

MERRY CHRISTMAS

The **REACT**er

The Official Publication of *REACT* International, Inc.
December 2016

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Did you know that there is only **ONE** regularly published magazine that covers CB radio, scanners, two-way radio, GMRS, FRS and MURS?

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*The REACT*er is available and open to all interested persons at: www.thereacter.com

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A Word from the Editor

Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah!
Happy Kwanzaa! Happy Holidays!

Yes, that's really me in the funny looking Santa cap! (It's a long story.) I was going to try to write some form of Christmas greeting here, but you all know what this holiday season means to you and the only thing I can think of to say is I wish you and yours the Best of the Season!

As we approach the end of the year, I want to take this opportunity to say congratulations to all the members out there - both new and old. YOU are the backbone of *REACT*!

When this organization first started, the C in *REACT* stood for you - "Citizens." It was changed many years later to better represent what you, the Citizens do: Communicate.

REACT is approaching its 55th year and it is all because you are the ones who go out and do the events in your communities, you are ready to respond in emergencies and in disasters, you help keep the motoring public safe by monitoring CB Channel 9 and other radio frequencies.

I would like to list each and every one of you here and recognize all of you, but there just isn't the space available.

I can, however, recognize you when you send in Team News or maybe a feature article about something you do or, basically, whatever it is you do! Every Team is different!

Some say *REACT* is obsolete. I say NO WAY! I have been a member for more than 40 years and I say we are still a vital organization and we provide a valuable service to our communities. So, in closing, let me just give you this advice ... no matter what anyone says, KEEP ON *REACT*ing!

Remember folks, my door is always open -- talk to me!

A stylized signature in orange and black that reads "Will".

Seasons Greetings

from

REACT International Board of Directors

As we bring 2016 to an end, the *REACT* International Board of Directors wishes all of our members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

REACT turns 55 early next year and we have a lot to be proud of!

Our members have donated thousands of hours to events in their communities and also to storm activities, both in watching for and working through them as well as disasters and the preparation for them. And we are growing - more than 10 new Teams in 2016!

Your Board of Directors is proud of each and every one of you for the work you put in all year.

Keep up the good work!

May you and yours experience the best that this holiday season has to offer!

Warren Deitz - Region One

Thomas Jenkins - Region Six

Thomas Currie - Region Two

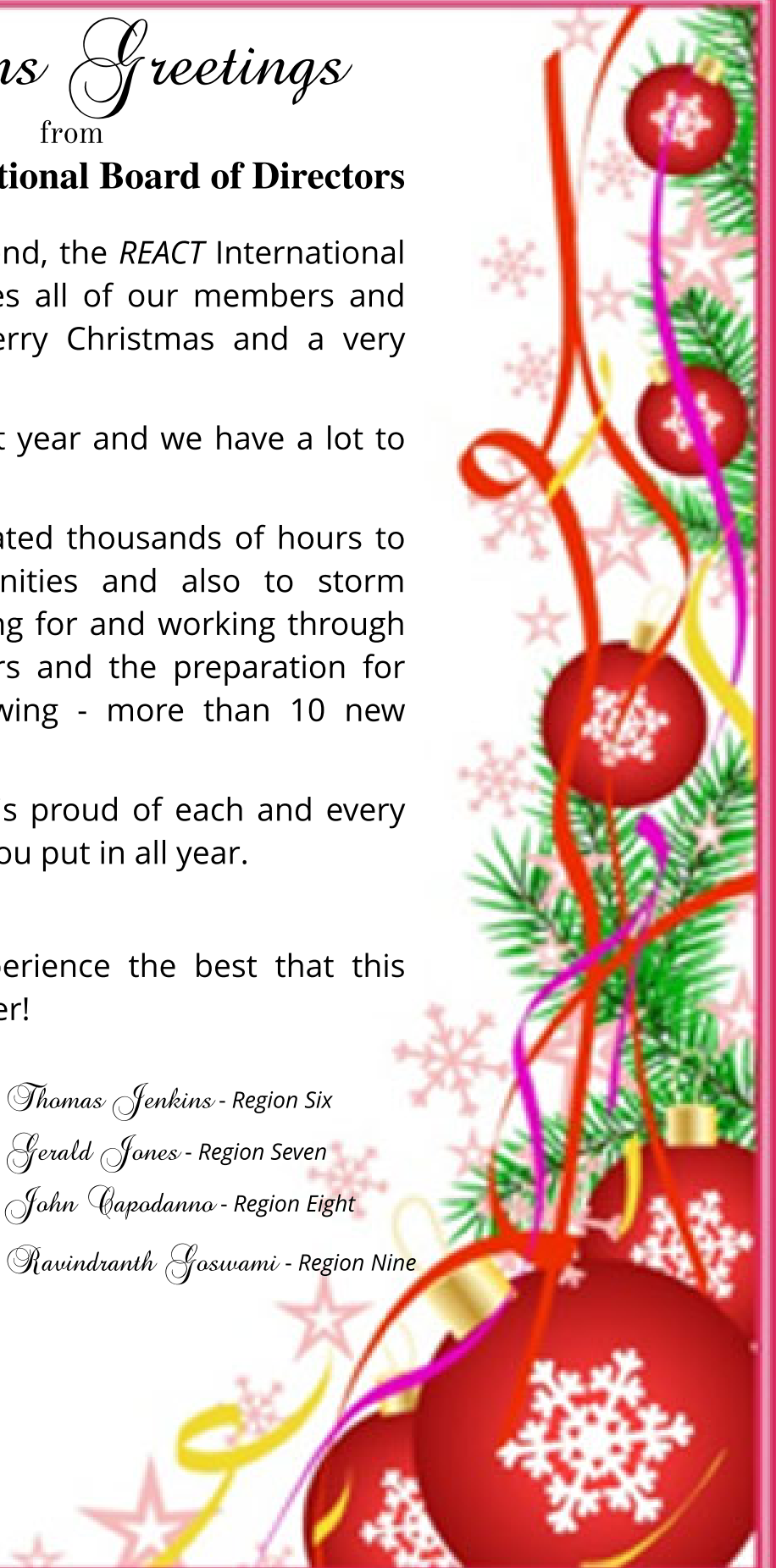
Gerald Jones - Region Seven

Joseph Lych - Region Three

John Capadanno - Region Eight

Matthew Vizzuso - Region Four

Ravindranth Gaswami - Region Nine





***REACT* is 55... And Going Strong!**



Thomas Currie, Director, Region 2

I've been asked to write a Christmas message for the December issue of *The REACTer*. Apparently someone thinks I can write - alas, they forgot that my writing ability is basically all as a technical writer, which probably isn't what anyone really wants for a Christmas message. But with over forty years in *REACT*, I guess this won't be the first time I've taken on something new, different, and just a bit outside my comfort zone.

REACT is coming up on its 55th anniversary. Maybe not as big a traditional milestone as the 50th, but still quite an accomplishment for an organization that many people thought was obsolete. We still face challenges, not the least of which is the question of what *REACT* really is and especially what *REACT* does. If we asked each of the 109 *REACT* Teams, I am confident that we would get *at least* 110 different answers, because every Team is unique. *REACT* Teams serve their local communities and each Team adapts its programs to suit the needs of the community as well as the interests and abilities of the members. Despite those who claim CB is dead, we have Teams where CB is still used regularly. Anyone who thinks that makes us obsolete or even "old fashioned" has obviously never listened to the check-ins on the weekly *REACT International* global net conducted on Echolink, D-Star, and numerous ham repeaters all around the globe each Tuesday evening. Whatever level of technology fits your local needs and your Team members, there is a place for it within *REACT*.

One thing that is common across all *REACT* Teams is an interest in communications, especially radio communications in support of emergencies. The *REACT Emergency Communications Training Program* is still available. We are working on some minor updates, mostly to add new technologies such as Echolink, but the existing manual is still a solid source of good information about Emergency Communications. The copy of the manual that was available on the *REACT* website is temporarily unavailable due to the site being in the process of being updated, but if you don't already have a copy in your Team, just email me at t.currie@reactintl.org and i will send you the complete manual (a little over 7MB as a set of PDF files).

Another useful information resource is the *REACT Field Operations Guide* which consists mostly of technical information about radios and the US regulations covering them. This is especially valuable for Teams thinking about acquiring some radio equipment for the Team. Again, this booklet isn't available on the website right now but I can send you a copy in email as a 263KB PDF file.

Finally, the Board is working on an update to the original guidance on the *Junior REACT* program. The final version probably won't be available until after the Winter Board Meeting in January.

Let me close with a reminder that all *REACT* members are always invited to attend meetings of the Board of Directors. The Winter (Annual) Board Meeting will be held on Monday, January 23, 2017, at the Aria Resort Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

And, of course, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!



The 2017 Annual Meeting of the *REACT International, Inc.* Board of Directors

will be held on Monday, January 23, 2017, at the
Aria Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada,
3730 S. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89158

All members are
welcome to attend.



It's RENEWAL TIME!

If you have not received your
renewal packet for 2017,
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REACT International partners



REACT International, Inc.

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board Of Directors, August 18, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, via teleconference by Chairman Capodanno.

Roll call was taken by Assistant Secretary Vizzuso:

Directors:

R1 – Warren Deitz – Present
R2 – Thomas Currie – Present
R3 – Joe Zych - Present
R4 – Matthew Vizzuso – Present
R5 – Jeremy Barrett – Present
R6 – Tom Jenkins - Present
R7 – Jerry Jones - Present
R8 – John Capodanno – Present
R9 – Ravindranath Goswami – Absent

Officers:

President – John Capodanno - Present
Executive Vice President – Florence Conlee - Absent
Secretary – Vacant
Treasurer – Russ Dunn – Absent
Asst. Secretary – Matthew Vizzuso - Present

Guests:

Jay Flora, William Stanley, Jeff Sklar, Chuck Thompson

It was confirmed that a quorum was established.

Agenda (Item 1)

Director Zych moved to accept the agenda, second by Director Jenkins.
R1-Y R2-Y R3-Y R4-Y R5-Y R6-Y R7-Y R8-Y - Motion passed.

Announcements (Item 2)

Secretary McDonnell's resignation letter was received. Resignation accepted.
Annual Meeting of the Board will be held at the ARIA, Las Vegas, January 23, 2017.

Meeting minutes (Item 3)

Director Jones moved to approve the minutes from June 30, 2016, second by Director Jenkins.
R1-Y R2-Y R3-Y R4-Y R5-Y R6-Y R7-Y R8-Y - Motion passed.

REACTer (Item 4)

Director Jenkins moved to accept William Stanley as editor/publisher of the *REACTer* for 60% of advertising sold only, second by Director Vizzuso.
R1-Y R2-Y R3-Y R4-Y R5-Y R6-Y R7-Y R8-Y - Motion passed.

Policy (Item 5)

Director Capodanno moved to accept the Weapons Policy, second by Director Jenkins.
R1-Y R2-Y R3-Y R4-Y R5-Y R6-Y R7-Y R8-Y - Motion passed.

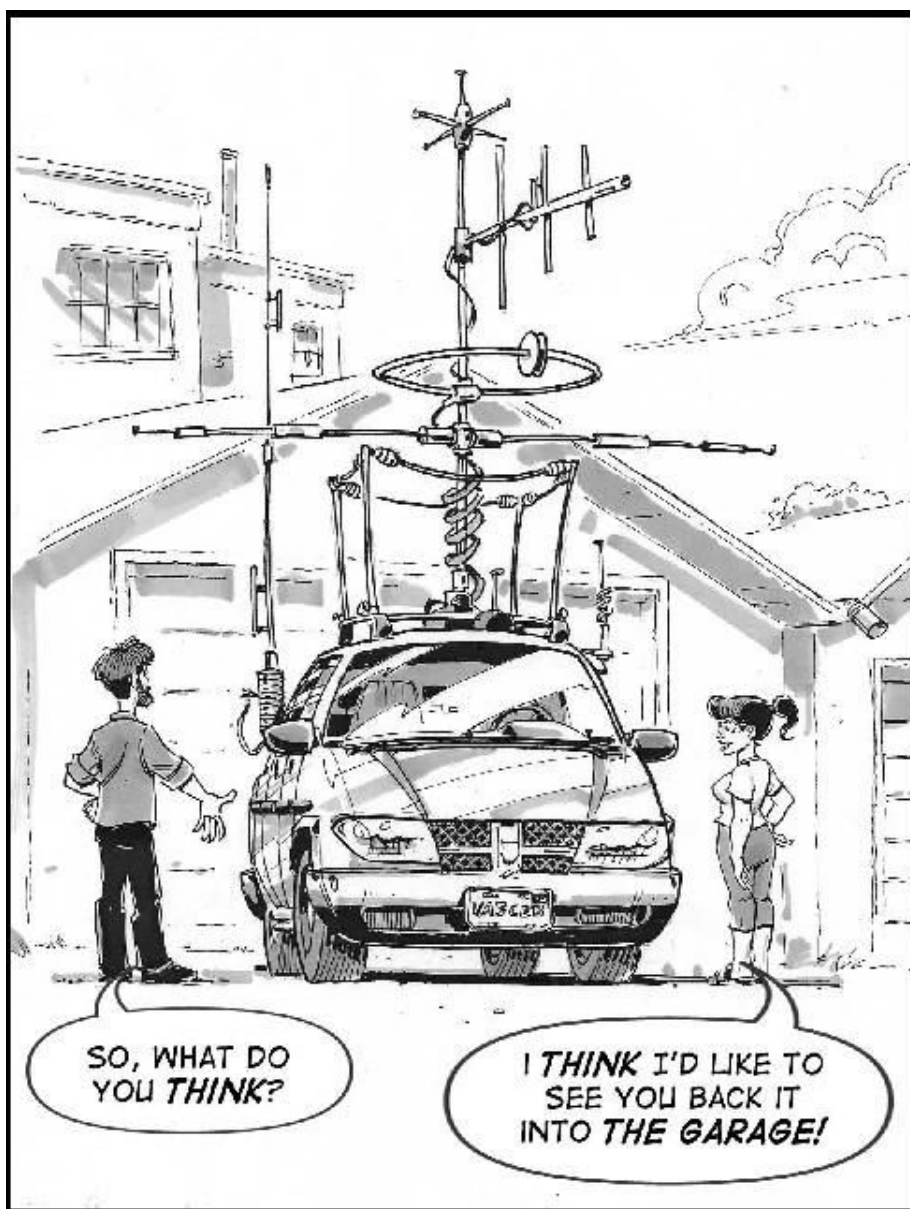
Next Meeting (Item 6)

Next Meeting – Thursday, November 10, 2016, at 9 p.m., EST.

Director Jenkins moved to adjourn, second by Director Barrett at 10:25 p.m.
R1-Y R2-Y R3-Y R4-Y R5-Y R6-Y R7-Y R8-Y - Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Vizzuso
Assistant Secretary



Cartoon courtesy of QRZ.com - - all rights reserved

REACT International, Inc.

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors, November 10, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, via teleconference, by Chairman Capodanno. Roll call was taken by Chairman Capodanno.

Directors:

R1 – Warren Deitz – Absent
R2 – Thomas Currie – Present
R3 – Joe Zych – Present 9:21 p.m.
R4 – Matthew Vizzuso – Absent
R5 – Jeremy Bennett - Absent
R6 – Tom Jenkins - Present
R7 – Jerry Jones - Present
R8 – John Capodanno – Present
R9 – Ravindranath Goswami – Present

Officers:

President – John Capodanno - Present
Executive Vice President – Florence Conlee - Absent
Secretary – Vacant
Treasurer – Russ Dunn – Absent
Asst. Secretary – Matthew Vizzuso - Absent

Guests:

William Stanley, William Richards,
Matthew Misetich, Tom Hobson

It was confirmed that a quorum was established.

Agenda (Item 1)

Director Jenkins moved to accept the agenda, second by Director Currie.

R2-Y R6-Y R7-Y R8-Y R9-Y - Motion passed.

Announcements (Item 2)

Director Barrett's resignation letter has been received. Resignation accepted.

Annual Meeting of the Board will be held at the ARIA, Las Vegas, January 23, 2017.

Meeting minutes (Item 3)

Director Currie moved to approve the minutes from August 18, 2016, second by Director Jenkins.

R2-Y R6-Y R7-Y R8-Y R9-Y - Motion passed.

Audit (Item 4)

Director Jones moved to accept Rojas CPA for 2016 annual review, second by Director Goswami.

R2-Y R6-Y R7-Y R8-Y R9-Y - Motion passed.

Next Meeting (Item 5)

Next Meeting – Monday, January 23 , 2017 Director Zych arrived at 9:21 p.m.

Director Jenkins moved to adjourn, second by Director Zych at 9:23 p.m.

R2-Y R3-Y R6-Y R7-Y R8-Y R9-Y - Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Matthew Vizzuso, Assistant Secretary

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the benefits of your *REACT* membership is being able to find discounts and other low prices on things like shopping, travel, hotels, and such.

It's made available through "**Working Advantage**," a company that finds and makes available these offers for people in groups like *REACT*.



Signing up is simple. Go to:

www.workingadvantage.com

and choose REGISTER. Fill out the form; the 'company ID' for *REACT* International, Inc., is **335951548**

Then after you're registered, stroll through the site and see what kinds of discounts

might apply to your needs. There are lots of them!

You can save big on purchases from such places as Staples, Amazon.com, Costco, Nike, and more. Discounts on hotels are available in places like Orlando, Fla. (Disney World), Las Vegas, Nev., New York, N.Y., Anaheim, Calif. (Disneyland), San Francisco, Calif., Chicago, Ill., and San Diego, Calif., to name only a few.

Save money on movie tickets! AMC, Regal, Cinemark, Harkins, and more!

All of this is available and more and it is a benefit of your membership in *REACT*!

(Legal stuff: *REACT* International, Inc., does not endorse or realize any gain from *REACT*ers becoming members of Working Advantage and is not responsible for the offer



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For anyone planning to attend the RI Board Meeting in January who will be flying, here is some advice on stuff you cannot take on the plane, in either carry-on bags or checked bags:

Aerosols

Aerosols are prohibited with the exception of personal care items or toiletries in limited quantities. Less than 3.4 oz / 100 ml allowed in checked bag.

Blasting Caps

Chlorine for Pools and Spas

Dynamite

Electronic Cigarettes and Vaping Devices

The FAA prohibits these devices in checked baggage. Battery-powered E-cigarettes, vaporizers, vape pens, atomizers, and electronic nicotine delivery systems may only be carried in the aircraft cabin (in carry-on baggage or on your person). Check with your airline for additional restrictions. Remove all electronic cigarette and vaping devices from carry-on bags if checked at the gate or planeside.

Fire Extinguishers and Other Compressed Gas Cylinders

Fireworks

Flammable Liquid, Gel, or Aerosol Paint

Flammable Paints

Cooking fuels and any flammable liquid fuel is prohibited

Gas Torches

Gasoline

Hand Grenades

Lighter Fluid

Lighters

Lighters without fuel are permitted in checked baggage. Lighters with fuel are prohibited in checked baggage, unless they adhere to the Department of Transportation exemption, which allows up to two fueled lighters if properly enclosed in a DOT approved case.

Liquid Bleach

Realistic Replicas of Explosives

Realistic Replicas of Incendiaries

Recreational Oxygen

Non-medically required, flavored or canned oxygen containers are prohibited

Spillable Batteries

Except those in wheelchairs

Spray Paint

Strike-anywhere Matches

Tear Gas

Self-defense sprays

Self-defense sprays containing more than 2% by mass of tear gas are prohibited in both carry-on and checked baggage

Torch Lighters

Torch lighters create a thin, needle-like flame that is hotter (reaching 2,500° F) and more intense than those from common lighters. Torch lighters are often used for pipes and cigars, and maintain a consistent stream of air-propelled fire regardless of the angle at which held.

Turpentine and Paint Thinner

Vehicle Airbags

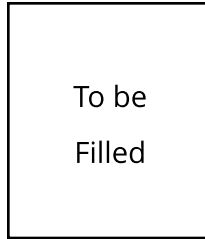
For a list of allowed items and other items regulated or prohibited by the FAA, go to: www.faa.gov/Go/Packsafe. Other information is available at: <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/prohibited-items>



REGION ONE

Warren Deitz
New York

w.deitz@reactintl.org



REGION FIVE



REGION TWO

Thomas Currie
Kentucky

t.currie@reactintl.org



REGION SIX

Thomas Jenkins
Idaho

t.jenkins@reactintl.org



REGION THREE

Joseph Zych
Tennessee

j.zych@reactintl.org



REGION SEVEN

Gerald Jones
Texas

j.jones@reactintl.org



REGION FOUR

Matthew Vizzuso
Ohio

m.vizzuso@reactintl.org



REGION EIGHT

John Capodanno
California

j.capodanno@reactintl.org



REGION NINE

Ravindranath Goswami
Trinidad & Tobago

r.goswami@reactintl.org

meet **OUR**
OFFICERS

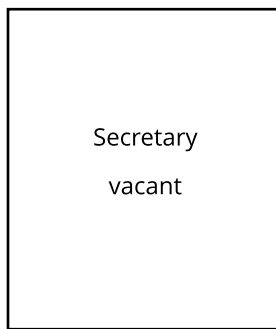
REACT International, Inc.,
Officers



John Capodanno
President
California



Florence Conlee
Exec. Vice President
Arizona



Vacant
Secretary



Russell Dunn
Treasurer
Idaho



Matthew Vizzuso
Ass't Secretary
Ohio



Dennis Luciani
Ass't Treasurer
California

Attention All Teams:

DON'T FORGET TO FILE YOUR 2015 IRS FORM 990-N!

Do it BEFORE December 31, 2016

Failure to do so WILL affect your 501(c)(3) status!

VERY IMPORTANT!!!



It is with great sadness that we notify the REACT family of the passing of this former member.

Jim Haynie W5JBP (1943-2016)

ARRL President Emeritus Jim Haynie, W5JBP (Dallas County REACT Unit 143 1989-2010), of Dallas, Texas, died on November 1. He was 73. His death followed a period of ill health. Haynie was elected as the 13th President of ARRL on January 21, 2000, and served three two-year terms.

Promptly after his installation as ARRL president, Haynie contacted then REACT International Vice President Charles A (Chuck) Thompson to review and finalize a Statement of Understanding between the ARRL and RI. In July 2000, the SOU was



simultaneously presented by Haynie to the ARRL Board in Newington, Conn., and by Thompson to the RI Board in Kissimee, Fla. It was unanimously approved by both Boards. Thompson became RI President in February 2001, and the SOU was officially signed at a ceremony in Dallas on May 16, 2001. "Jim was a remarkable individual who made a huge personal commitment to Amateur Radio and the ARRL," said ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. "He had a great sense of humor that was often quite helpful as we addressed some serious

matters when Jim was President. His vision guided us to try new things that are still helping Amateur Radio and the League to this day."

A radio amateur for more than 40 years, Haynie was twice reelected by the ARRL Board to the ARRL's top volunteer office, serving until January 2006. Haynie was ARRL West Gulf Division Director 1987-1990 and, after nomination by Dallas County REACT, 1997-2000. He was an ARRL Vice President 1990-1992.

For many years, Haynie regularly taught amateur radio classes in Dallas, including three Technician-level classes sponsored by Dallas County REACT in the 1990s.

During his six years as president, Haynie focused on promoting Amateur Radio in the classroom, and his ARRL Amateur Radio Education Project — which he dubbed the "Big Project" — was an initiative to offer a turnkey Amateur Radio curriculum as well as radio equipment to schools. His project eventually grew into the ARRL Education & Technology Program (ETP).

A gregarious and accessible individual, Haynie was also skilled at promoting Amateur Radio as often as he could, frequently on the road to attend as many

ham radio gatherings as he could squeeze into his schedule, including Dayton Hamvention each spring. Once, he was also a guest of Art Bell, W6OBB, on his *Coast to Coast AM* overnight radio talk show.

On several occasions, Haynie traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with FCC and other government officials and with lawmakers on Capitol Hill to promote Amateur Radio issues and to communicate concerns. Those included the League's position on deed restrictions or CC&Rs. During his tenure, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act and the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act — an early bill to address the CC&R issue — were introduced in Congress. In 2003, Haynie testified on Capitol Hill on behalf of the Spectrum Protection Act.

Not long after he became president, Haynie arranged for the gravely injured 13-year-old Willem van Tuijl — shot by pirates while cruising in the South Pacific with his parents Jacco, KH2TD, and Jannie, KH2TE, van Tuijl — get medical treatment in the US.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Haynie rallied radio amateurs to assist, and he praised the actions of Amateur Radio volunteers who turned out in New York City and Washington, DC. "Radio amateurs in New York City and elsewhere around the country are doing everything they can to support the authorities in locating and assisting victims," he said in the immediate aftermath of the attacks.

A few years later, Haynie provided written testimony on Amateur Radio's response in the Hurricane Katrina disaster to the US

House Government Reform Committee.

In 2007, after he had left the presidency, Dayton Hamvention® named Haynie as its Amateur of the Year. Hamvention said Haynie's League leadership "helped define Amateur Radio's role in emergency communication."

Among other highlights of Haynie's tenure as the League's president was the signing of a *Statement of Affiliation* between the Department of Homeland Security in 2003, which made ARRL a Citizen Corps affiliate.

The following year, he headed an ARRL delegation to the White House to discuss concerns about broadband over power line technology, meeting with an official of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

In 2013, the ARRL West Gulf Division honored Haynie with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Services were held Friday, November 4, at the Abbey Chapel at Restland Funeral Home, Dallas, Tex. Burial was at Restland Memorial Cemetery.

The REACTer thanks the ARRL for permission to use its report on Mr. Haynie's death which, with modifications, appears above.





Letters to the Editor

Send your "Letter to the Editor" on any *REACT* based topic to: editor@thereacter.com

Greetings. This is the first ever (that I am aware of) Letters to the Editor column for The *REACT*er. Perhaps there has been one before this, and if that is so, I trust someone will write a "letter to the editor" to tell me!

This column today is heavy in comments about the first *REACT*er in over a year and the new format. That's to be expected. But I trust we will get other letters from members in the future, possibly commenting on articles you have read or other things you see in issues that you simply have questions about.

If I don't know the answer, I'll find out for you!

Now, onto this issue's letters...

*I *really* like the new format!! Nice and organized, easy to read, and full of good information. :-)*

Madeline Pepper
FCA *REACT* 4800

Thank You for the good words, Madeline! - WS

*Good day Will,
Firstly, congratulations on being appointed the new editor of The *REACT*er. I note your undertaking to ensure that all articles sent in will be published. In the past, members in our region have expressed disappointment when they take the time to prepare articles, only to never see them published. So you will be a hero to these members who look forward to publication of their articles.*

Best regards,
Robby (Ravindranath Goswami, Reg 9 Director)

Thanks, Robby. I'll leave the hero stuff to the

The *REACT*er

brave men and women who protect us from the bad guys out there, day after day: the military, the firemen, police officers, and all the others. But to the very best of my ability, the days of articles being submitted but not published are over. It is very easy to plan a specific space for a certain feature. But it is also very easy to expand the pages in the issue to allow for more space for that feature if it should run over its allotted space! I will see to it that whatever is submitted will be published!
- WS

*Will, You did a great job, it was the best *REACT*er I have ever seen. We are so lucky to have a quality publication; you outdid yourself. If this is the first issue, wow, the members are in for a treat! Thank you for all your time and hard work, it is the best ever!*

GREAT JOB
Joe Zych
Region 3

Thanks Joe, I appreciate the kind words. I would have to say that this job is what I have been working toward most of my adult life. I find it fun to gather all the info and put it together. I hope everybody enjoys the future issues. - WS

*Hi Will, this is a very good *REACT*er Magazine. Keep up the good work!*
Jay WA4JAY Cleveland County *REACT* Unit 1

Thanks, Jay. I appreciate your good thoughts!

*Hi Will, That was a very nice job you did on The *REACT*er. I don't remember when I've seen so much info in one issue. Please keep up the good work.
Yours truly, Paul Oby LM 0433*

Thanks for the kind words, Paul!

That's it for this issue. Send those letters to editor@thereacter.com.
So... until next time...

REACT responds

Hurricane Matthew pounds Florida and East Coast Cities

Beginning October 7 and continuing forward, Hurricane Matthew pounded the East Coast of the US, bring damage and destruction as it moved.

Many REACT Teams in the area



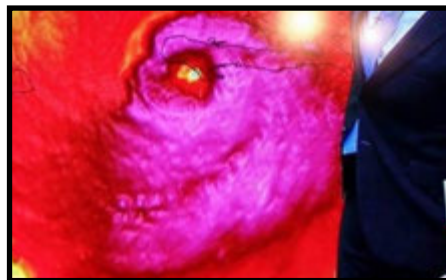
responded and helped with initial preparations for the storm and also started making plans for assisting after the storm passed. As anyone who has ever been in a hurricane knows, the damage can be pretty great.

Joe Zych, REACT Region 3 Director, reported *"We were very busy making radio contacts up and down the east coast of Florida. I contacted each member of the Flagler REACT Team to let them know we were standing ready and had them to set up the Zello communications app so we could keep in touch world wide. I also set up the DMR digital communications net on the North America channel for all traffic to report. We also monitored the REACT conference server on*

Echolink node number 109779, it was a busy long night but minor damage in south Florida."

The storm passed over Florida and began its relentless path up the East Coast, raising the same kind of havoc and confusion in Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina, before moving out to sea, where it joined with another building hurricane, Nicole, and the now combined storm headed back south to have another go at the area.

Some people were describing the storm as a 'monster' storm and perhaps it was, with winds topping 160 mph at times. Based on some images, the idea of a "monster" storm was taken a little bit too seriously by some, apparently.



The Grinch that stole Florida?

Ok, a little hurricane humor there. But Matthew did plenty of damage.

There was plenty of damage in the southeastern corner of North Carolina, with at least 2 piers being blown away.

Flagler REACT in Florida reported, *"REACT Members went*

to LEVEL 4 Full Activation (5 is the highest level) in response to Hurricane Matthew. REACT members staffed positions at the EOC, supporting communications and social media.



Further, three REACT members assisted with traffic control at the primary shelter. During the storm, REACT members took storm reports from ham radio and



GMRS as well as social media.

REACT lost all but 2 GMRS repeaters; however the Facebook chat system stayed online throughout the storm."

Overall, the damages from Matthew are estimated to be in the \$4 billion to \$6 billion range, according to CoreLogic, a research and consulting firm. The total death count is at over 1,000 people with 33 of those being in the US.

Hurricane Matthew came and REACT was there, assisting people, maintaining control and providing communications. And

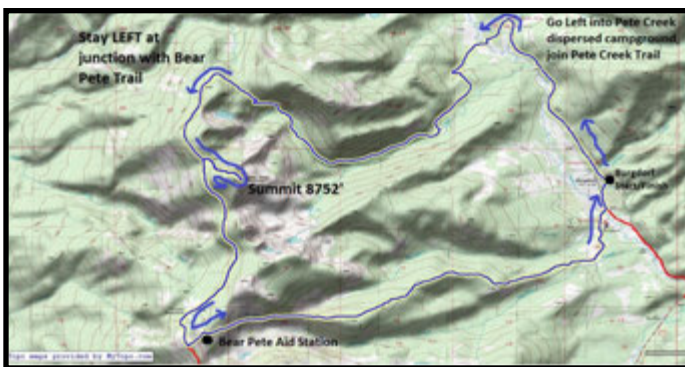


Valley Wide REACT #4956

(Idaho)

Submitted by Herb Ankrum

Valley Wide REACT Team 4956, Boise, Idaho, (<http://www.vwreact.org>) supports around 60 events a year doing everything from traffic management and pedestrian assistance to aid station and SAG (support and gear) support. The Idaho Mountain Trail Ultra Festival (IMTUF) is the latest event that Aid Station and emergency communication support was provided. IMTUF 100 is a 102.9 mile running race in the mountains of Central Idaho. It is a 36-hour race starting and finishing at Burgdorf Hot Springs.



There were some very steep climbs and descents with TUF footing, beautiful summits and ridges, deep canyons with pristine rivers, and lots of wildlife. The peak elk rut was on during the weekend, so bugling bulls were frequently heard and seen. Other wildlife included bear, wolves, lions, moose, deer, eagles, and more.

The Team's primary duty was to relay runner information to net control. We were also there to

cheer on the runners and help with course information. Although it was not the Team's responsibility, several operators stayed and helped with the transport of runners back to town from several of the aid stations who dropped from the race.

For these two races there were 10 aid stations and



We had 21 hams and 3 non-hams manning the stations from 0600 Saturday until 1800 Sunday. Primary communications were through the 146.900 Brundage Mountain Repeater operated by the Central Idaho ARC. Secondary communications were on simplex. Chinook aid station could not reach this repeater so we set up a crossband on top of the mountain above Net Control so that all aid stations could communicate with them. This consisted of a battery, a Kenwood TM-v71a, a 10' tripod mast, and a Diamond x30a antenna. A lockable/waterproof case was built to hold the radio and battery and allow the case to be chained to a tree. Next year we will have to have a generator at this location to accommodate the race going in the opposite



Hams ages 16 to 79 were pulled in from McCall, Moscow, Boise, Nampa, Caldwell, Middleton, and Wieser, Idaho, to support this race.

One operator was not only the timekeeper for the races but also ran sweep for the first leg of the race, carrying a radio with him. There were at least 3 hams running in the race who talked to me. Most stations were mobile radios running on battery power with 10' - 20' masts and Comet or Diamond fiberglass antennas. Several mobiles were in cross band mode to allow the operators freedom to move around with their HTs.

Net Control had 2 hams coordinating all communications for both races.



Chinook Aid station was the first station in the race and had 5 operators and 1 non operator (I guess I should not leave out the 2 children under 3 who helped here).

This station was also the busiest with over 100 runners passing through in less than 1 hour. Upper Payette Lake pass #1 was next with 1 ham and his Non-ham wife.

We had several great comments from people helping with the race and those in it.

"I witnessed and heard stories from the runners of so many acts of kindness and helpfulness from so many of you. Finally, IMTUF was put to the test with wet and nasty weather. Because of your commitment to the runners, the race went on and the event was fantastic."

"I think everyone did a fantastic job. Thank you all for keeping many of my friends and all the runners, crew, and spectators safe. Everyone had long hours and little sleep, but all did a very important job with pride and professionalism. I am proud to be part of both the HAM and the Ultra-running communities."

"Keep me in mind for next year! I'd be happy to be in the same spot--especially if John and Alice are there again--they were great to work with and did a truly remarkable job of providing just the sort of camp the runners needed at that point. The warmth and shelter (especially the warmth!) probably kept quite a few runners in the run. More than a few would have had trouble going on without the chance to really get warmed up and dried out. I had a blast and am glad I was able to help! So, let's do it again!"

"I had a blast Saturday combining my hobbies (ultra running & amateur radio)."

This is one of 4 or 5 good-sized events we support here.



Cleveland County REACT

(North Carolina)

Submitted by Jay Flora

Cleveland County REACT and Shelby, N.C., have lost a good friend and a dedicated police officer. Shelby police officer Tim Brackeen was shot and wounded on Sept. 10, as he attempted to serve an arrest warrant. He died on Monday of his injuries, authorities said. Shelby Police Chief Jeff Ledford said in a statement that the officer, who was 38 and a 12-year veteran of the force, died at a Charlotte hospital. Brackeen leaves behind a wife and a daughter.

In other events, in April, the Team assisted with the 4th Annual 7th Inning event, where Team members helped with handicapped parking.

In August, the Team again assisted with National Night Out and on Oct. 22, the Team was asked to assist Shelby Police with the Crime Stoppers Motorcycle Run.



Cleveland County REACT Chief Jay Flora and Caesar

This run consists of



riders travelling throughout the county to raise money for the local Crime Stoppers program. Cleveland County

members assisted with blocking and rerouting traffic to allow passage



the motorcycles. Assisting units then followed up along the

The REACTer



course, with police units that were also assisting.

On Veterans' Day, members of the Team assisted with traffic and crowd control for the annual Veterans' Day Parade in Shelby.



Shelby Police Chief Jeff Ledford

Cleveland County REACT did an Amateur Radio demo for the Police Explorers meeting in December at the request of the Shelby Police Department.

All in all, the Team stays very busy and the local police chief, Jeff Ledford, expressed his appreciation for the help Cleveland County REACT is always willing to provide.

Starr Mountain REACT

(Tennessee)

Submitted by Joe Zych

A group of eight Team members from Starr Mountain



REACT made the two-hour trip to the Chattanooga Ham Fest was on Saturday, October 22, and it was fun. The morning started out around 40 degrees, but it warmed up to about 75.

Our Team members wear bright orange shirts so we get asked questions about our group and we talk and share



about *REACT*. We made many new friends and found some good deals on radio antennas and many more



related items. Luck was in the air for one of our Team members. It was Bo's first ham fest and he won a Raspberry Pi mini computer in the drawing they do every 30 minutes, and he was all smiles!

The communication mobile trailer unit we toured provided our Team with many ideas to to help improve our communications and power equipment.

I encourage all *REACT* members, whether you are an amateur radio operator or not, to attend a ham fest to get ideas and gain more info in the radio communications field. Just Google "your state" and "ham fest" and you will see a list. Anybody can go and you will meet some really interesting people.

The next ham fest for our Team to attend is in Dalton, Georgia. It is a big one and we can't wait!

Until next time, 73 from the Starr Mountain *REACT* Team in Tennessee to all the *REACT* members.

Flagler County Assist *REACT*

(Florida)

Submitted by Bob Pickering

Flagler County Assist *REACT* has been around since 1985 serving the people of Flagler County. The organization has been through two major wildfires that impacted populated areas as well as three

hurricanes and other storms over the years. Now we can add one more to the list.

As time went on, what would become known as Hurricane Matthew took shape in the Caribbean and began to take aim northward toward our local area. At the October training session (normally done the first Sunday of the even months), the Team went to its first notice of a pending operation, LEVEL 1. The Team Emergency Plan has a 5 level response system with 0 the lowest and 5 the highest.

As hurricane watches were raised on October 5, the Team began to organize and prepare for a full activation. There was still great uncertainty on the exact path and intensity of the tropical cyclone. The path along the east coast of Florida that was forecast was fairly certain. What was not certain was how close the center would approach Flagler County. How close the center got would determine if we would experience gales or severe hurricane winds.

Evacuations were ordered on Thursday, October 6. On Thursday it looked like the hurricane would track right over the county on Friday. Our Team went to a



The Flagler County Assist *REACT* Social Media Team, manned by Maryann Pickering and Kelly Oberacker.

LEVEL 3 activation and sent three members to the Bunnell Elementary School shelter site in order to assist with traffic at the shelter.

The social media team would help answer questions after coordinating with Emergency Managements Public Information Officer. Other volunteers were tasked with photographic documentation helping document the event for Flagler County and working with the county's video specialist.

The weather continued to deteriorate throughout the day on Thursday with nor'easter conditions setting in. Meanwhile out in the field, *REACT* volunteers using the GMRS radio system were working traffic control at the Bunnell shelter through the day. The on-duty Skywarn station helped track members.

REACT members dealt with all sorts of issues at the shelter as well as persons who were scared or upset because of the oncoming hurricane. Other volunteers began to head to the Emergency Operations Center to staff the GMRS and Amateur Radio station at the County EOC. Traffic units reported to the EOC by nightfall as evacuations were completed. The final chess pieces would be put into place on Friday morning before the hurricane would



at the EOC and assist with various functions while doing so.

At 0600 hrs *REACT* moved to LEVEL 4 Full Response Mode.

By daybreak, Tropical Storm conditions had arrived in Flagler County. Sustained winds over 40 mph, mostly in eastern Flagler County, with gusts approaching 50-70 mph began to spread across the county, with the strongest winds over the eastern sections and along the coast.

REACT members at the EOC monitored weather reports and monitored the NWS Weather Chat and social media systems. *REACT* members also assisted with photography, helped in the call center, and a traffic strike Team of two members was kept at the EOC.

As conditions worsened the 462.700 GMRS repeater failed, but the Team switched to the 462.675 repeater which was on a generator back-up and on a water tank. As the storm wore on, other GMRS repeaters failed, except for the .675 and .550, both located at hardened facilities. The Facebook chat system, which members could access through multiple devices, stayed up through the entire storm and never failed.

REACT's social media team began data mining for photos and reports of storm damage and storm reports. *REACT's* radio support providing operators for Skywarn, ARES, and shelter communications used both GMRS and ham radio. Storm reports were forwarded to the "weather desk" where information was fed to the National Weather Service and the County Public Information Desk.

The one bit of good news was that the center of the hurricane was forecast to pass about 60 miles off-shore; this would keep the severe hurricane force winds off shore, but would not completely spare Flagler County. Through the midday hours the storm raged with winds gusting over 80 mph.

Reports of storm surge flooding parts of northeastern Flagler County and also parts of State



Flagler County Assist *REACT's* EOC station, manned by Howard and Madeline Pepper.

make its closest approach.

Overnight *REACT* members stationed at the EOC would monitor weather reports and brief the EOC staff as well as monitor radio and social media.

As gale winds and rains overspread the county in the early morning hours on Friday, October 7, the last of the *REACT* "storm team" arrived at the EOC. The storm team is the *REACT* crew that would ride out the storm



Flagler County Assist REACT's Weather Desk, manned by Eric Pickering.

REACT's radio operations, working closely with ARES, continued to collect reports via amateur radio and GMRS before forwarding them to the weather desk. The social media team continued to relay public information and answer questions in support of the county Public Information officer.

In the height of the storm word came that a Team member's roof on his home had been severely damaged. However, conditions would have to improve before we could investigate.

Some of the key observations came from an ARES/Skywarn member in Flagler Beach who, using ham radio, kept the EOC informed of wind conditions along the coast. Other members assisted with water level monitoring along the Palm Coast canals with storm surges four feet above the canal walls reported.

By the early afternoon the eye of the hurricane had passed Flagler County and winds dramatically dropped off. Reports from ARES operators on the beach side confirmed that conditions were safe now for responders to head out.

After securing special permission, two REACT volunteers, along with first responders went to Flagler Beach. Their first assignment was to assist with securing the damaged roof of our member's house.

Once that was done, county administration had yet to

hear how Beverly Beach had fared during the storm. At the direction of the administrator they proceeded to Beverly Beach using an abundance of caution to find out what had happened to the small seaside community.

Using GMRS upon arrival, they reported that the majority of the manufactured homes had suffered major damage. However, darkness would be falling soon and the decision was made for them to return. The decision was also made because their vehicle had picked up several nails in the tires.



Flagler County Assist REACT members, Anthony Cinelli, Steve Ripley, and Eric Cooley, checking the local area after Hurricane Matthew had passed by.

The next day, October 8, once things were secured, the barrier island was opened up to residents only. Two REACT members were assigned to assist with traffic whilst other members were still working social media and radios. Throughout the day, the social media and traffic Teams were kept busy. Other members were assisting in the community and even assisting at the call center as people sought information. The members on the traffic Team worked for eight hours straight supporting law enforcement and dealing with impatient people.

Back at the EOC, REACT members continued to work with Emergency Management staff. REACT was able to lower its response level to LEVEL 3 at the end of the day as things began to stabilize.

In the days ahead REACT members responded to various requests, assisted in documenting and photographing storm damage, and helped in and around the EOC as well as helping monitor social media. These activities slowly wound down over the week as additional resources came in to help Flagler

Things continued to slow down, allowing the Team to slowly decrease its level of response. But *REACT* was not done yet.

The next weekend, October 15, came the call to help with a beach cleanup in Flagler Beach. Members came out to help coordinate the cleanup efforts using GMRS and ham radio as well as providing limited traffic control. *REACT* members responded again on October 29 to the same request.



Flagler County Assist REACT members Steve Ripley, Kelly Oberacker, Maryann Pickering, Bob Pickering, Eric Cooley, and Jeff Majewski checking with Flagler Beach Mayor Linda Provencher (in blue/pink) after the hurricane had passed.

In closing, this is the strongest hurricane to hit Flagler County in recorded history as records only go back to 1873. The Team response went very smoothly. However, we will be doing a mandatory debrief of the event to see what we can do to work out some of the glitches.

There are a number of reasons for our success:

1. Training. The Team trains and trains and also works many public service events through the years. These events prepare the Team for emergencies
2. Keeping up with the times. Two-way radio will always remain one of the best forms of emergency communication; however, technology is changing things. Social media proved itself as a very reliable communications system and stayed up through the storm. Last year our Team set up a *REACT* Emergency Facebook Chat which is used to supplement our radio systems. Not only did it not go down, it was one of the most reliable forms of communication throughout the event.
3. Working relationships. Because we work so many

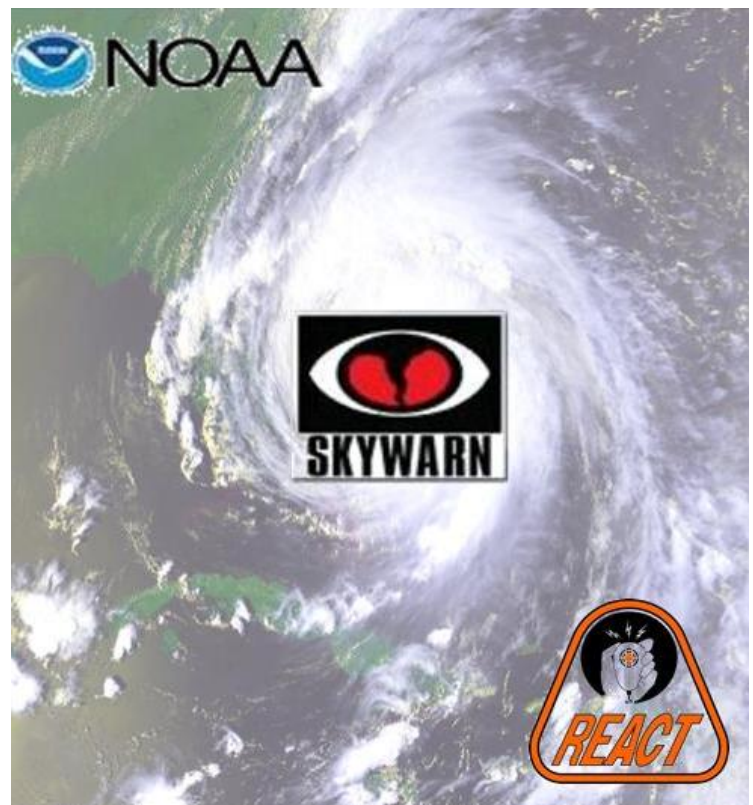


public service events we got to know the agencies in our county. When things went bad, they knew who to call and we got so many requests we could not honor them all.



Flagler County Assist REACT member Eric Cooley assists with traffic before Hurricane Matthew.

Three organizations - one great effort!





Los Angeles County REACT

(California)

Submitted By John Capodanno

On December 3, members of Los Angeles County *REACT* assisted at the 40th Annual Montrose Christmas Parade in Montrose, Calif. This parade began in the early 1950s as a merchant promotion idea. This year's parade featured marching bands and floats from the various merchants and organizations.

Laco*REACT* members provided traffic assistance and radio control of police, fire, and EMT services. The Amateur operators (team name: GEARS) provided additional traffic control for the parade.

Approximately 35 hams and 12 *REACT*ers worked the parade which began at 6 p.m. and ran until 8:20 p.m.



Ryan Reid, Lou Soloway and John Capodanno work the Command Post for the Montrose Parade

The next morning, Laco*REACT* members assisted with the 23rd Annual Veteran's Holiday Celebration.

This event was begun "when a group of men wanted to make a difference in the lives of veterans at the WLA Veterans facility.

These men found that many veterans had nowhere to go and no one to celebrate the holidays with. They quickly discovered that food, appreciation, and entertainment were paramount to these men.

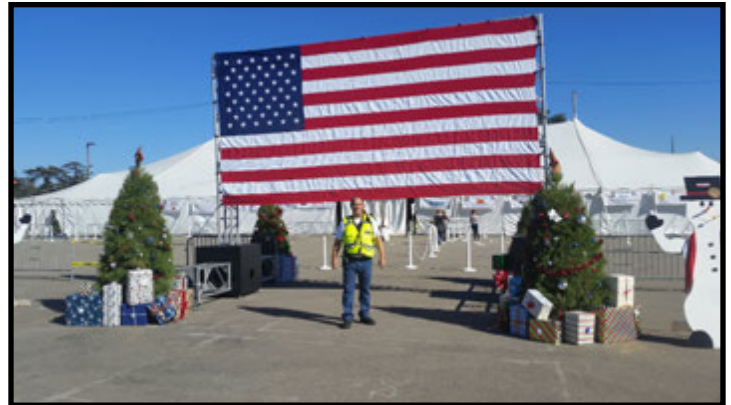
The *REACT*er

With turkey dinners in hand, they were able to create an evening of gratitude and love for the 30 veterans they served. The Veterans' Holiday



Celebration has since grown to serving over 3,500 vets and active duty service members and their families this past year." (VHC website, <http://www.vhcevent.org/aboutus.htm>)

This event featured appearances by the cheerleaders for the Los Angeles Lakers, the Los Angeles Rams and the Los Angeles Clippers.



John Capodanno stands in front of the America flag displayed by the entrance to the event.

A great day was had by all. Approximately 3,500 - 4,000 vets, their families, guests and volunteer workers were served at this year's event.



Valley Wide *REACT* # 4956

(Idaho)

Submitted by David Lowenstein

Valley Wide *REACT* Team #4956 puts in about 2,200 man-hours volunteer time each year assisting local charity groups throughout the Treasure Valley and surrounding area in Idaho. Approximately 1,100 of these man-hours are spent assisting with traffic for various fundraising events in the city of Boise, under the direction of the Boise Police Department.

The Team owns and operates VHF and UHF amateur radio repeaters located on a mountain top above the valley. It also operates a UHF repeater on a tall building above the downtown area in Boise. The Team also owns both VHF and UHF commercial repeaters that are ready to go into operation as soon as a suitable location is obtained. These repeaters are used to maintain communications between members and allow them to assist vehicular traffic control or to summon help as needed. While assisting with traffic, Team members wear D.O.T. approved traffic vests with the Team name on the back. The Team also owns six dozen 28-inch traffic cones which are distributed to members to further help when assisting in traffic.

The photos show Past President (now Treasurer) David Loewenstein and his vehicle, licensed as "*REACT* 1," assisting with traffic to the left of the right hand lane of the 4 lanes on northbound Capitol Blvd. in downtown Boise.

The event is called the "Buddy Walk" which raises money for research into a cure for autism. Each autistic child is paired with a buddy to assist them as

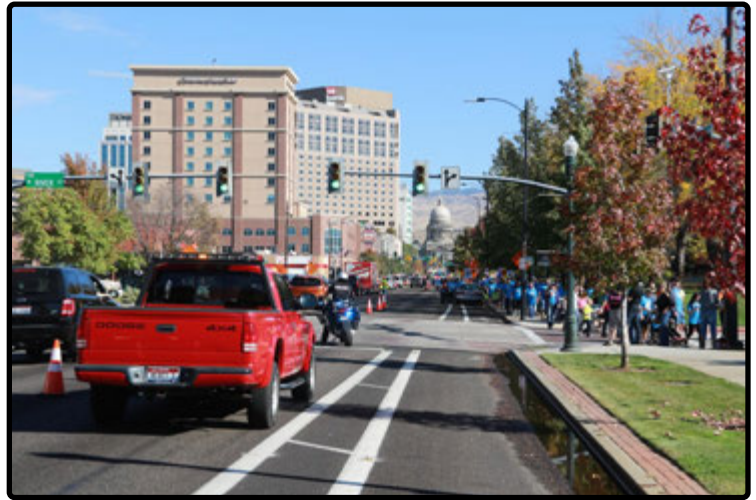


The *REACT*er

they



walk from the State Capitol Building down Capito Blvd. into Julia Davis Park on the Boise River. This is a



trip of just over one-half mile through the core area of downtown Boise.

The Team also provides traffic assistance and works in aid stations to provide communication for parades, marathons, and other events in Boise under the direction of the Boise Police Department.

[Editor's Note: You may have noticed that this is the second entry for Valley Wide *REACT* in Idaho for this issue. That is perfectly acceptable! If your Team submits a Team News report and then you have something else that you want to submit - bring it on! My policy, as I have said to many members and Teams that I spoken with, is if you send it in, it gets published! The days of "selective publishing" of Team News articles are over. Team operations are the very core of what *REACT* does and the Team News section in The *REACT*er is supposed to inform and educate other Teams as to what is going on. I have heard from a few Teams that say they don't do anything because there is no need for them. I say WRONG! Read Team News and see what others are doing and see if that will work for your Team as well!]

Don't Sit Back ... ***REACT!***



The Importance of Training to *REACT* Teams A Region Nine Perspective

Ravindranath "Robby" Goswami, 9Z4RG/AK4NB, Region 9 Director

A quick glance at the back of a *REACT* ID card shows a member's training/certifications – FEMA/NIMS ICS, Ecomm, CERT, and Skywarn – in addition to call signs for *REACT*, Amateur, and GMRS. Space only allows for mentioning a few key accreditations.

Although such certifications are optional, as Teams have found out, they are quickly becoming necessary for deployments during incidents by municipal, state, and national agencies. This applies particularly to the Incident Command System (ICS) courses 100, 200, 700, and 800, as adoption increases. Certification demonstrates knowledge and gives the served agency a measure of assurance that the *REACT* member can quickly fit in as they are familiar with the language and processes of incident response.

The following are the pillars or strategies established for Region 9, with training being one of the top priorities.

Emphasis on Training and Development.	Promotion of the <i>REACT</i> brand.
Providing an avenue for each sub-region to have an active voice in the operations of <i>REACT</i> International.	Strengthening the governance, administration, and communication with the served territories.
Focus on and promotion of the distinctive capabilities.	Recognition of excellence.
Human capital development.	Technology diffusion.

REACT International, Inc., is also a FEMA-registered sponsor organization so that members of Teams outside of the United States can undertake the exams and be issued Certificates of Achievement. This is one of the tangible benefits of membership.

It is, therefore, advisable that all *REACT* Teams and affiliates consider either encouraging self-paced training or establishing a more formal training program that is delivered to the membership. An example of this is the recently held National Training Workshop conducted in Trinidad and Tobago on Saturday, 12th October 2016.



Attendees at the *REACT* Trinidad and Tobago Council Training

The *REACT* Trinidad and Tobago Council, comprised of nine (9) Teams, held a one-day training event that included external guest speakers with expertise in telecommunications administration and disaster management. Topics presented by internal specialists included radio operating procedures, electronics, antenna construction, Ecomm, and a 52-year historical perspective by a living legend, Trevor Brathwaite, who is a pioneer and founding member. Thanks to everyone involved in making the event a reality and success.



REACT Stalwart and Living Legend, Trevor Brathwaite.

The event was professionally organized and well attended. The author had the privilege of presenting on the topics of *REACT*'s Purpose, *REACT* International, and New Technology Integration. A PDF version can be accessed at <http://react.9z4rg.com/>.

One approach to pursuing a training programme is:

1. Set up a training committee. Hold meetings and document decisions taken.
2. Conduct a training needs analysis. Establish a reasonable baseline training standard for the Team. Determine the existing relevant knowledge and skills set of Team members. Perform a gap analysis to determine what training intervention is needed to bring the Team up to standard and prepare a proposal.
3. Obtain approval from Team management to proceed.
4. Plan the training event(s). Treat it as a project. Establish a schedule, budget, and resource requirements. For example, theme, topics, date, venue, speakers, refreshment, material, sponsorship marketing, etc., are all issues to be addressed.
5. Deliver the training.
6. Perform close-out to obtain feedback and establish lessons learned to guide future events.

To maintain the standards, it becomes necessary to conduct periodic refresher training.

Establishing Standard Operating Practices & Procedures (SOPs), which can also be used to carry out training exercises, if not already in place can also be an outcome of the effort.

Happy Training!

WORLD-WIDE REACT NET TUESDAY NIGHTS AT 9 P.M. EASTERN

REACT AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS, join our weekly net at Tuesdays at 9 p.m. Eastern time, on Echolink node 109779 or 336037. This is a world-wide net, so when you check in you are world-wide. The net can run 2-1/2 hours and has check-ins from stations all around the world. Please join us! This is a direct net and all communications are to go through net control. We have grown and are growing! Please join us each week. Net is open to all amateur radio operators world-wide.

ALL-NEW ZELLO NET ON THURSDAY NIGHT AT 9 P.M. EASTERN TIME

We have a NEW net operation! Our new net is open to all REACT members and is designed to include all the non-amateur REACT members. It is run on the ZELLO walkie-talkie app. You can check into this net on your computer or your smart phone. The ZELLO

channel is a private channel and is set up only for REACT members, no license required. On your computer go to Zello.com, live conversations and download the program. Then create a user name and your private password. The name of the channel is "react.intl zello net" (Star Mountain REACT).

WORLD-WIDE REACT NETS

Tuesday Nights, 9 p.m., EST
Amateur Radio Net, open to licensed Amateur radio operators.

Check in 10 minutes early.

Thursday Nights, 9 pm, EST
All-New! ZELLO Net, open to ALL REACTers. Download the ZELLO app to participate.
Check in 10 minutes early.

The screen on your computer will have a push to talk button. This works like a walkie-talkie. Log in 10 minutes before the net and listen for information on how to check into the net from net control. The ZELLO program can be downloaded on your smart phone as well as all other apps. We are really excited with our new ZELLO net!

This will get members in the loop of communications; this channel is up and

working 24/7 but Thursday night at 9 is set aside for the ZELLO REACT NET. This is a password-protected net and you will have to contact kd4ysh@yahoo.com to be verified as a REACT member and receive the password. I will be happy to help your Team to set up its own private ZELLO channel for your Team -- it's free, it's simple. If you have any questions please email me at kd4ysh@yahoo.com. Once again, this is a world-wide net, open to all REACT members, so you will be able to talk to other REACT members all around the world! Really cool! Download it today and get your password. The ZELLO channel now supports 1200 users.

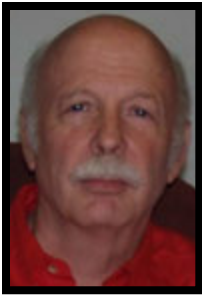
Until next time, 73!

KD4YSH

(Joe Zych, Region 3 Director)

(Editor's note; I tried the Zello net one Thursday a couple of weeks ago. It worked well! I encourage all nc 'it!)





What Does Being a Not-for-Profit Organization Mean?

By Charles Land

This is a rewrite of an article that ran in about 2011 in the REACTer.

The original article contained contributions from Chuck Thompson which were much appreciated. Chuck has not participated in this rewrite.

[Author's disclaimer – this article isn't "legal advice." If there are questions that your Team has, consider getting competent legal advice. We don't even claim to cover all the variations in different states' laws, nor can we possibly cover all of the different fact situations in this article that may affect how the law applies to you.]

REACT International, Inc., is an Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation formed under the laws of Illinois. REACT Teams are "subordinate organizations" according to IRS rules and thus are eligible to be 501(c)(3) organizations under REACT International's Group Exemption. Some REACT Teams have obtained their own 501(c)(3) exemptions and others have had theirs revoked for failure to file IRS Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N for three consecutive years.

Questions are sometimes asked, "As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, what are the limitations on how a Team may earn or spend money?" We'll try to cover the more commonly asked questions. (Note: in this article "not-for-profit" and "nonprofit" have the same meaning).

Definition of a Non-Profit

Let's define a not-for-profit organization. This is an entity that is organized under a state's law as a not-for-profit organization. (Texas, for example, allows a group to form as a non-profit corporation or as a nonprofit association without incurring the expense of incorporating. Many states have similar laws.) Forming a business or other entity (such as a radio team) is a little like giving birth (but not as painful). The entity is created under a particular state's laws, which usually require filing of the appropriate paperwork with that state (and there are some options as to the kind of corporation to form). How an entity is formed under state law is a separate (but related) matter from how that entity complies with the Federal tax code. Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) governs federal charitable tax exemptions, which must be confirmed by the Internal Revenue Service.

Organizational Documents

Every entity has "organizational documents." For corporations, these are the articles of incorporation (in some states called "document of formation") and bylaws. It is imperative that you read and understand these documents. They are the basis on which the IRS determines if a corporation qualifies for a Sec. 501(c)(3) exemption. A nonprofit organization covered under the RI group exemption must have organizational documents (articles of incorporation or constitution) and bylaws stating its purposes and they must be consistent with the purposes of REACT International, Inc. (which are set out in the RI Bylaws).

Once organized under state law, a not-for-profit organization must determine what provision of IRS Code Sec. 501(c) it qualifies for and apply to the IRS for a "determination letter." For REACT International, this was Sec. 501(c)(3) -- for charitable or educational organizations. This option allows donations to be tax-deductible to the donor (in most cases) and generally exempts the organization from federal income taxes (but not from filing a tax return). Nonprofit corporations with "non-business related" income must file Form 990-T and possibly pay taxes on that income.

Determination Letter

After incorporating in a state, the entity must apply to the IRS for a "Letter of Determination" (if your Team is covered under the REACT Group Exemption, by virtue of being a chartered REACT Team, this has done for you).

This is the document wherein the IRS recognizes and approves the organization's tax exempt status (you can get a copy of this letter from the REACT International home office). For new organizations, IRS usually grants a provisional status, good for one year, and then, if the appropriate paperwork is filed, permanent status that is good until revoked. In most states, a Sec. 501(c)(3) organization can also be exempted from paying state income, sales, and maybe other taxes.

Group Exemption

Most REACT Teams are tax exempt 501(c)(3) organizations by virtue of REACT International's 501(c)(3) group exemption if they belong to REACT International, their dues are paid, and REACT International certifies to the IRS that the Team is in good standing. This certification must be done annually. Those Teams with

their own 501(c)(3) status are responsible for maintaining all IRS requirements.

Employer Identification Number

All Teams must apply for and obtain a Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the IRS. This can be done on line and is easy to do. Without such a number, IRS will not accept any filings from that Team.

Although *REACT* International has an EIN, Teams cannot *and must not* use it.

Using someone else's EIN is akin to identity theft and no one wants to go there.

Mandatory Annual IRS Filing

All Teams (those with their own "Letter of Determination" and those without) must file annually with the IRS. This annual filing is made on one of the 990 forms.

For most Teams, a form 990-N suffices. This is also called a "postcard" filing and must be done online. The 990-N is not much more than filling out current address and contact information. As has been stated in the *REACTer* and in emails to all Teams, it is crucial that Teams comply with this requirement.

Any Team which fails to do so for 3 years in a row will be stripped of their §501(c)(3) exemption by the IRS (whether the *REACT* group exemption or their own separately-obtained exemption). *REACT* International cannot restore the exemption.

How May Teams Earn Money?

What are the limitations on how a Team may earn money? For example, may a Team charge for services, or may a Team request, or accept, donations? Generally,

unless prohibited by the Team's organizational documents, being a nonprofit does not restrict how a Team may earn money. A Team may charge for services, and solicit and accept donations. But bear in mind that if amateur radio is utilized, there may be other restrictions that apply (more on amateur radio restrictions below).

A Team may have "unrelated" income from activities outside of its stated purposes, and that income might be taxable. If, for example, a Team regularly charges for fixing flats, providing fuel, or towing vehicles, it is likely that this is unrelated to its charter and in the view of the IRS, it is conducting a

Once organized under state laws, a not-for-profit organization must determine what provision of IRS Code Sec. 501(c) it qualifies for and apply to the IRS for a "determination later." For *REACT* International, this was Sec. 501(c)(3) -- for charitable or educational organizations.

for-profit business which is not part of the *REACT* program and income from that activity may be subject to federal income tax.

Likewise, if the Team's charter (when it was organized pursuant to state law) or its bylaws state services it provides for free, then it cannot charge for those services unless it amends its charter or bylaws.

How May Teams Spend Money?

Being a not-for-profit does place limits on how a Team may spend its money. For example, a Team must operate in a manner consistent with its organizational document (which must be consistent with the *REACT* International Bylaws). Read

them.

Basically it is to educate and assist the public in the use of radios for the public benefit. Expenditures for purposes other than those stated are generally not allowed. A Team cannot operate for the financial benefit of its members or others. That means it cannot pay dividends or share its profits with its members. But a Team can buy services or products that are reasonably necessary for it to comply with its mission (it can buy radios and radio services such as repairs, repeater use, supplies, etc. as needed to conduct its activities). Unless prohibited by the Team's bylaws, it could own a vehicle or property if used for purposes consistent with the Team's bylaws, such as a vehicle for Team events, real property for a meeting place, etc.

Reimbursement of Expenses

A Team could also reimburse out-of-pocket expenses of its members or others for their costs in supporting Team events, and could even pay members to perform services for the Team (note that this may require regular payroll procedures such as withholding, social security payments, filing form 941, etc.). All such payments must be for services to carry out the Team's purposes, and must be fair and consistent.

For example, a Team cannot pay one member, one family, or one subgroup of the Team for services unless it makes the same offer to all (including non-Team members) who provide the same services. Approval of such payments must be made using procedures spelled out in the Team bylaws (usually approved at a regular Team meeting that is recorded in the meeting minutes).

Some Teams provide flowers, presents or other recognition of birthdays or other special occasions to members.

Support for Members, Others

Some Teams also may wish to donate support to a member or other person who is destitute or injured. BE CAREFUL!! These expenditures can be illegal! We suggest that any Team doing this get competent legal advice to be sure it complies with IRS rules and with state law. A hint is that if these expenditures are small, and non-discriminatory (not for the exclusive benefit for one member or family, etc.), they may pass the IRS "smell test" but may still run afoul of a state's laws.

Unrelated Business income

A nonprofit organization may have income from activities that are unrelated to its charitable purposes.

For example, a Team may sponsor bingo as a fundraiser. If done in compliance with provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, most bingo income is nontaxable to a 501(c)(3) organization. However, other income generated from a bingo operations (such as sales of food, alcohol, or pull tabs/instant bingo) may be subject to income tax because of the "unrelated business income" provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. This is a complicated issue so be sure to get expert assistance.

Sales Tax Exemptions

Sales tax exemptions are complicated and differ from state-to-state. As a general statement, a 501(c)(3) is probably exempt from sales tax on what it buys, but is expected to collect and remit sales tax on products it sells. Each state has its own rules and procedures on sales tax. A Team

which sells items to its own members or the public should contact its state taxing authority, obtain a license if required, and get the rules and procedures for that state.

Status of REACT International

REACT International, Inc., is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, currently doing business as a foreign corporation in California. It must, as to bylaws and other corporate requirements, comply with Illinois law, but it must also comply with California law as far as sales taxes, reports, employee policies, etc.

Individual REACT Teams ARE NOT part of the REACT International corporation and must look to their own state's law for guidance.

Since state laws vary so much it is impractical to try to cover state laws in this article.

Amateur radio limitations

When a REACT Team uses amateur radio frequencies to conduct an event, there are many restrictions on the use of amateur radios that it must comply with. All users must have amateur radio licenses, or be directly supervised by a licensed amateur operator (the licensed amateur is the "control operator" who must be in control of the radio at all times and the unlicensed user is a "3rd party operator"). Licensees are trained as to how they may use and not use amateur equipment and frequencies.

Amateur frequencies may not be used for business purposes of the licensee. This means that the individual operators and their employers cannot receive a payment or make a profit from the use of amateur frequencies. This sounds simple, but it is not.

Here is an example. The MS society

sponsors huge bicycle rides, some using hundreds of amateur operators, and hosting tens of thousands of riders.

The MS society makes big profits from these rides. Volunteers who are not employees of the MS society (or in some other way profiting from MS or the event) can legally use amateur frequencies for the event. MS employees are generally viewed as not being allowed to legally use amateur frequencies for an MS event (because their employer profits from the event).

Ham operators who are volunteers may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred to assist MS but cannot be paid a salary or any other form of compensation for supporting Team events.

Emergency Communications Rule

There is an exception for emergency communications (where loss of life, injury, or significant loss of property is imminent) that would allow a MS employee to use ham radio during the emergency.

A few years ago, a controversy arose about hospital employees using ham radio stations located in hospitals.

It was agreed that if it was an emergency (such as during a disaster) hospital employees could legally participate in ham radio communications while on duty that appeared to be business in nature to the hospital, such as patient counts, or other information typically passed on ham radio nets.

However, the FCC initially ruled that hospital employees who are ham operators could not participate in drills on behalf of their employer. Most recently, the FCC made a special exception that allows hospital employees to participate in

emergency communications drills.

An old guideline was that an amateur could use amateur frequencies, such as a phone patch, to order pizza, but an amateur employed by the pizza store could not use amateur radio to receive pizza orders. Said another way, you could use ham radio to spend money for personal purchases, but not to make money.

Remember that many repeater owners have their own rules. They may prohibit ordering pizza, for example. Many repeater owners don't want traffic on their repeater that "sounds" like business use, even if it is technically legal. And using someone's repeater is like visiting someone's house - if you are their guest, you go by their rules. If a *REACT* Team is going to work an event using a ham radio

repeater, be sure to clear this with the repeater owner in advance, and be sure that the owner is comfortable with the types of traffic that you anticipate.

Most importantly, a Team cannot charge or accept money for communicating over ham radio frequencies. Most Teams decline to accept donations for providing communications for an event if ham radio is used. And, I know this



WHAT??

A Real, Live

REACT CONVENTION

to help celebrate our

55th Year?



Will Stanley

Editor

Now don't be getting all excited here, but the idea is being floated for *REACT* International to have a downright, real, original full-fledged *REACT* Convention to help celebrate our 55th Year of providing Public Service Through Communications.

Now the question here is not WHO will host it, but if it comes to be, **WILL YOU ATTEND?**

There are some of you, like me, who remember the original *REACT* Conventions. What would you think of doing one again?

One of the venues for a possible convention is Las Vegas. How's that for exciting? The prices in Vegas in the summer are waaayyy lowwww, so it would be a great time to visit! Yeah, it's hot, but there's A/C!

As a long time member of this group, I have attended my fair share of conventions and believe

me, when they are done right, they are exciting, informative and most of all... FUN!

My first convention was the Wichita, Kans ., event in 1983. I have been to conventions in Spokane, Wash., Chicago, Ill., Anderson, Ind., San Antonio, Tex., and Calgary, Alberta, Can. I was one of the moving forces that planned and held the 1995 convention in Omaha, Neb. All were great. Remind me someday to tell you all about "Friday Night Dinners" at those meetings. Hilarious!

For all of those conventions, I planned my vacation to go to them. You know what? Wherever you go, when you are at a *REACT* Convention, almost everything you spend is **TAX DEDUCTIBLE!**

So, if -- and again, this is only IF right now -- we bring together a 55th Year Convention, would you come?

Drop me a line at editor@thereacter.com and tell me Yay or Nay. Be sure to say who you are!

Frequently asked questions (about Non-Profit Status):

1. May a *REACT* Team charge, or accept donations, for providing equipment and/or communications services to an event or organization? Yes, unless it uses amateur radio frequencies.
2. May a Team pay its members to work an event (again, as long as ham radio is not used)? Yes, and may reimburse for reasonable expenses. A nonprofit may purchase services and pay employees a reasonable price or wage for services provided, and may do so to members or non-members. American Red Cross, for example, has many paid employees. Compensation must be reasonable for the services provided.
3. Does a *REACT* Team have to pay federal income taxes? No, except for unrelated business income (and there's a \$1,000 exemption there). The Team must file a form 990-N, 990-EZ, or 990 each year with the IRS, **no exceptions**. (This answer does not include any applicable state income taxes.)
4. Does a *REACT* Team have to pay state sales taxes on equipment it purchases? Probably not, varies by state.
5. Does a *REACT* Team have to collect and remit state sales taxes on goods it sells? Probably yes, varies by state.
6. Can a *REACT* Team operate a for-profit business in order to raise money for Team activities? Yes, if allowed in its organizing document, but there may be income taxes on that activity. As a general rule, the for-profit business need not be related to the Team's charitable purpose. Consult legal counsel.
7. Can a Team own property, such as communication vans, repeaters, etc? Yes. This is a state law matter, and requirements vary by state. Generally, personal property (vehicles, radios, etc.) used in the Team's charitable operations should be exempt from local taxes, as would real property used in the Team's charitable operations. Real property is much more complicated – get legal counsel or consult local tax authorities.
8. May a *REACT* Team buy flowers for a member's wedding, funeral, etc? Yes.
9. May a Team pay for members' meals and or drinks (such as at a meeting or celebration party)? Yes, particularly if the organizing document requires an annual meeting of the membership. A Team Christmas (Hanukkah, Holiday, etc.) party should be acceptable, provided a Team meeting is held at that time and place.
10. May a Team buy alcoholic beverages for members (at a meeting or event)? Maybe. But it isn't a good idea (for example, if a member had an automobile accident on the way home, it might be related to the Team-furnished beverages). In some states, under certain conditions, a provider of alcohol could be liable for actions taken by or accidents caused by an intoxicated individual. Most Teams do not provide alcohol and many Teams prohibit the consumption of alcohol at Team activities (or at least while in Team uniform). While this may sound massively over-cautious, it is an area where extreme caution is clearly called for.

Teams: Use this PSA with your local newspapers. Simply print out in Fine or Excellent quality on good (preferably glossy photo) paper and take to your local editor. Have them replace the International phone number and address with yours.

**In 2016, our people worked
thousands of hours
without pay....**



In 2017

96%

**of them will do it again
without hesitation**

Find out why! Contact REACT International at 301-316-2900 or
find us on the web at <http://www.reactintl.org> or Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/REACTInternational>

