



# The REACTer



Election Time – 2

**Election Time – 2**  
**Board Minutes – 7**  
**Teams and Team Members – 15**

## 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.; 5210 Auth Road - Suite 403; Suitland, MD 20746**  
**(301)316-2900 Office (Dora Wilbanks) <reacthq1@reactintl.org> (301)316-2903 Fax**  
**<http://www.reactintl.org>**

## **Contact Directory—OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2008**

### **Officers**

<b><u>Officers</u></b>	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>
Don Manlove	Cell (804) 439-3017 <d.manlove@reactintl.org>	President
Ed Greany, KB6DOL	HP (760) 868-8113 <e.greany@reactintl.org>	Executive Vice President
Charles Thompson N5IAG	HP (214) 368-8223 <ChuckTho@aol.com> Fax: (214) 691-2322	Vice President / General Council
Lee W. Besing, N5NTG	Cell (210) 771-7075 <l.besing@reactintl.org> Fax (866) 261-3598	Secretary
Norman L. Kaplan, N3LDM	HP (301) 316-2900 <n.kaplan@reactintl.org>	Treasurer, Assistant Secretary

### **Board of Directors**

<b><u>Board of Directors</u></b>	<b><u>Contact</u></b>	<b><u>Title/Region Assigned</u></b>
Stan Walters, AB3EM	HP (717) 235-7826 <s.walters@reactintl.org>	Region 1 ME, VT, NH, MA, CT, RI, NY, PA
Don Manlove	See above	Region 2 DE, NJ, MD, VA, KY, WV
John T. Knott, N4JTK	HP (321)438-5952 <j.knott@reactintl.org>	<b>Chairman of the Board</b> , Region 3 TN, NC, SC, MS, AL, GA, FL
Ed Kerby, Jr.	HP (419) 227-3334 Cell: (419) 979-3816 <e.kerby@reactintl.org>	Region 4 MI, IN, OH
Laurence O. "Larry" Fry, K9FRY	HP (608) 752-4547 Fax (608) 757-2379 <l.fry@reactintl.org>	Region 5 ND, SD, NE, MN, IA, WI, IL
B.F "Frank" Jennings, N7TRL	HP/Fax (360) 779-4125 <b.jennings@reactintl.org>	Region 6 AK, HI, WA, OR, ID, MT, WY
Robert Kaster, Jr., K5MIE	HP (405) 735- 8577 <r.kaster@reactintl.org>	<b>Vice Chairman</b> : Region 7 AR, LA, NM, CO, KS, MO, OK, TX
Joseph Toth	HP (760) 242-0886 <j.toth@reactintl.org>	Region 8 CA, NV, UT, AZ Region 9
Kenny Jagadeosingh	HP/Fax (868) 628-2886 Work (868) 628 2886 <k.jagadeosingh@reactintl.org>	International Teams



**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

**Region 1:** Stan Walters  
**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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Election Time – 2

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# ELECTION TIME

## ***Region Director Elections*** **- #1, #4, #7**

**From Lee Besing's E-Letter**

**In 2009, three Regions (1,4, and 7) will be electing directors.** Regional Director positions are for 3-year terms. Regions are rotated in terms of election years, to keep continuity on the RI Board, so every three years, another set of 3 regions is up for election. Any REACT member 18 and older, who has been a member of REACT for at least 3 years and has demonstrated leadership skills at the Team / council or other non-profit agency level, is eligible to run for the board. In order to be elected, the winning candidate must receive the most votes from the Teams in his region. But even in the case of a non-contested election, the candidate must still receive at least one vote from a Team in order to be elected.

**Only Teams may cast a vote, and there is only 1 vote per Team.** It is very important that your Team cast a vote if you are in one of these three regions. If you have not received your Team's ballot in the mail yet, please contact the RI Office via email or phone to request a new one. Please check your Team's P.O. Box for this envelope before contacting the RI office. Reports were received today from Teams in Region 4 receiving their envelope today (April 30th).

**Note: If any region fails to elect a director,** the bylaws require that the remaining directors on the RI Board appoint someone from that region to fill the vacancy at a regular or specially called board meeting. The Board is not required to appoint the person who had run for election, although typically that has been the case in the past.

**Ballots were mailed mid-April to all renewed Teams in the following regions:**

- **Region 1** (Includes Teams in USA States of ME, VT, NH, MA, CT, RI, NY, PA)
- **Region 4** (Includes Teams in USA States of MI, IN, OH)
- **Region 7** (Includes Teams in USA States of AR, LA, NM, CO, KS, MO, OK, TX)

*Please note your Team ballot for voting details -- Ed*

**Running for election in Region 1** is Stan Walters, AB3EM, of Pennsylvania. Stan is the incumbent director, having been appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board in November 2007. Stan is running unopposed.

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**Name: Stanton Lee Walters**

**Phone: 717-235-7826**

**Address: 26 Essex Circle Dr.  
Shrewsbury, PA 17361**

**Email: abacuspc@comcast.net**

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### Stantan Walters' Bio / Statement...

I am 52 years old. I am married and along with my wife Brenda am a founding member of York County REACT 6123 in York County Pennsylvania. I have two children who are both married and my youngest son Doug is active in our Team. I own and operate my own computer consulting business and help people resolve their computer issues throughout York County PA.

I was a member of a Team sponsored by the Jacksonville Volunteer Fire Company in Jacksonville MD in the mid 70's for a couple of years. Since chartering York County REACT in 2006 I have served as President now for two and half years. I am active in my church at various levels. I am active with my local Boy Scout unit and have served on the local Council Committee. I am currently the Chartered Organization Representative for my organization.

If elected I will strive to represent the interests of the Teams in Region 1 in all matters that come before the Board of Directors. I will do all I can to have open lines of communications with the Teams. I will support existing Teams in all endeavors which are in support of and examples of the Mission Statement of REACT International, Inc. I will do all I can to promote the growth of new Teams in membership as well as scope of service to their communities. I will strive to build local Team leadership skills.

I believe that growth in membership, the creation of new Teams, improved service to communities (government and non-government served agencies/ organizations) and skilled leadership at the Team level are the keys to REACT's survival.

I am a Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for Shrewsbury Borough. I am a member of my local ARES/RACES organization. I am a CERT volunteer, SKYWARN spotter, and a member of my county's Threat and Risk Assessment Team. I have taken the following NIMS courses: IS-7, 15, 22, 100, 200, 271, 317, 700, 800 and MGT-310 and 315. In addition I take local training offered by my county and state EMA organizations. I am an Eagle Scout and try to always, "Be Prepared."

### **Running for election in Region 4**

is Ed Kerby, Jr., of Ohio. Ed is the incumbent director, having been appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board in September, 2008. Ed is running unopposed.

**Name: Edmund E. Kerby Jr.**

**Phone: 419-227-3334**

**Address: 627 Linden St..**

**Lima, OH 45804**

**Email: REACTC322@AOL.COM**

### Ed Kerby Jr.'s Bio / Statement...

I was born in Monroe, Michigan, but was raised in Lima, Ohio where I have lived most of my life. I have been in REACT since 1986, but took a short break for about a year after my daughter was born in 1992. I am currently the President of Allen County REACT Team and employed as the manager at a Jiffy Lube shop in Lima, Ohio. So the time I get to spend with helping and volunteering for REACT is part of my enjoyment away from my daily grind of my job. Thus saying this, I am very proud to have served as Region 4 Director, and will continue to do my best as a Director if elected.



### **Running for election in Region 7**

are Robert "Bob" Kaster, K5MIE, of Oklahoma, and Charles Land, KC5NKK, of Texas.

**Name: Robert L. Kaster, Jr.**  
**Phone: 405-735-8577**  
**Address: 9104 S. Country Club Dr.**  
**Oklahoma City, OK 731549**  
**Email: bobbk1011@cox.net**

**Mr. Kaster lists his occupation as Administrative Coordinator for the Oklahoma City Police Department.**



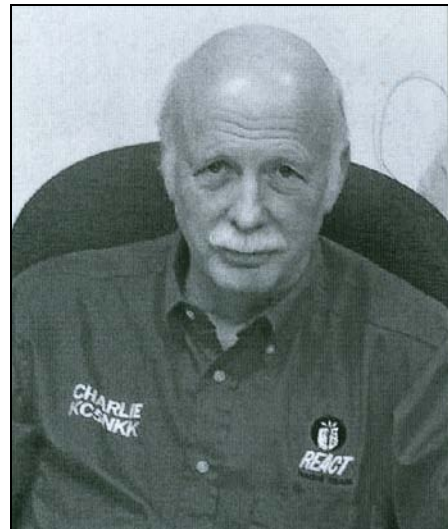
Mr. Kaster is the incumbent director for Region 7.

Mr. Kaster did not provide any additional bio / statement for us to include in this issue

Therefore, if your Team is in Region 7, please refer to the information that was included with the ballot in the packet mailed to your Team.

### **Charles “Charlie” Land**

**Name: Charles Land**  
**Phone: 210-568-7092**  
**Address: 26407 Bubbling Brook**  
**San Antonio, TX 78260-5346**  
**Email: cland1@satx.rr.com**



### **Charles “Charlie” Land’s Bio / Statement...**

I have been involved in event and emergency communications since moving to Texas in 1976. I have been a member of Travis County REACT since 1993 and a member of Hill Country REACT since 2001, where I have served as President. I am a General Class amateur operator (KC5NKK), was a licensed CB er (KLH3491), and hold a GMRS license (KAG0759). Public events and disaster service have been my passion for the last 15 years. I assisted with communications at the Kerrville Folk Festival for 30 years, and now serve as President of that festival, which attracts 35,000 participants in an 18-day festival.

I have participated in a few board meetings of REACT International, at the time of a leadership crisis and just prior to the move of the office from Wichita, Kansas to Suitland. I was Treasurer of the Texas REACT Council for several years, and participated in council activities. I have spent many hours monitoring Channel 9 when that was an auxiliary function of the Austin Police Department.

I have an electrical engineering degree from Virginia Tech, and am a licensed professional engineer in Texas. My profession is in the telecommunications industry. I live in San Antonio, Texas, and am 61 years old. I can be reached at <cland1@satx.rr.com> or at 210 568-7092.



**My view of REACT** – we have seen a steady decline in membership for the last 2 decades or longer. Several Boards have tried to find ways to reverse that trend, but they were not successful. Two way radio communications is not as glitzy today as it was 25 years ago when cell phones and PDAs weren't on everyone's belt. REACT must face the realities that exist, and must find a new strategy for the future, such as:

- In the business world, we would have merged with another organization that had a similar business – but REACT is unique and I'm not aware of a merger candidate.
- Transition to digital radios may bring a little glamour and utility back into the amateur/GMRS radio services. REACT must explore the new digital world, embrace it, and find ways that we can harness the excitement of the digital age to catch the interest of the younger, digital, generation.
- Present board members wisely have concluded that increasing dues to make up for a loss of members would only hasten the membership decline. REACT must chart a path for the organization to live within the income that it has available.
- 

I would be honored to serve as a Director of REACT International should the Teams of my region wish me to do so.

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The Board of Directors represents *you*. They must keep you informed, but *you* must also keep *them* informed as to what you are doing, what ideas you have, and what your needs are. They

can't act in a vacuum. Vote and then keep current with the issues.

*Remember: they are Directors for your region, not of your region. So think and let your Directors know what you are thinking.*  
*Ed*

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## EDITOR'S CORNER Don Tarbet

### Another hectic issue –

There was information that needed to be supplied, and there were endless technical problems. We hope to return to a semblance of normal scheduling with the next issue.

But, note! That issue is for three months as is this one. The Board has decided to reduce REACTer publication from 6 to 4 times a year to save money.

So that we can work our way back to a more sensible publication schedule, please let us have any new material ASAP. We expect to work towards publication near the first part of the period for which the issue is current.

In the meantime, be sure to subscribe to Lee Besing's e-letter as described in the November-December, 2008 issue.

Also, be sure to check out the new format of the website. Let those responsible know what you think – about all the above. It is only with your feedback that we can meet your needs.

Be sure you let us know what your Team is doing. Note submission guidelines in the next column.

## Submission Guidelines for REACTer:

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

**<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.*

## IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOUR TEAM By Johnny Stowers

As chairman of the REACT International Bylaws Committee, every once in while I get a call from someone asking me for my opinion or interpretation of some part of the bylaws. Most of the time it is minor stuff that really doesn't amount to much. However,

once in awhile something will come up that makes you think, I wonder if any other Team has had this problem.

In this case the situation concerned a council attempting to convince a Team that the council had the authority pull the Teams charter. This is not the case.

Section 3.7 REACT International Bylaws is pretty specific. The only way that a Team can have its charter revoked is by a vote of the Board of Directors. No one else has the authority to do it. The normal chain of events includes an investigation by a committee appointed by the board. The board takes a vote whether or not to revoke the charter. A certified letter sent to the Team telling them of the action of the board. The Team then has 45 days to appeal the decision of the board.

Make sure the leadership of your Team has a copy of the REACT International Bylaws. If they do not, go to the REACT International web site and download a copy.



# RI Minutes

## **REACT International, Inc. Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors Held March 13-14, 2009 Suitland, MD**

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

- Don Manlove, Region 2, President
- John Knott, Region 3, Chairman
- Stan Walters, Region 1, Vice Chairman
- Ed Kerby, Jr., Region 4
- Larry Fry, Region 5
- B.F. Jennings, Region 6
- Bob Kaster, Region 7
- Lee Besing, Secretary

### **Directors / Officers Absent:**

- Joseph Toth, Region 8 (On assignment from Board, to attend IWCE Convention in Las Vegas, NV, to represent *REACT* International.)
- Kenny Jagdeogsingh, Region 9 (Medical note from doctor preventing him from flying. Already had purchased airline tickets and made hotel reservation.)
- Ed Greany, Exec. VP
- Norman Kaplan, Treasurer

### **Visitors:**

- Charles A. Thompson, (TX)
- Johnny Stowers (CA)
- Charles Hardy (WV)
- Michael Cauley (FL)
- Jim Dyke (OH) – Friday only
- Melissa Erskine (OH) – Friday only
- Matthew Boudreaux (OH) – Friday only
- Jason McCammon (OH) – Friday only
- Dave Coleman (OH) – Friday only
- John Cole (OH) – Friday only
- Justin Corner (OH) – Friday only
- Brian Dazey (OH) – Friday only
- Barbara Chaven-Maryn (FL/MD) – Friday only

- Nat Maryn (FL/MD) – Friday only

1. **Call to Order** at 08:32 ET by Chairman Knott. Chairman Knott made opening comments to welcome everyone present.
2. **Roll Call** was conducted by Secretary Besing.
3. **Quorum** – A quorum was established with 7 of 9 possible votes. 14 visitors present.
4. **Minutes** – Minutes from November 25, 2007 and January 18, 2009.
  - a. **Motion by** Region 2, second by Region 1 to accept minutes from November 25, 2007. **Motion Passed.**
  - b. **Motion by** Region 1, second by Region 2 to accept the January 18, 2009 minutes. **Motion passed.**
5. **REACT International Officer Reports**
  - a. Treasurer - Copies of Bank Statements, resolved the problem with BBT sending statements to another *REACT* Team. An update (to Team's account) by BBT was applied to *REACT* International's account by mistake. Error has been corrected, back statements are being generated, and all funds accounted for.
6. **Regional Director Reports**
  - a. **Region 1** – Mr. Walters reported contact with all but 6 Teams in region via email. One Team got their town to adopt FRS1 for official emergency use. He also contacted any Pennsylvania Legislature members who had a Team in their district, to discuss proposed cell phone bill, urging they amend the bill to not affect use of 2-way radios by volunteers.
  - b. **Region 2** – Mr. Manlove reported 21 of 22 Teams have renewed as of today in this region. Planning to work with Teams / councils near DC area on a table top exercise, to be held in Spring 2009. In January 2009, the Inauguration Ceremonies Committee officially requested help from *REACT* Teams in Virginia and Maryland to monitor traffic along several major highways and conduct safety breaks at designated rest

- stops / check points on the day before and day of the inauguration in DC. One Virginia location had 38,000 visitors, another 23,000 visitors. Contact with Homeland Security / FEMA was expedited due to these Teams' members having already passed routine background checks.
- c. **Region 3** – Mr. Knott reported 15 Teams, with 1 charter application granted today in southern Georgia. Teams very active, starting to see growth in membership.
  - d. **Region 4** – Mr. Kerby reported 20 of 30 Teams have renewed so far. One Indiana Team merged with another, new Team starting in Elkhart soon. Slow growth experienced. Problems pending between two Teams and involving the Ohio State *REACT* Council, to be addressed by the Board later in this meeting.
  - e. **Region 5** – Mr. Larry Fry reported that 18 of 30 Teams had renewed as of today. Three new life members were approved in past year. Mr. Fry dealt with a Team that changed its name and then “moved” across the state border to avoid membership in council, but didn't update their bylaws for the new Team name or location. Team has not renewed for 2009, under either name. Mr. Fry expressed concern about the need for the Regional Director to have oversight whenever a Team requests name change or location change. Mr. Fry worked with one Team to prevent disbanding, trying to find new members, but failed.
  - f. **Region 6** – Mr. Jennings reported a new Team just chartered. Mr. Jennings said he has been trying to visit with as many Teams possible. Some of the newly chartered Snake River *REACT* Team officers are affiliated / employed with local / state / federal emergency agencies and the Team was being invited to man the county's DEM Communications Center as volunteer staff. That county installed new radios to facilitate communications between county agencies.
  - g. **Region 7** – Mr. Kaster reported one Team disbanded at the end of last year (McLennan County, TX) and they donated their remaining treasury to RI. He said we gained one new Team in 6023 Central Oklahoma *REACT*. He said that multiple charter requests have been sent out to individuals in this region, but he hasn't seen any being returned for action.
  - h. **Region 8** – Mr. Toth was representing *REACT* International at the IWCE Convention in Las Vegas, at the request of the RI Board of Directors.
  - i. **Region 9** – Mr. Jagdeosingh – absent.
- 7. Reports of the Committee of the Board**
- a. **Finance** – Mr. Kaplan, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Walters held electronic meetings regarding Budget and Fund Raising Ideas. Life Member Investment account balances down due to investments in the stock market.
  - b. **Operations Review** – Mr. Manlove reported he would like to convert much of the office and the renewal process to electronic to reduce long term costs and improve efficiency. Website member area will have electronic copies of documents. Looking for an affordable programmer to aid in this project, or off the shelf software where possible. Staff currently in office Mon-Fri (6a-3p ET). Mr. Manlove monitoring voice mail from after hours calls to the office while Mr. Kaplan checks emails after hours.
    1. Office Staff Comments – Asked that all directors keep in closer contact with her.
    2. Office Lease Information – Mr. Kaplan negotiated 3.5% reduction in lease, currently paying \$907/month for 2009.
- 8. Corporate Committee Reports**
- a. **Training and Development** – T. Currie – written report submitted electronically. Revising Team Management Handbook project still underway. At

least five chapters, about 20%, completed.

- b. **Bylaws** – J. Stowers – recommended two proposed amendments (dealing with vacancy of director position, election of directors) and four policy changes be considered by the BoD. Mr. Stowers stated he was supplying a new copy of the bylaws in a larger type size to be posted to the website.
- c. **Computer Committee** – R. Drury / L. Besing – submitted electronic report covering RI website conversion, email status, database updates to reduce entry errors. New site is in temp location [www.reactintl.org/v2009](http://www.reactintl.org/v2009). New Blog area is up at [www.reactintl.org/blog](http://www.reactintl.org/blog). New member only area at [www.reactintl.org/members](http://www.reactintl.org/members). Members of committee worked late into the night on both computers in office during the weekend, adding a new DCA-7020 Brother Laser copier / scanner / printer (donation obtained by Mr. Manlove), replacing a failing hard drive in Mr. Kaplan's workstation, and performing other updates needed or requested by the office staff.
- d. **REACTer Editor** – D. Tarbet – *REACTer* issue delayed due to technical difficulties, and then delayed further to allow insertion of Annual Board Meeting Minute summary report.

9. **Review Membership Renewal Status YTD** - Written renewal reports for all Regions (processed as of 03/10/2009) were provided to the Board before the meeting.

#### 10. 2009 Budget Proposed

- a. Committee presentation by Mr. Kaplan, Mr. Jennings, and Mr. Walters. **Motion by** Region 5, second by Region 7, to adopt the proposed 2009 budget of \$72,670 projected income and \$72,446.01 projected expense. **Motion passed.**
- b. **Review Status of Investments** – Copies of current Smith Barney investment accounts were distributed to all directors. Discussion held.

11. **Annual Audit Report** – Copy of report (from Singleton & Bardowski, LLC CPA) was distributed to all directors. The CPA agreed to reduce their 2008 audit fee by \$560, and froze their 2009 rate at the original 2008 rate of \$3,200.00 for their auditing services and \$80/hr for payroll services. **Motion by** Region 2, second by Region 1 to accept the Annual Audit Report. **Motion passed.**

- a. **IRS Filings By Council and Teams** - All Teams and councils must file IRS TD Form 990 each year. Organizations with less than \$25,000 gross receipts file Form 990N (electronic postcard form) and all other must file either the 990 long or short form. Teams which fail to file Form 990N for three years will lose their Section 501(c)(3) exempt status while those required to file Form 990 long or short may be subjected to significant penalties. All Teams and councils (no exceptions) must have their own Employer ID Number (EIN), and this must be on file with the RI office for inclusion in the RI annual report to the IRS. RI office is available to assist Teams in filing Form 990N (electronic postcard). Articles in *REACTer* or other RI publications will be forthcoming. Discussion help regarding requiring Teams to submit copies of their filings to RI.

#### 12. Regional Problems That Need To Be Discussed

- a. **Massachusetts** – Director Walters reported that the 3 Teams in this state now wish to form a council. Discussion held regarding need for them to design acceptable bylaws for the proposed council before the RI Board can recognize them as a council.
- b. **Quad County REACT (Ohio) presented 2 complaints to the Board,**
  - The first regarding a letter written by Mr. Jason Boone, President of the Ohio State *REACT* Council. The letter was sent to the Team's regional Chamber of Commerce claiming that their *REACT* Team charter was

no longer valid. Mr. Dyke claimed that the President of the Ohio State *REACT* Council wrote the letter, with the knowledge / assistance of the RI President. President Manlove denied any knowledge of the letter.

- Their second complaint was that their annual renewal packet had been delayed from the RI Office last fall by RI President, but they had finally received their renewed paperwork last week.

**Resolution requested:** Quad County asked that they receive an apology letter from the Board, from the Ohio State *REACT* Council, and that letters be sent to the Chamber of Commerce explaining that the council's letter was unauthorized and that Quad County *REACT* was still a Team in good standing, and requested the resignation or removal of the RI President. Mr. Dyke further asked that the Board act on the problems believed have been caused by the Ohio State *REACT* Council, the Council's president, and RI President.

**Motion by** Region 6, second by Region 7, that the Board issue letters of apology to Quad County *REACT* Team, their local Chamber of Commerce, and other affected local law enforcement agencies, advising that the Council's letter of January 8, 2009 from the Ohio State *REACT* Council was not authorized. **Motion Passed.**

**Motion by** Region 6, second by Region 2, that the Board immediately suspend official recognition of the Ohio State *REACT* Council pending further investigation by the *REACT* International Board of Directors in accordance with the RI Bylaws. Discussion held. Mr. Kerby (Region 4) to chair a committee with Mr. Fry (Region 5) and Mr. Walters (Region 1) to

conduct an expedited investigation of actions by the Ohio State *REACT* Council and Multi-County *REACT* Response Team C-260, including any officers involved. **Motion Passed.**

**Mr. Thompson recommended** that the apology letters be signed by Chairman Knott rather than be signed by the secretary. Secretary Besing wrote two of the letters, one to the Team and one to the chamber of commerce, allowing Quad County to hand carry the signed letters. Letters to the Council and other agencies to be mailed after the meeting concludes.

### **13. Qualification of Director Walters**

- a. Mr. Stowers (CA) filed a complaint regarding the previous appointment of Mr. Walters to Region 1 Director (in November 2007). Mr. Stowers stated it was his opinion that Mr. Walters had not met the qualifications of 3 consecutive years of *REACT* membership (to be a director). He stated that he felt the original intent of the bylaws was "3 years **consecutive** membership" not just "3 years membership" even though the bylaws didn't include the term "consecutive". Mr. Knott presented correspondence he had received in 2007 from our General Counsel (Mr. Thompson) prior the appointment, giving approval of the plan to appoint Mr. Walters. Testimony was provided regarding Mr. Walter's previous service and the opinion of the Board majority that the bylaws had been followed when the appointment was made.
- b. **Motion by** Region 7, second by Region 5, that the board determines the appointment of Mr. Walters (to Region 1 Director) to be invalid. R5Y, R6Y, R7Y, R1N, R2N, R3N, R4N. **Motion Failed.**

**Meeting recessed at 6:00pm until Saturday @ 8:30am**

**Meeting reconvened, Saturday @ 8:30am, no change in quorum.**

#### 14. Proposed Amendments To The Bylaws / Policies

- a. **Mr. Greany – Proposed amendment to section 5.6, Vacancies.** Current procedure is for the board to appoint a person from the affected region when there is a vacancy. Proposal is to require a regional election to be held only if more than one candidate was available for consideration. Past history has shown we seldom have more than one candidate at a time willing to apply for a vacancy or election. **Pro:** This change would enable regional Teams to choose the successor if there were choices, rather than leaving it up to the board. **Con:** Could result in months of delay while the ballots were mailed, collected and counted, before a new director could be seated. **No motion made.**
- b. **Mr. Stowers – Proposed amendment to section 5.2, Number, Term of Office and Qualifications.** Proposed amendment would require three consecutive years of membership in a single Team. **Pro:** Would possibly increase the levels of *REACT* experience held by a candidate for the board. **Con:** Would possibly restrict the number of members available for election / appointment to the board. **Discussion held** regarding value of recent years (consecutive) experience vs. experience from many years ago, discussion pro and con of same Team vs. multiple Team membership. Suggestion made to compare service time since the 1998 database rebuild, because records prior to that time were not complete. **Proposal returned to committee** for incorporation of suggestions made by Board members during this meeting and will be brought back at the next board meeting for consideration at that time.
- c. **Mr. Stowers – Proposed four new policies.** Would formalize the guidelines for this committee, rather than being set by the RI President. Guidelines

were copied from what Mr. Cooper had posted to website 5-6 years ago. Would have the effect of establishing this committee as semi-permanent committees.

1. **7.1.A Guidelines for Bylaws Committee**
2. **7.1.B Guidelines for Training and Development Committee**
3. **7.1.C Guidelines for Computer Services Committee**
4. **7.1.D Guidelines for Membership Development and Retention Committee**

**Discussion:** Mr. Thompson pointed out Bylaws section 7.2 specifies that these committees are appointed by the RI President, guidelines set by the RI President, and can be created / modified / abolished by the RI President, and if these policies were not written in such a manner, they would conflict with the bylaws section. It was suggested they be amended to use number series 7.2.xx and add the disclaimer regarding bylaws section 7.2(a) and 7.2(b) mentioned above. **All proposed policies were forwarded to the President for consideration.**

15. **Junior ROTC Disaster Skills Training - Mr. Greany –** E-mailed report presented from Irene Long (Crest *REACT*, CA) regarding a California based Junior ROTC (JROTC) adopting a disaster / emergency communications training program. She stated there was interest by Department of Defense (DoD) to involve *REACT* International's support in developing a disaster / emergency radio communications training module to be implemented nationally by the JROTC. The proposal also asked that local Teams assist local JROTC units with developing such training methods plus over see their annual training drill.

**Discussion held:** Concern expressed regarding the need for careful wording to not "require" local Teams to participate in such support project, but to "encourage" local Teams to participate / support. Mr. Besing suggested that what was needed was a carefully worded

MOU to open doors at the local level to enable Teams willing / interested in participating in such program. Many cities / towns often have one JROTC group at each major high school, which might be too much commitment being asked for some smaller Teams. Suggestion made to ask Mr. Tom Currie (RI Training Committee Chair) to see if he would be willing to work with Irene Long to help develop such module.

**Consensus of the Board** was to investigate the opportunity further, and to invite Irene Long and/or other involved individuals to participate in a Skype electronic board meeting at some point in the very near future.

16. **NVOAD Future Membership** - Mr. Manlove reported that the 2009 NVOAD Member Fees (for our membership tier) has been raised to \$1,200/yr, with additional proposed increases stepping up to \$5,000/yr within the next few years. NVOAD also asked us to help underwrite their upcoming annual convention with a \$5,000 sponsorship. **No motion was made** to approve either amount. **Discussion held:** It was the consensus of the Board that the *REACT* organization gets the most value from VOAD at the local level, rather than the national level. The approved 2009 RI budget has no provision for NVOAD dues, thus we will be unable to renew our membership.
17. **Citizens Corps Involvement** - Mr. Manlove recommended that *REACT* International investigate the possibility of becoming a member of Citizen Corps as an organization. **Consensus of the Board** to authorize President Manlove to contact Citizen Corps to collect facts and report back to the Board for possible action.
18. **REACTer Editor**
  - a. Mr. Walters reported that the RI Editor had agreed to reduce his editor rates by 20%, from \$50/page to \$40/page. Discussion held regarding the possibilities of obtaining a Volunteer Editor(s). Two persons were identified as volunteering to perform these duties. Discussion held regarding qualities needed, and quality of the publication, reliability of using volunteers.
  - b. Mr. Thompson advised the Board that several years ago, he had been directed to review the *REACTer* before publication for legal items, style, etc. He noted that he had not been allowed to perform that task this since 7 September 2008, when he resigned as General Counsel. President Manlove reported that, following that date, he had assigned the *REACTer* to be previewed by Mr. Walters, Mr. Greany and Mr. Besing.
  - c. Mr. Besing asked that we set firm publication deadlines for each quarterly issue, preferably closer to the start of each quarter, allowing ample time for preview by officers prior to sending to the press.
19. **Early Bird Contest Prizes** - Mr. Jennings stated that one of the goals of the two representatives (Director Toth, Mr. Mayes of Wichita, KS) to the IWCE convention in Los Vegas, is to get commitment for door prizes that can be used for early bird contests or to reward top donation fund raisers, etc. It was thought that if we resumed offering such prizes, that more Teams would renew early or participate in any fund raising programs.
20. **Review Matching Fund Plan / Fund Raising Proposal** - Mr. Jennings – Asked the Board reconsider the original proposal to create a matching fund by Mr. Thompson. **Discussion held:** Mr. Thompson elaborated his position regarding how the original proposal was made, how he felt it had been maligned by certain individuals. He stated that the November 30, 2008 \$10k offer was withdrawn after he received no contact from RI Board / Fund Raising Committee in the six weeks subsequent to the November meeting. Mr. Thompson had originally kicked off the initial fund matching idea by offering \$1k in personal matching funds. With respect to Mr. Thompson's original plan, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Kaster and Mr. Jagdeosingh confirmed their original pledges. Mr. Walters asked Mr. Manlove if he was still opposed to approaching Teams for donations to a matching fund program, and Mr. Manlove responded that he was no longer opposed to such action. Mr. Manlove and Mr. Walters



then each pledged \$500 toward a matching fund effort.

**Motion** by Region 7, second by Region 2, to adopt the original fund raising proposal (paragraphs a-h of original proposal) made by Mr. Thompson and to authorize Mr. Thompson to run a fund raising drive for the benefit of *REACT* International, and to authorize Mr. Thompson access to necessary internal information (Team mailing addresses, etc.) needed to conduct such drive. **Motion passed.**

21. **REACT Mission Statement** – Mr. Jennings stated that he felt we should periodically review the official RI Mission Statement. Discussion held. The statement on the RI website pertains to the overall organizational goals, not specific local Team mission statements. It could be used as a starting point for local Team. Tabled until next board meeting. Article by the Board should be printed in the *REACTer* to discuss / explain mission statements.
22. **General Counsel - Motion** by Region 6, second by Region 7, to appoint Mr. Thompson as *REACT* International General Counsel. Mr. Thompson indicated he was willing to be re-appointed. **Motion Passed.**
23. **Office Relocation** – Mr. Jennings presented the idea of looking at possibly moving the Office to the Midwest area near Wichita. **President Manlove established a Site Search Committee** consisting of Directors Kaster and Jennings plus Mr. Stowers, with additional individuals to be added to the committee as needed. Concept offered by Mr. Stowers was to scout out possible locations between Mississippi River and I-25 (runs north/south thru Denver, Colorado). Concern stated about location near airport, affordable hotels, and stable environment (regarding local flooding, weather, etc.). Mr. Kerby said he was aware of office space in Lima, Ohio running less than \$300/month, or a building owned by a *REACT* Team having trouble making their mortgage payments, but both locations were east of that proposed area. Current office space in Suitland is using approx 800 sq feet. Mr. Besing suggested that Executive Office Spaces in some office buildings would allow renting a smaller office but still provide reasonable access to

common shared conference room and other facilities. Mr. Thompson suggested that buying a building in today's depressed real estate market, might be cheaper than paying rent for an office.

24. **Personnel & Legal** – Office Manager needs 4-6 weeks off for medical reasons. Mr. Kaplan offered to cover the time span to ensure office operations continue.
  25. **Liability Insurance** – Board needs to continue educating members on value of insurance and the types of coverage it offers. Anticipate NO increase in premiums for 2009. Broker will visit RI HQ in late May, and will likely ask for the past 5 issues of the *REACTer* to review.
  26. **Summer Board Meeting** – Mr. Besing suggested that we should schedule multiple electronic meetings for the upcoming year, and could always exercise the option in the bylaws to schedule a special in-person meeting should the need arise. Discussion held regarding hotel and travel costs for in-person meetings vs. electronic meetings.
- Motion** by Region 4, second by Region 5, to call a special electronic meeting for Sunday, June 14, 2009 at 9pm ET. **Motion passed.**
- Motion** by Region 1, second by Region 5, to call a special electronic meeting for Sunday, September 13, 2009 at 9pm ET. **Motion passed.**

#### 27. **Renewal / Registration Review**

- a. **Earlier Start Date** - Discussion held about sending renewal packets a month earlier (by the end of September) in order to encourage Teams to renew before December 31st.
- b. **Simplifying Renewals** - Discussion held about keeping some of the Team info update requests, separate from the renewal paperwork to simplify it. Some Teams hold elections in the late Fall, that don't take affect until after first of the next year, so they may delay their renewal until then.
- c. **Credit Card Service** - Mr. Besing requested permission to set up a PayPal account for *REACT* International in order to facilitate online purchasing, donations, registrations, etc. Information needed to setup account, includes

online access to our BBT account. Discussion held regarding fees charged (\$0.30/transaction plus 2.9% of transaction amount) which were similar to that paid to credit card processor services, but without any monthly minimum service charges.

**Motion by** Region 2, second by Region 1, to authorize Mr. Besing to setup a PayPal account on behalf of REACT International. **Motion passed.**

- d. **Postage Service** -Mr. Jennings requested that we investigate using Internet Postage services and eliminate the annual cost of rental for the Pitney Bowe postage machine. We are under contract to Pitney Bowe for the current machine, but question was raised regarding termination date of contract. Question raised regarding convenience factor of affixing stamps vs. imprint postage. Consensus of the Board was to direct the RI President to investigate options of returning the PB postage machine and implementing an Internet Postage method.

**28. Discuss Board Members Who Have Missed 2 Consecutive Non-Electronic Board Meetings** - See Bylaws Article V. Section 5.5 Resignations paragraph (b). No current directors were affected by this clause.

**29. Election of 2009 RI Officers**

- a. President – 2 year term (Mr. Manlove was originally elected in 2008)
- b. Exec. VP – Mr. Greany was elected for a 1 year term.
- c. Treasurer – Mr. Kaplan was elected for 1 year term.
- d. Secretary – Mr. Besing was elected for 1 year term.

**30. Appointment of Subordinate RI Officers**

- a. Asst. Secretary – Norman Kaplan re-appointed
- b. Asst. Treasurer – none required
- c. General Counsel – **Motion by** Region 2, second by Region 7, to appoint Mr. Thompson as Vice President / General Counsel. **Motion Passed.**

**31. Appointment of RI Committee Chair** - President Manlove appointed the following:

- a. Award – Michael Cauley (FL)
- b. Bylaws – Johnny Stowers (CA)
- c. Computer Services – Roy Drury (FL)  
Other members Lee Besing (TX), Michael Cauley (FL). Agreed to refer offer by Mr. Stowers (to rejoin CS Committee) to CS Chair.
- d. Five Year Plan – vacant
- e. Membership Development and Retention – vacant
- f. Public Relations – Ron McCracken (FL/Canada)
- g. Publications Review – Daughn O’Neil (HI)
- h. Training and Development – Tom Currie (KY)
- i. Ways and Means – vacant

**32. Election of Board Chairman and Vice Chairman**

- a. Chairman – **Motion by** Region 4, Second by Region 2 to elect John Knott as Chairman. **Motion passed.**
- b. Vice Chairman – **Motion by** Region 1, second by Region 2 to elect Larry Fry as Vice Chairman. **Motion passed.**

**33. For the Good of the Organization** - Mr. Kaster asked the Chairman who (referring to directors / officers) had the authority to act in variance from a Board resolution, appointment, order, etc. The response from the Chairman was “no one” unless the Board resolution was illegal.

**34. ADJOURN – Motion made** by Region 2, second by Region 5 to adjourn. **Motion Passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:47pm ET on March 14, 2009, sine die.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lee Besing



# REACT News: Teams and Team Members

## Tampa Bay *REACT* Roy Drury, VP, Tampa Bay *REACT*

Effective March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Tampa Bay *REACT*, Inc. has been accepted as a member of the Hillsborough County Citizen Corps Council as a stand-alone entity. This is one of many steps that the officers of Tampa Bay *REACT*, Inc. are in the process of taking to align the Team with the many agencies in the area.

The Hillsborough County Citizen Corps program has a unique history of being organized under the County Planning & Growth Management Department. It collaborates closely with the Greater Tampa CERT Team, the Hillsborough County CERT Program Teams and partners with a number of local community organizations.

### About the Citizen Corps

Following the tragic events that occurred on September 11, 2001, state and local government officials have increased opportunities for citizens to become an integral part of protecting the homeland and supporting the local first responders. Officials agree that the formula for ensuring a more secure and safer homeland consists of preparedness, training, and citizen involvement in supporting first responders. In January 2002, President George W. Bush launched USA Freedom Corps, to capture the spirit of service that has emerged throughout our communities following the terrorist attacks.

Citizen Corps, a vital component of USA Freedom Corps, was created to help coordinate volunteer activities that will make our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to any

emergency situation. It provides opportunities for people to participate in a range of measures to make their families, their homes, and their communities safer from the threats of crime, terrorism, and disasters of all kinds.

Citizen Corps programs build on the successful efforts that are in place in many communities around the country to prevent crime and respond to emergencies. Programs that started through local innovation are the foundation for Citizen Corps and this national approach to citizen participation in community safety.

Citizen Corps is coordinated nationally by the Department of Homeland Security. In this capacity, DHS works closely with other federal entities, state and local governments, first responders and emergency managers, the volunteer community, and the White House Office of the USA Freedom Corps.

### Tampa Bay *REACT* participates at the Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest

By: Roy Drury, Vice President Tampa Bay *REACT*  
<rdrury@tampabayreact.org>

**Palmetto, FL (December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008)** – Tampa Bay *REACT* had the opportunity to participate at the Annual Tampa Bay Hamfest on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 2008 held at the Manatee Con-

vention Center in Palmetto, FL. This was an opportunity to get visibility to *REACT* and to our



local Team. Our display included an information board, CERT Team Gear and electronic display giving information about *REACT* and Tampa Bay *REACT*, Inc. We also provided copies for anyone needing one that was testing for their Amateur Radio License that day that was not prepared with copies of required documents.



During the 2 days, we were able to meet many of the Amateur Radio Operators that check in weekly to our NETs and also meet some new friends and help spread the word about *REACT* and the Tampa Bay Team. Thanks to all of our regulars who stopped in to visit including Cameron K4ACB. Seeing that some of our members are trained in First Aid or hold DOT First Responder Certifications, we were asked by the event organizers to handle any requests for First Aid during the event.

Also during this weekend, Amateur Radio Testing was conducted by the ARRL-VEC and one of our



members Michael McKay now is a technician class license holder KJ4IJI. Several others attempted their tests this weekend but more studying is needed and we hope that the members that did not pass will be able to successfully pass their license tests in the near future.



From this event, we were able to gain a new member that will be completing their recruit training with the organization. Tampa Bay *REACT* requires all members to complete at least the Emergency Management Institute IS-100.A, IS-200.A and IS-700 during their first 90 days of membership. Other training includes basic radio procedures. All members are encouraged to obtain EMCOMM Certification either through the *REACT* EMCOMM Program or other means that are available.

*Note: Tampa Bay REACT has been in operation since only 2007. We appreciate all they have accomplished in that short time.*

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**CLEVELAND COUNTY REACT,  
SHELBY, NORTH CAROLINA**  
By Jay Flora

**1. On 03/11/09** Chief. Jay Flora of Cleveland County REACT in Shelby, NC went on Patrol at 1530 hours. At 1616 hours he saw a blue Ford pick-up truck stop in the south bound lane of Hyw-226/Polkville Rd south of Wal-Mart Drive. Flora parked his car in back of the truck with his emergency lights on to warn cars going south. As no persons were present, Flora called the Shelby City Police. He was asked to remain on watch, and when the driver returned, helped to get him underway again.

**2. On May-2-2009** at 7:30pm Flora was called to do traffic control at a House in Kingstown, North Carolina on Quail Run Drive. He had to close

down Quail Run Drive at Kingstown Road to all but fire and rescue, police and Red Cross. A house with a 300 Pound propane gas tank had caught fire and ammunition within the house was ignited by the fire. It was a busy night, but the thanks from the police and fire departments and county officials made REACT and Flora realize just how important their role had been in maintaining the public safety.

Cleveland County Director of Emergency management and Fire Marshall, Dewey Cook told Flora that he was glad that Flora had been there to help out and that Cleveland County REACT is there and ready to help when needed.

**OKLAHOMA FIRESTORM (Rec.  
4/12/09)**  
by Dale Ellis

As Friday's dawn light spread over the areas that last night the news helicopters showed fires, the early morning light revealed over 200 burned houses and other structures in Midwest City, Nicoma Park, Choctaw, Oklahoma City and Oklahoma County. The over 50 MPH winds drove the wildfires across several thousand acres of brush, trees, and houses. Members of Oklahoma County Emergency REACT #2620 and Central Oklahoma REACT # 6023, were dispatched to assist with traffic control. An area covering sixteen square miles of roads had to be blocked to prevent entry into the area that was on fire and the area that was directly in the path of the fast moving fire. All the police departments in eastern Oklahoma County were called to control traffic and assist with evacuations. Every traffic intersection covered by a REACT member freed up a police officer to assist with those evacuations. Fire departments had their hand full of the house fires and trying to prevent addition house fires, high winds had prevented water drops from helicopters. Because of the response, not one person lost their life. Easter Sunday rains quenched hotspots in this previously parched and now fire ravaged area. REACTers provided 27 hours of support to this effort.

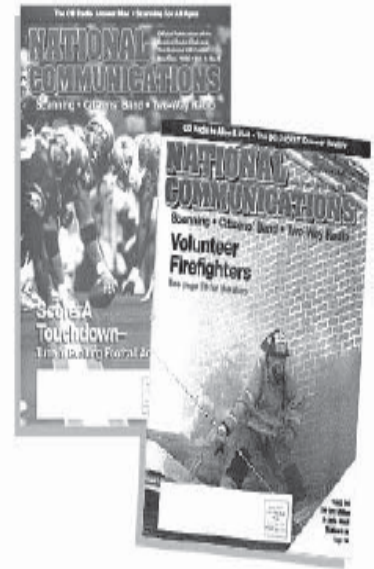
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## Emergency Communications Training

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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## Silent Mics from Dora Wilbanks et al.

### RICE

**Henry Jan Rice, 72**, died at 6 p.m. Dec. 25, 2008, at his residence. He was born Jan. 12, 1936, in Lima to Charles Presley and Ruth Elizabeth Schmiedebusch Rice, who preceded him in death. On Jan. 6, 1956, he married Martha Jill Reed, who survives.

Mr. Rice retired in 1991 from Ford Motor Co. after 32 years, where he worked as a high-low driver. He attended Crossroads First Church of God. He enjoyed woodworking, working with computers and photography. He was a member of *REACT* for 23 years. He played in his band called The Sanantones in the 1960s and '70s. He loved and enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren.

Survivors also include a son, Dennis Craig (Tonnetta) Rice, of Lima; a daughter, Susan L. Rice-Hoskins, of Lima; a sister, Ruby (Glenn) Allemeier, of Delphos; a sister-in-law, Dorothy Rice, of Elwood, Ind.; four grandsons, Kurtis Rice, Jeremiah Hoskins, Joshua Hoskins and Caleb Hoskins; and two granddaughters, Alyson Rice and Genisis Hoskins.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Bud E. and Thomas A. Rice; and a sister-in-law, Jane Rice.

### YOUNG

Dee Young passed away of March 15, 2009. She was a member of Abington *REACT* for over 30

years. Dee was a life member (LM 439). She will be greatly missed.

**MORRISON**  
(supplied by Jay Flora)

Mr. Walter "Butch" Morrison Jr., 56, resident of Brian Center, Gastonia, died Sept. 27, 2008, at Gaston Memorial Hospital. He was born in Cleveland County, son of the late Walter Darvin "Red" and Christine Marie Gallant Morrison Sr. He was also preceded in death by a sister, Mary Anne Correll. He is survived by his brother, John Morrison of Shelby, and sister, Cecelia Morrison Meade, and husband, Scott, of Gastonia.

Born with spina bifida and hydrocephalus, Butch was not expected to survive at birth. He defied predictions by the medical profession and his family was blessed with his presence for 56 years. Even though paralyzed, Butch never complained of his disability and lived a life teaching others by his example of courage, patience, generosity and love. He was Cleveland County's Easter Seal Child of 1967.

In the mid-1970's Butch served as an honorary dispatcher for the Kings Mountain Police Department. He enjoyed many years operating a citizens-band radio and was a communications officer with *REACT* of Cleveland County. As an active resident of the Brian Center for the past three years, Butch served as past president of the residents' council and volunteer mail carrier. He was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church and enjoyed dinner outings with the men's group. An avid sports fan, the Redskins and Atlanta Braves now have their most devoted and loyal fan watching from above.

**Ron McCracken reminds us that May is *REACT* month and a good time to practice SOS drills:**

Please remember, *REACT* Month SOS Drills, like all SOS Drills, should use FRS-11. This will give the licensed GMRS channels a wide berth and earn your Team some GMRS friends. SOS Drills should also take place from 1-3 p.m. on a Saturday to provide consistency when we compare Drill results. You can get more tips at [www.NationalSOS.com](http://www.NationalSOS.com).

In view of increasing weather incidents, the value of SOS Drills is becoming more apparent. They are easy to conduct and good PR for any Team, no matter when you host one. *REACT* Month or NPM just give your Team added opportunities for media attention.

Teams planning SOS Drills, in *REACT* Month or beyond, please let me know off-List. Thanks and best wishes.

Ron McCracken

*As always, let us know what you are doing. Then, we can let everybody else know. Ed*

