain ours. If you want immediate feedback, you must so specify and include, in the case of hardcopy submissions, a stamped, self-addressed return envelope. Things do fall through the cracks, so sometimes a note of inquiry is in order.*

## Monthly Electronic Newsletters

By Lee Besing,  
Computer Services  
Committee

**In an effort** to keep our membership base informed, we started using this newsletter format in September and October to send out monthly news. Some months will be shorter or longer. In between times, as issues pop up unexpectedly, we'll likely send out

another newsletter or two, but we promise not to clog up your email box with announcements. One of advantages to receiving this newsletter from *REACT* International on a monthly basis, is getting the "members only" access codes. Your board has chosen to use this method of distributing the monthly access codes to the "members only" area of the website, so if you don't stay in touch with us, you'll have difficulty gaining access to those resources.

## Supplement the *REACTer*, Not Replace It

This electronic newsletter is intended to supplement what you get in the *REACTer*, not replace it, but hopefully this method will allow you to be kept better informed, in a timelier manner, than waiting for your *REACTer* to arrive in the mail every couple of months.

## Naming Contest

Our PR Chairman, Ron McCracken has suggested we need a snappier name for the electronic newsletter. Send your suggestions to:

<[publicity@reactintl.org](mailto:publicity@reactintl.org)> and let's see what you can come up with. We'll post the finalists in one of the next issues, and you'll see the winning name once we change to it.

## We Need Your E-Mail Address

If you know of another member who hasn't been getting the newsletter sent out during the last few months, have them send their name and email address (*REACT* members only)

to the RI office now rather than waiting for the next annual Team renewal cycle. If you change your email address, or know of another member whose address has changed, please keep us in the loop so that your messages don't bounce back undelivered. We have currently been sending this electronic newsletter to only about 750 *REACT* members, which is less than 40% of our members. If your email address is in the database, you will automatically receive a copy of any electronic newsletters sent out.

### **The Fine Print...**

Please add the domain <reactintl.org> to your email program's anti-spam white list if you use such a method. For now, these newsletters will be sent direct by the *REACT* secretary using his official email account, <l.besing@reactintl.org>, so if you find this message in your junk mail folder, please create a filter or add this address to your "ok" list to prevent future messages from ending up there by accident. Also, this type of email message format is using embedded graphics, not just plain text, and some email programs may which will refuse to the images. In such case, you can usually open the message in your browser to view it, or contact me and we'll send you a PDF version instead. You can "opt-out" at any time, by replying back to the sender with a note asking to be unsubscribed.

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## **New REACTintl.org Web Features**

By Lee Besing, Computer Services Committee

**The project** to revamp the *REACT* International web site hit a logistics snag after our new primary webmaster in charge of the project encountered a serious personal family emergency which prevented him from completing this project, but as we always say in our training, "take care of yourself and your family first." The project to revamp the site will continue, but it might take a bit longer than originally planned. But in the meantime, we've added a couple of new features which we hope that you will enjoy using.

**Members Only Area** - We'll be posting stuff that only the members should know, like current financial reports, membership statistics, restricted access documents, etc.. Passwords will change regularly on a monthly basis, and these member only emails will be the only way you will know what password to use in order to get access.  
<[www.reactintl.org/members](http://www.reactintl.org/members)>

**Blog Area** - Read and then post your own comments or responses to topics that *REACT* International directors, officers and committee chairs have posted.  
<[www.reactintl.org/blog](http://www.reactintl.org/blog)>

## **Member Only Area**

The suggestion of having a "member only" area was one of the cornerstones of the new proposed web site design. This area will be have restricted access by requiring the input of a user ID and password.

The Board and Officers have been discussing how to best distribute materials to the general membership, such as untouched financial statements, membership renewal stats, or internal documents that would be inappropriate for distribution to non-members. This area is still highly under construction, subject to change from day to day as new material is added.

Each month, we'll send out an email newsletter to the members, just like this one, and in that newsletter we'll disclose the current user ID and password to be used, and the date it will take effect.

**Financial Reports:** We've already started posting monthly financial reports, untouched, direct from the QuickBooks report generator for both the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Report. Current reports are dated 10/14/2008.

**Membership Figures:** We'll be posting the latest membership figures so you know how many Teams and members we have registered.

(cont. p. 15)



# RI Minutes: 3 Meetings

## **REACT International, Inc.**

### **Board of Directors**

#### **Electronic Meeting Minutes**

**September 07, 2008 – 7pm EDT**

#### **Directors / Officers Present**

John Knott, Chairman, Region 3  
Don Manlove, President, Region 2  
Ed Greany, Exec. VP  
Lee Besing, Secretary  
Norman Kaplan, Treasurer  
Stan Walters, Region 1  
Ed Kirby, Region 4 - see minutes re appointment, item #4 below  
Larry Fry, Region 5  
B.F. Jennings, Region 6  
Bob Kaster, Region 7  
Joseph Toth, Region 8

#### **Directors Absent**

Kenny Jagdeogsingh, Region 9 (technical difficulties with Skype)

#### **Officers Absent**

Chuck Thompson, General Counsel (technical difficulties with Skype)

#### **Visitors**

Johnny Stowers, visitor region 8, California, Computer Services Chair (through item #7)  
Ed Kirby, visitor region 4, Ohio- see minutes re appointment, item #4 below  
Roger Barton, visitor region 4, Indiana *REACT* Council  
Sue Barton, visitor region 4, Indiana *REACT* Council  
Michael Cauley, visitor region 3, Florida

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting called to order @ 7:00 pm ET by Chairman Knott. Chairman Knott asked each participant to use their title to request recognition by the chairman for the floor before speaking, and to use the mute button if they needed to carry on a side conversation or phone call. Meeting was held using a Skype Conference Call after proper written notice had been provided to all board members and officers. One director and one officer attempted to connect, but apparently experienced technical difficulties as indicated above.
2. **Roll Call.** Secretary conducted roll call by region to identify who was participating in this meeting.
3. **Quorum.** Secretary confirmed quorum has been met for this meeting with 7 directors present out of 9 (president is also a serving director for region 2). Officers present were President (included in above tally), Executive VP, Secretary and Treasurer. Visitors listed above, including nominee for region 4 vacancy.
4. **Region 4 Vacancy.** President Manlove introduced Ed Kirby from Ohio as a candidate for vacant Region 4 Director position. Mr. Kirby confirmed he would accept if appointed. Each director was asked to speak on the proposed appointment, which would be until the next election period in 2009. Email had been sent to all directors with Mr. Kirby's qualifications and background prior to the meeting start.  
**Motion made** by Stan Walters, Region 1, second by Don Manlove, Region 2 to appoint Ed Kirby to the remaining term of Region 4 Director until the next election. **Motion passed.**
5. **Indiana REACT Council.** Letter was received from Indiana *REACT* Council president asking for guidance from the RI Board on a matter involving dispute between two Teams in their council. Discussion held. Chairman Knott asked Regional 4 Director Ed Kirby to work with the Indiana Council and the affected Team(s) to attempt resolution at the Council level, in accordance with established RI policies.
6. **Management Companies.** Discussion held regarding outside professional managements companies to manage *REACT* International Business. Rates ranged from \$25/hour labor or higher, plus expenses.
7. **Proposal to relocate REACT International Office.** Extensive discussion held regarding proposal by President Manlove to relocate RI

office operations from Suitland to his residence in Virginia as a temporary measurer to reduce overhead expenses involved in the office operations. Proposed to use mailing address of UPS store with mail forwarding for 1 year from old address. Phone #'s forwarded to new location for up to 18 months. This proposed move would eliminate 100% of the normal labor costs and office rental expenses, other than annual box rent (outlined) for a box at the local postal vendor (The UPS Store) plus a mail forwarding fee (1 time fee) and some phone charges. Some equipment leases (copier, credit card, postage) may need to be continued if they cannot be terminated. Most day-to-day office operations would be conducted by President Manlove, his wife, plus local *REACT* volunteers. Effort will be made to convert as much to online electronic means. Current staff (paid & volunteer) has NOT agreed to relocate.

Current financial operations show an \$18k deficit by end of year with no changes. Chairman Knott advised that information regarding the financial status of *REACT* International will be included in the Team Topics being mailed next week to all Teams. Director Jennings asked about the status of the Life Membership balance with our investment firm (Smith Barney). According to recent financial reports from Smith Barney, *REACT* International's investment account has apparently "lost" \$6k in principal due to stock market fluctuations during 2008 YTD.

Discussion held regarding any actual cost savings if we converted *REACT*er from paper only to electronic only, but concerns were stated regarding lack of email addresses for the majority of registered members at present time. Option already exists to allow members to "opt out" of the paper copy and to pull it down electronically from the website. Consensus was to make no change. Team Topics will include an offer by various persons to establish a Matching Funds Donation program.

Director Kaster stated his objection to taking action (to relocate office) until after Team

Topics has been mailed and Teams have time to respond to the TT request for help from the local Teams. Discussion held regarding timing of move in relation to current office lease (expires 12/31/2008, deadline for not renewing is 11/30/2008) and the renewal period. Payment of current office lease is required thru the end of 2008.

**Motion made** by Ed Kirby, Region 4, second by Stan Walters, Region 1, to accept the proposal by President Manlove to relocate *REACT* International office operations from Suitland to his residence in Virginia as a temporary measurer to reduce overhead expenses involved in the office operations. B.F. Jennings, Region 6 Abstained, Bob Kaster, Region 7 Nay, All other Region Directors voted Aye. **Motion Passed.**

Treasurer Norman Kaplan pointed out that a copy of the RI database needs to be in on a dedicated computer at the new office location. President Manlove stated that he would provide a computer for that purpose until the equipment from the office has been relocated. Secretary Besing stated he would work with Computer Services Committee to insure transfer of a copy of current database for that purpose. Secretary Besing suggested that we should use the new mailing address from the beginning with the renewal packets being mailed to Teams, and renewals should be sent to the new location for entry and updates. Computer Services Committee Chair Johnny Stowers submitted his resignation effective immediately, citing his unwillingness to train new office staff after the move. Director Kaster read a resignation letter received during the meeting from General Counsel Chuck Thompson announcing his immediate resignation as General Counsel.

8. **Google Grant Program.** Treasurer Kaplan discussed potential program from Google which would require some changes to the *REACT* International website which may result in "In-Kind Grants" in the form of free advertising for *REACT* International through Google. Mr. Kaplan to forward this information to Mr. Besing for review and possible action. Partici-

pation in this program may be made possible thru *REACT* International's membership in Techsoup.org.

9. **Navy-Marine Corps MARS Texas MOU.** Secretary Besing asked if the *REACT* International Board had read the MOU between Navy – Marine Corps MARS and *REACT* in Texas. Discussion held. No action required at this time, but a national agreement is of interest with the leadership of MARS between them and *REACT* International.
10. **Correspondence received.** Director Kaster read an email received during meeting from General Counsel Thompson regarding the planned move to Virginia. Copies will be forwarded to all board members and officers by Mr. Thompson following conclusion of this meeting.
11. **Goebel Award - Motion made** by Director Jennings Region 6, second by Director Manlove Region 2, to have the board award the Goebel Award to Johnny Stowers (Calif.) for the many years of services rendered in support of the computer services. **Motion passed.** Mr. Stowers had been the person who designed the current membership database and has been supervising it for the past ten years. Mr. Stowers has also been the chairman of the computer services committee and lead web master for many years.
12. **Grants.** Director Jennings discussed proposal to apply for grants to underwrite the development of a new training program for use of GMRS / FRS radios by the general population / schools, etc. There would be an upfront minimal cost for the grant writer to conduct initial work, plus a small percentage of any grants received. The grant writer in question is already working with local / regional Emergency Agencies in Washington State.
13. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm ET, sine die.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Lee Besing*

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***REACT* International, Inc.  
Special Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Held November 15, 2008 @ 3pm ET  
Electronic Meeting via Skype**

Directors / Officers Present

- John Knott, Region 3, Chairman
- Don Manlove, Region 2, President
- Stan Walters, Region 1
- Ed Kerby, Jr., Region 4
- Larry Fry, Region 5
- B.F. Jennings, Region 6
- Bob Kaster, Region 7
- Joseph Toth, Region 8
- Kenny Jagdeogsingh, Region 9
- Ed Greany, Exec. VP
- Lee Besing, Secretary

Directors / Officers Absent

- Norman Kaplan, Treasurer

Visitors:

- Michael Cauley (FL)
- Roy Drury (FL)
- Johnny Stowers (CA)
- Charles A. Thompson, (TX)
- CL Hankins (IN)
- Sue Barton (IN)
- John Mahon (MA)

1. **Call to Order** at 3:07pm ET by Chairman Knott via Skype. Chairman Knott made opening comments to welcome everyone present and repeated the previously announced time limit of 2hrs for this meeting. Agendas had been distributed electronically prior to meeting.
2. **Roll Call** was conducted by Secretary Besing.
3. **Quorum** – All 9 director positions are filled, President is also a director so only 9 votes possible at start of meeting. Non voting officers present included Executive VP, and Secretary. A quorum was established with 9 of 9 possible votes.
4. **Minutes** – Motion made by Region 1, second by Region 2 to approve the minutes from the September 9 meeting. **Motion passed.**

5. **Treasurers Report** – Copies of the Smith Barney statements and bank statements were distributed via email. Treasurer not present at this meeting.
6. **Relocation of Office Revisited – Motion made** by Region 7, second by Region 8, to rescind the previous decision to relocate the office to President Manlove’s residence in Virginia. Discussion held. Illinois law regarding conflict of interest was read by Mr. Thompson, with opinion that any director who is directly involved with the transaction may not vote. A copy of the relevant text (805 ILCS 105/108.60, Chapter 32, par. 108.60) was distributed by Secretary in PDF format to all participants during the meeting via email. President Manlove withdrew his offer to host the office in his home. **Motion passed.** Region 2 Abstained.
7. **Establish Board Finance Committee** – Region 6 recommended that we establish a proposed 2009 Budget prior to 2009 ABM. Bylaws state that this committee shall consist of the Treasurer and 2 other directors and shall present a budget to the board for approval by the Annual Board Meeting. Chairman Knott appointed Director Walters and Director Jennings to work with Treasurer Kaplan on this committee.

**Motion made** by Region 2, second by Region 7, to confirm financial committee appointment made by Chairman. **Motion passed.**

Discussion held regarding by Secretary that approximately \$16.6k may be needed for remainder of year. Some bills had been delayed due to lack of funds.

**Motion made** by Region 7, second by Region 1, that the treasurer be directed to take funds from the (non-life member) Smith Barney Account to pay current payroll and bills. **Motion passed.**

**REACTer Costs / Number of Issues** – Secretary Besing recommended going to Quarterly issues for 2009, and phase into

“electronic only” version in 2010 (with paper subscriptions available for extra cost?) Discussion held regarding timing of currently planned November / December 2008 issue, or January / February 2009 issue. Secretary Besing stated we would need to amend our USPS permit to reflect a change in number of issues being mailed in 2009.

8. **REACT FRS Program Review** – Region 6 asked if there would be any liability created by our support of this program. Discussion held. Mr. Thompson to advise board to be aware of need to report income as “non-member” sources, question about product liability issues. Exec. VP Greany reported there was no profit anticipated from this program, only the PR value, and Crest *REACT* has provided the initial seed money. 520 radios were ordered initially, warranty provided by Midland Radio. Mr. Greany said a sales tax permit had been secured from state of California since shipping is being done from that location, and any taxes collected will be paid to the state.
9. **Set Date for 2009 Annual Board Meeting – Motion made** by Region 2, second by Region 1 that the Annual Board Meeting be held in the RI Offices at Suitland, MD on March 6-8, 2009. **Motion passed.**

**Motion made** by Region 6, second by Region 1, to amend the date of the 2009 ABM to be March 13-14, 2009 to allow Region 9 director to avoid local conflict. **Motion passed.**

**Motion made** by Region 1, second by Region 2, to postpone discussion of Mr. Thompson’s funding proposal until 8:00pm ET November 30. **Motion passed.**

10. **Meeting adjourned** at 5:23pm ET on November 15, 2008, sine die.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Lee Besing, Secretary*

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**REACT International, Inc.**  
**Special Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**Held November 30, 2008 @ 3PM ET**  
**Electronic Meeting via Skype**

**Directors / Officers Present:**

- John Knott, Region 3, Chairman
- Don Manlove, Region 2, President
- Stan Walters, Region 1
- Ed Kerby, Jr., Region 4
- Larry Fry, Region 5
- B.F. Jennings, Region 6
- Bob Kaster, Region 7
- Joseph Toth, Region 8
- Kenny Jagdeogsingh, Region 9
- Ed Greany, Exec. VP
- Lee Besing, Secretary

**Directors / Officers Absent:**

- Norman Kaplan, Treasurer

**Visitors:**

- Michael Cauley (FL)
- Roy Drury (FL)
- Johnny Stowers (CA)
- Charles A. Thompson, (TX)
- Jason Boone (OH)
- CL Hankins (IN)
- Sue Barton (IN)
- Dan Davidson (OH)
- Ron Mayes (KS)
- Brian Gutscher (OH)

11. **Call to Order** at 08:00 ET by Chairman Knott via Skype. Chairman Knott made opening comments to welcome everyone present.

12. **Roll Call** was conducted by Secretary Besing.

13. **Quorum** – All 9 director positions are filled and present for this meeting. President is also a director so only 9 votes possible at start of meeting. Non-voting officers present included Executive VP and Secretary. A quorum was established with 9 of 9 possible votes.

14. **Fund Raising Proposal** – Mr. Thompson stated that his written proposal to the board should stand “as written.”

**Motion made** by Region 7, second by Region 6, that we go into executive session to discuss a quorum issue. **Motion passed.**

Closed Session Items began at 8:04PM ET as follow:

- Mr. Kaster raised his concerns regarding length of membership requirement for a member to serve as a director. Mr. Walter’s current Team membership shows only 2 years of service, not the 3 years specified in the RI Bylaws. Mr. Walters had previously stated he had been a member of a *REACT* Team (from late 1972 thru 1975) that was sponsored by the Jacksonville VFD in Maryland, but there are no written records in the RI offices that go back that far.
- **Motion made** by Region 2, second by Region 8, to recognize Mr. Walter’s service and leadership skills and to make a one time exception to the 3 year service requirement in the bylaws and confirm his appointment as director to Region 1. Discussion held. **Motion failed.**
- **Motion made** by Region 7, second by Region 6, to have the board vote to determine if Mr. Walters was correctly appointed to the board. Discussion held. **Motion failed.**
- **Motion made** by Region 9, second by Region 7, to set aside the previous motion due to confusion over the intent and wording and allow Region 7 to remake the motion. **Motion passed.**
- **Motion made** by Region 7, second by Region 6, that the board declare that

Mr. Walter's appointment was invalid.  
**Motion failed.**

- **Motion made** by Region 2, second by Region 8, to end executive session and return to open session. **Motion passed.**

Return to open meeting @ 9:51PM ET

**Motion made** by Region 5, second by Region 7 to accept the proposal with no amendments.  
**Motion failed.**

Chairman Knott asked Mr. Thompson if he would be willing to consider a modified version of his original proposal. Mr. Thompson declined, saying the proposal was now dead.

Mr. Thompson complained that his original proposal to the board had been shared with the general membership. Chairman Knott replied that the original e-mail message was not exclusive to the board, had been sent to only 8 of the 9 directors by Mr. Thompson, had been sent to only 1 RI officer (out of 3), and had included at least 4 non-board members as part of the original message.

Mr. Thompson then stated that he had \$10k on hand for matching funds available for some sort of fund raising project by *REACT* International and that he would keep those funds available until July 1, 2009. These funds will be held by React Communications Corporation (RCC) until matching funds are raised. RCC will no longer offer to cover the administrative expenses associated with a future campaign. He stated that if we met this goal of \$10k as of July 1, 2009, there would be an additional \$20k donation made available to *REACT* International in 2010.

**Motion made** by Region 1, second by Region 2, that the board establish a committee to work with Mr. Thompson to raise the matching funds prior to his deadline of July 1, 2009.  
**Motion passed.**

Chairman Knott reported that the currently established board finance committee (to set a budget for 2009) be tasked with working with Mr. Thompson in the \$10k fund raising project. Current members of the committee are Treasurer Kaplan, Director Jennings, and Director Walters. Mr. Thompson stated that he would not work with this committee, but would make the original \$10k available for matching.

**Motion made** by Region 1, second by Region 8, that the current board finance committee, along with Mr. Ron Mayes (KS), would be tasked develop a fund raising program to raise the matching funds. Discussion held. Mr. Mayes indicated that he was willing to serve on this committee. Mr. Thompson stated he would not work with this committee, but would make \$10k in matching funds available if we raised the funds independently of his efforts. **Motion passed.**

Mr. Mayes asked permission to submit his ideas for reorganization of *REACT* International in writing to the board. Chairman Knott stated we could call a special electronic board meeting to consider his ideas. Mr. Mayes confirmed that 8PM ET on January 18, 2009 would be convenient for him.

Roll call conducted to confirm availability of directors for calling a special electronic board meeting 8PM ET on January 18, 2009. Written notice will be sent to all board members in compliance with the bylaw requirements.

**Motion made** by Region 4, second by Region 1 to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

15. **Meeting adjourned** at 10:38PM ET on November 30, 2008, sine die.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Lee Besing, Secretary*

# REACT News: Teams and Team Members

## LA County REACT Recognized



## South Central Pennsylvania "Wide Vigilance" Drill By Stan Walters, Director, Region 1

The Pennsylvania South Central Task Force (SCTF) conducted a major disaster exercise on

October 16, 17 and 18 2008. Law enforcement, Fire and EMS personnel descended on Harrisburg from all across the eight county region. Steve Gobat from Harrisburg Area REACT and Stan Walters from York County REACT participated on the Amateur Radio side of the activities.



The drill scenario included both terrorist activity and a natural disaster. An earthquake affecting the entire eight county region put a strain on first responders. Terrorists moved in to capitalize on the confusion. Over the three days, scenarios played out at Three Mile Island Nuclear plant (TMI), Harrisburg International Airport (HIA), Lancaster Airport, The York County 4H Club and the Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC)

On Friday Steve Gobat (KA3PDQ) setup an Amateur Radio TV station and sent live incident pictures to exercise controllers. Steve said, "We used a 1.2GHz yagi which was about 10' long and fed it with 30 watts at 1.2GHz! Talk about your microwave oven!" Fire and EMS personnel tackled earthquake related scenarios including building collapse and Search and Rescue operations at HACC.

Also on Friday Stan Walters (AB3EM) shadowed the chief Exercise Controller at Harrisburg International Airport (HIA) where a terrorist hostage-taking scenario was being conducted. Amateur Radio was used to backup the 800MHz system being used by the Exercise Control staff. The NET control station (NCS) was in located Lancaster. Stan Walters reported, "We used a tripod-mounted

J-pole outside the York County Command vehicle on 2 meters to communicate with NET control and a 440MHz simplex frequency for tactical communications on-scene at HIA.”

The drill was said to have been highly successful, participation from the region was the highest that anyone could remember, and *REACT* was there.

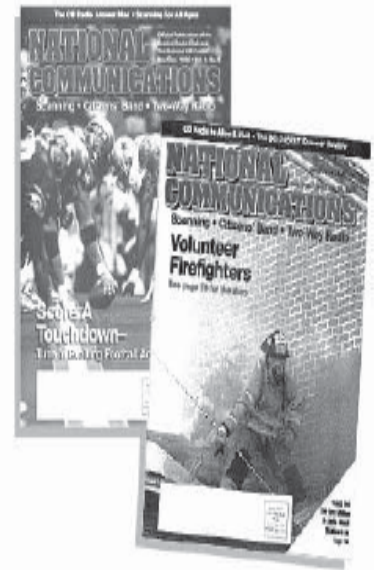
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## Emergency Communications Training

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.

## IDEAS WANTED

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)>

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### (Besing: Website - cont from p. 6)

**Insurance Certificate:** We've posted the current insurance certificate in case you need to prove to someone that you truly do have liability coverage for your Team, or in case you need to request a certificate of coverage naming a third party for your meeting or event location.

**Fillable Forms:** You will be able to download most or all of the annual renewal forms in electronic format, fillable Adobe Acrobat PDF forms that you can complete using your computer and then print out, instead of having to complete them by hand.

**Investment Status:** You may have seen postings on the *REACT-L* list arguing about whether we truly are running out of money or not, so you be the judge. Our investments with Smith Barney have been "somewhat negatively affected" by recent

happenings in the stock market crash, but we were very conservative in our investments, preferring to stay in mutual funds, etc. And as every investor knows, you haven't incurred a real loss unless you decided to sell at that lower price. Your Board of Directors is sitting tight on our investments and working closely with Smith Barney to protect them as well as can be done. We'll try to scan in the Smith Barney statements and make those available to the membership in this section as they become available for scanning.

## What's a Blog?

By now, most of you have heard of the new Internet phenomenon called "the Blog" that is being used to allow folks to post their own thoughts on the web easily, and allow others to respond in kind? And now *REACT* International has its own Blog too. We're using a software package from WordPress to manage this Blog, which made implementing it easier than trying to create this system from scratch.

Registering to be a *REACT* Blog user is free and easy. There was no additional cost incurred by *REACT* International for implementing this new web feature, since our long time web & mail host provider, Digital Fortress, has arranged it for us.

We're still learning and playing with this new feature, so the appearance and some features within it may change over time, but for now, it initially appears to look like a desktop with a keyboard, mouse and cup of coffee on it.

## How do you use a Blog?

Anyone can post a response comment to an existing post, once they have become a registered user on the blog. <[www.REACTintl.org/blog](http://www.REACTintl.org/blog)> is the address.

**Will this be restricted to access by *REACT* members only?** No. Due to the nature of the blog software we are using, while we can restrict who posts new topics, or responds to new topics with comments, we cannot restrict who reads what gets posted. In fact, the software automatically posts the topics to the various blog search engines, providing public exposure for our news. One blog site in Russia picked up a posting made about a Team working a triathlon down in Texas, within less than 24 hours after the story had been posted to our blog.

Currently, we've set up all of the RI Board (directors & officers), along with some of the primary RI committee chairs, to be able to create new topics. Some have been designated as moderators, to ap-

prove new registered members of the blog and their postings, or to fix problems which may occur. We'll be adding other *REACT* members as authorized "authors" to post new topics as time passes. There is no direct relation or connection between our membership database and the database of users on this blog. When you first register in the blog section, it will have to be manually approved by a moderator. Your

first comment will also need to be manually approved, but after that happens, future comments will automatically appear live on the blog without further intervention needed. This security measure helps reduce the chance of Spam being interjected into the site and gives us a measure of control over what gets posted.

**Annual Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**  
**As provided to the United States Postal Service on Form 3526**

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 /s/ Norman L. Kaplan, Business Manager  
 Date: September 19, 2008

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Don Manlove

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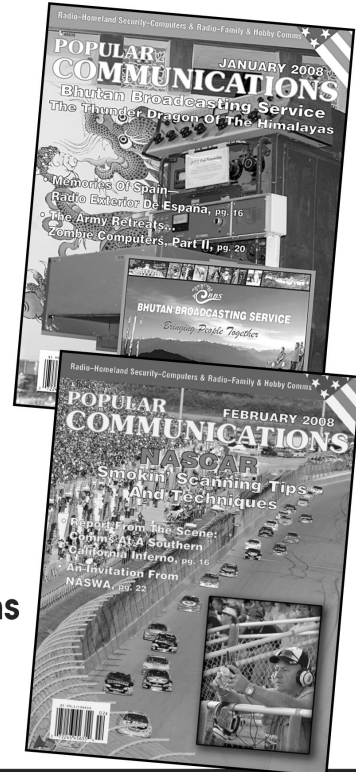
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