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the REACT er

November-December, 2000



501(c)(3) And You

page 8

10-2.

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The REACTER

Vol. 34, Number 6 · November-December, 2000

2	Season's Greetings Frank & Lynn Jennings
3	Official Notices: Team Renewals, Director Nominations
4	Public Relations Bob Leef, Co-chairman
5	REACT in the Spotlight: Oklahoma Storm Spotters
6	AARL & REACT- Partners in Communications
7	The Caribbean Convention Is ONI . Kenny Jagdeosingh
8	Shaking the Money Tree, Part III:
	What 501(c)(3) Means to You . C. A. Thompson
10	Who We Are: Results of Member Survey Johnny Stowers & Stuart M. DeLuca
12	REACTivities: Team/Council/Region News
14	Silent Mics; 10-9?
15	Director, Officer, and Committee Directory

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the REACTer

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From the Chairman

by Frank Jennings, Chairman, Board of Directors

Beason's Greetings!

Eynn and I extend holiday wishes to all our members worldwide!

What an exciting and very successful year we've had in REACT.

For the first time in decades we actually gained in our total membership! In 1999, we had 4060 members; in 2000, the final total was 4071. And with 11 new Teams, we kept the total Team count at 315 (down from 347).

Also in the past year we've improved The REACTER, changed to the more efficient and economical Periodicals Bate mailing, completely revised the Team Benewal forms to make them easier to complete, and established a fully operational Membership Data Base.

But we're not done yet! We still have a challenge ahead of us in rebuilding REACT and making it the effective worldwide communications organization we know it can be.

I challenge each and every member to recruit just ONE new member in 2001.

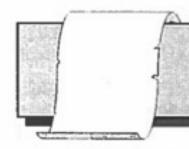
That would mean that by the end of the year 2001 we would have a membership of 9142. Can YOU do it?

Warmest thanks and best wishes to every REACT member.

You're the best people in the world!

Frank & Lynn Jennings





Official Notices

Call For Nominations

The REACT International Board of Directors invites nominations for three Regional Director positions to be elected in 2001. The deadline for nominations to be received at the REACT office in Suitland is March 15, 2001. Each position is for a three-year term beginning in July, 2001.

Directors are to be elected in Regions 2, 5, and 8. These Regions include the following states:

Region 2 – Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, and West Virginia. The current Director is Dick Cooper of New Jersey.

Region 5 – North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois. The current Director is Larry Fry of Wisconsin.

Region 8 – California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona. The current Director is Jesse Mauk of California.

RI Bylaws require that a Regional Dir-

ector be a member in good standing of a Team within the Region he or she represents. A Director must be at least 21 years old, have been a member of a REACT Team for at least three years, and have demonstrated leadership at the Team or Council level, or in other nonprofit organizations or public agencies.

Regional Directors are expected to pay most of their own expenses, including attendance at the REACT International Conventions during their term of office.

Candidates may be nominated by any Team or Council, or by individual REACT members; there is nothing to prohibit a member from nominating himself or herself. The official nomination form is available on the RI Web site, < www.reactintl.org > , or by mail from RI Headquarters in Suitland.

-C. A. Thompson, VP & General Counsel

Team Renewal Packets

Teams. If your Team has not received its renewal forms, please contact Dora Wilbanks, Office Manager, immediately! E-mail to < reactintl@reactintl.org > or call 301-316-2900 or fax 301-316-2903. Renewals must be returned by January 1, 2001, or late fees will accrue.



Publicizing REACT

by Bob Leef and Ron McCracken, Co-Chairmen
Public Relations Committee

PR, Membership Committees Seek New Logo

o, we are not planning to replace the traditional REACT trademark logo. That emblem is, and will remain, the insignia of REACT International, Inc. It is easy to recognize and it is at least as well known as our name, so we certainly are not going to try to change it.

But the REACT logo does have one shortcoming: It doesn't tell anyone anything about us.

When your company is a "household name" it doesn't matter if your logo means anything — for example, no one questions the Nike "swoosh" or the Apple computer logo — but when you are dealing with people who don't know what "REACT" is, it would be very helpful to have some clear symbol that could graphically convey a little more about us.

For several years, we have used the 'CB9 Roadsign' logo together with the REACT logo on our letterhead and in many REACT publications and advertisements. Most people find that the 'CB9 Roadsign' logo conveys more about what we do than the REACT logo itself. The problem is that it describes only one part of what we do. Regardless of your

feelings about monitoring CB channel 9, the simple fact is that REACT International is about a lot more than just monitoring CB 9. We have REACTers who monitor FRS channel 1, GMRS, or Amateur repeater frequencies. We have REACTers who don't monitor anything but who provide other important radio communications services to their communities. We need a bigger tent to hold all the things REACT does.

What we are looking for is some sort of graphic that would encompass the overall REACT programs.

I know we have a lot of talented and creative people within REACT. We want your ideas and suggestions. This isn't exactly a contest – and there is no prize for the winning entry – it's more of a group project. Entries will be considered by representatives of the Membership Development Committee, Publications Committee, and Public Relations Committee.

Entries may be submitted in color or black and white in any size up to an 8.5x11 sheet of paper, but the logo chosen must be useable in black and white in sizes as small as about 1 inch. Paper entries may be mailed to the RI office in Suitland; please mark the envelope "Logo Entry." Entries may also be submitted electronically as a jpg file (not to exceed 1 megabyte) e-mailed as an attachment to < member ship@reactintl.org > .

-Tom Currie & Bob Leef

Call Channel Petition Filed at FCC

Alan Dixon and Bob Leef as individuals have co-petitioned the FCC for establishment of Family Radio Service channel 1 (462.5625 Mhz, without tones) as a calling channel.

The subject was explained in the July-August issue of *The REACTer*. Briefly, it was felt the growing popularity of FRS has caused a need for a common frequency to be used when people need to contact others outside their family group.

REACT approved the original proposal in June. It was then picked up in several magazines with positive comments. The text of the petition should be available on the RI Web site. At press time, the FCC had not acted on it.

-Bob Leef

About Your Subscription

All Regular, Junior, and Affiliate members in the U.S. and Canada automatically receive a subscription to *The REACTer*; the subscription price is included in the annual RI dues.

If for any reason you do not wish to receive *The REACTer*, just let us know. Send a note or e-mail to RI headquarters. However, your dues will *not* be reduced.

All Life Members also automatically receive a subscription to *The REACTer* but may discontinue their subscription if they wish.

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

Non-members may subscribe for \$7.50 per year.

Members may order an extra subscription for a family member at a different address, a friend, a local library, or anyone else, at the same rate as members' subscriptions: \$4 per year in the U.S., \$5 in Canada, or \$6 anywhere else.

REACT International, Inc. 5210 Auth Rd., Ste. 430 Suitland, MD 20746-4330 < react@reactintl.org >



REACT in the Spotlight:

Oklahoma Storm Spotters Starring in Documentary

Oklahoma County REACT is in the news again.

Sometime next year, a show called "Weather X" will on the Discovery Channel (title subject to change, of course). The two-hour show concerns severe weather such as hurricanes and tornadoes.

Oklahoma County (Okla.) REACT President Bob Kaster was filmed in several locations performing weather spotter duties similar to those he performed the fateful night of May 3, when a tornado ripped up portions of Moore County, Okla. The Moore Emergency Operations Center Team and the Moore Emer-

gency Manager were also filmed exchanging radio traffic with the spotters in the field. Radar images of the May 3 tornado were reproduced as they were captured by the EOC.



Kaster gets ready to show 'em how it's done. (Team photo)



The film crew for the Discovery Channel documentary prepares
Oklahoma County president Bob Kaster's truck for a sequence about
tomado spotting. (Photo by Bob Kaster)

ARRL & REACT: Partners in Communications

Something unprecedented happened this past summer. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and REACT entered into a mutual agreement, a "Memorandum of Understanding," calling for the two organizations to cooperate in achieving their common purposes. Here are excerpts from the text of the memorandum.

Purpose

 This purpose of this document is to state the terms a mutual agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) between the American Radio Relay League, Incorporated (ARRL), and REACT International, Inc., (Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams), that will serve as a framework within which both organizations may coordinate the development of protocols and procedures for communication in emergency and disaster situations.... It is intended that this agreement will promote joint coordination and exercise of the resources of both ARRL and REACT to recognize the potential and capability of individual members of both organizations to facilitate the flow of information to and from the public during disaster and emergency situations.

Recognition

2. ARRL recognizes REACT as a public service organization of private radio operators, which provides radio communications to local communities during emergencies. REACT coordinates efforts with other emergency organizations including the police, FEMA, NOAA, RACES, ARES, NVOAD, the Salvation Army, and the American Red Cross....REACT's primary mission is to improve their communities through the provision of voluntary, two-way communications that serve the interests of public safety.

3. REACT recognizes ARRL as a noncommercial membership association of radio amateurs, organized for the promotion of interest in amateur radio communication and experimentation. It is the principal representative of the Amateur Service and Amateur Satellite Services in the United States, and is the Secretariat for the International Amateur Radio Union, the worldwide association of national amateur radio societies. ARRL was organized for the establishment of networks to provide communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies; for the advancement of the radio art and of the public welfare; the fostering of education in the field of electronic communications; the promotion and conduct of research and development to further the development of electronic communication; the dissemination of technical, education, and scientific information relating to electronic communication; the printing and publishing of documents, books, electronic media, and publications necessary or incidental to any of the above purposes; for the representation of the radio amateur in regulatory matters; and to promote fraternalism and high standards of conduct among radio amateurs. It serves its members by protecting and enhancing spectrum access and providing a national resource to the public.

Principles of Cooperation

4. In order that the parties may cooperate and utilize their resources from time to time to optimum mutual benefit to both parties, the following principles and methods are agreed upon:

4.1 The parties will correspond with each other and exchange certain materials and engage in certain activities in order to encourage and broaden interest, understanding, and appreciation of radio telecommunications technology and its value to the public in emergency situations.

4.2 The parties will work to establish protocols and procedures that foster safe and efficient radio services communication to help the public during emergencies and disaster relief. The parties, through these protocols and procedures, will try to eliminate duplicative or technically inferior service to the community in emergencies.

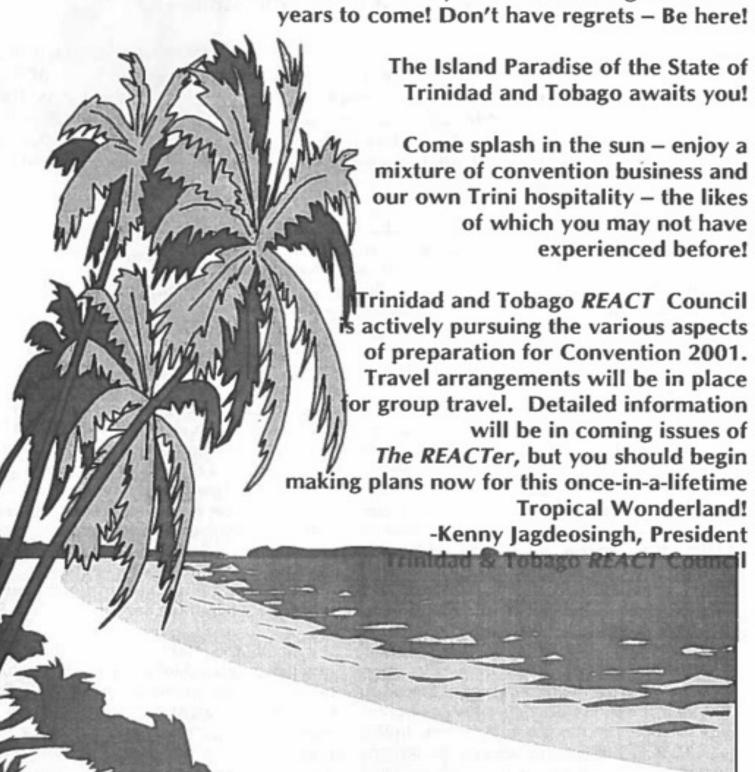
4.3 The parties will work with each other in times of emergency or disaster to meet the communications needs of the public.

4.4 The parties will generally encourage ongoing liaison with each other and urge members of both organizations to develop increasingly effective communications and cooperation.

5. This memorandum shall take effect upon its signing by authorized representatives of each organization. It may be amended by mutual agreement of the parties and will remain in effect until terminated by either party, upon ninety (90) days advance written notice to the other...

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Shaking the Money Tree - Part III

What 501(c)(3) Means to You

by Charles A. Thompson, Vice President & General Counsel

501(c)(3) – This cryptic reference means many things to many people. What is it all about? Basically, it's a reference to the part of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as amended) which deals with the tax-exempt status of charitable organizations. There are a number of types of charitable organizations that qualify for Section 501(c)(3) status. It's important to understand that Section 501(c)(3) does not make an organization "charitable" – organizations that are already charitable in their purposes and operations are entitled to apply for Section 501(c)(3) status.

Are REACT Teams and Councils "charitable"? Yes, the purposes of REACT as set out in the International corporation's bylaws describe a charitable organization, and in the 1970s, the Internal Revenue Service agreed by granting REACT International the group exemption it had requested.

What is a "group exemption"? The RI group exemption extends the opportunity for Section 501(c)(3) exemption status to every chartered REACT Team and recognized REACT Council in the United States. Exemption is not automatic, however. Both Teams and Councils must include IRS specified language in their organizational documents (Articles of Incorporation or Constitution) and in their Bylaws. In addition, the purposes of the Team or Council must not conflict with the purposes of REACT International, Inc. Moreover, the Team or Council must agree to submit to REACT International certain information and reports.

What "right" does REACT International have to obtain Team or Council financial information? One of the major purposes of the group exemption is that the IRS delegates its responsibility to supervise the group members. In this case, REACT International agreed to provide supervision of its subordinates and affiliated organizations. REACT International fulfills its obligation to the IRS by requiring that each Team and Council certify annually that it has had an

annual audit and that its activities have been in accordance with the purposes of REACT International.

Must a Team or Council file IRS Form 990 (information return)? Most Teams and Councils do not have to file this return each year. What determines this is whether or not the Team or Council has received \$25,000 or more gross revenue in a year. Note that the key word is received. For example, assume a Team runs a concession booth at various events, and takes in \$25,001. The cost of goods sold and other expenses are \$25,000, leaving a net profit of \$1.00. This Team would be required to file a return, because even though the profit was only a dollar, it received \$25,000 or more during the year.

Some Misconceptions

There are a number of commonly held misconceptions about Section 501(c)(3). Several are:

1. The "lobbying prohibition" – the prohibition against lobbying is not absolute. It is permissible, for example, for a REACT Team or Council (and REACT International) to ask a Member of Congress to sponsor or support desirable legislation; it is permissible to petition the FCC to create, modify, or abolish rules; and it is permissible to seek favorable laws or ordinances at the city, county, and state levels. The limitation is in the amount of resources



devoted to lobbying. As a rule of thumb, if REACT International or a Team or Council does not devote more than 25 percent of its budget to lobbying, and the lobbying is related to REACT activities, it will be OK. Note, however, that the support of candidates for political office is always prohibited – no exceptions whatsoever.

 Another myth is that REACT members cannot be paid for their services. Wrong. It is true that REACT is a volunteer organization, but neither the IRS nor state nonprofit organization laws keep someone from being paid a reasonable amount for services rendered

3. Yet another myth is that a REACT Team cannot sell anything at a profit because "REACT is a nonprofit organization." Again, wrong — the term "nonprofit organization" refers to the fact that the organization has no shareholders or owners who will receive "profits" (such as corporate dividends) from the organization. There are many very large, very profitable nonprofit organizations. Until recently, for example, the Blue Cross-Blue Shield in Texas was "nonprofit".

If You Go Away

Unfortunately, from time-to-time a REACT Team will decide to quit. When this happens, all Team assets must be disposed of properly, and this means by transferring the assets to another Section 501(c)(3) charitable entity. Many discon-

tinuing REACT Teams dispose of their assets by donating them to another REACT Team. While doing so is admirable (and desirable), it isn't mandatory. Donating the assets to some Section 591'(c)(3) entity, however, is mandatory. It is a violation of the Internal Revenue Code to allow Team members or other individuals to divvy up the assets among themselves, and it does not make any difference where the assets came from. For example, if a member donated a trailer to the Team, and the Team dissolves, the member can not get the trailer back without paying for it.

What benefits does a REACT Team or Council receive by being a Section 501(c)(3) entity? There are several important benefits. Perhaps the most important is that donations of money, goods, and services to the Team are deductible by the donor for federal income tax purposes (and perhaps for state income tax). Another benefit is that the Team or Council itself is exempt from federal income tax (and, again, there may be similar state tax benefits). Also, depending on the state, a Team or Council may be exempt from various state or local taxes. For example, in Texas, Section 501(c)(3) organizations are exempt from the Texas general sales tax.

It is important that every U.S. Team and Council annually prepare and submit RI Form 501 (Annual Certification for Teams/Councils). Failure to do this could cause termination of the Team/Council recognition under Section 501(c)(3). The form is included in the Team Renewal packet and must be returned to RI when the Team renews its charter.

Canadian Teams and Councils must comply with provisions of the Canadian Income Tax Act, which is administered by Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. A very useful and fairly easy to understand guide may be downloaded at < http://www.ccraadrc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/rc4108em/rc4108-e.htm > .

Teams that have special circumstances or questions may send them to me at <cthompson@reactintl.org>, and I'll try to provide an answer.

Who We Are

A Portrait of Our Membership

by Johnny Stowers and Stuart M. DeLuca

ast Spring, the Publications Review Committee, partly to support an effort to increase the amount of paid advertising in *The REACTer*, conducted a survey of *REACT's* members. The survey was designed to determine basic demographic statistics and other information of interest to potential advertisers. The committee also felt that this information would be useful in developing membership recruitment and retention campaigns and in forming new Teams. This report is based on an analysis of the survey responses.

The survey forms were mailed to two hundred members, randomly selected by a method that ensured that the sample had about the same geographical variation as the total membership of REACT. The sample size represented about five percent of the total membership at the time.

The survey sample was constructed by Johnny Stowers, RI's database manager.

The survey, prepared by the committee, included 29 questions, some of which had "sub-questions."

Recipients of the form were asked to pay for the return postage themselves. This was done to keep the costs as low as possible, although it probably reduced the number of responses that were received.

Survey Response

As of July 1, 2000, 51 survey forms had been returned, including forms mailed from Trinidad and Tobago, Puerto Rico, and Canada.

This response rate of about 25 percent is considerably less than the committee had hoped. The respondents represent approximately 1.25 percent of total RI membership. Consequently, we cannot have more than about an 80 percent degree of confidence that the responses are completely representative of RI's membership.

Analysis of the Responses

The analysis of the survey responses provides an interesting look at our REACT membership. Some of these statistics should be of great interest, and even concern, to the REACT leadership at all levels..

Despite the existence of Junior REACT for more than 25 years, only 2 percent of REACT members are under age 18. Another 2 percent are between 18 and 24 years of age, and 14 percent are between 25 and 39 years old. Forty percent of our members are between 40 and 59 years old, and another 40

percent are over 60 years of age. In short, 80 percent of our members are more than 40 years old.

Sixty-two percent of our members are male; of those, almost half are single and half are married. Of the 32 percent of our members who are female, a slight majority are married. (Note that 6 percent of the survey respondents did not indicate their gender.)

Fifty-two percent of our members have family incomes between \$20- and \$60,000, which is the range that includes the U.S. median family income of about \$35,000. Eighteen percent of our members have incomes below \$20,000, and 12 percent have incomes above \$60,000. It could fairly be said that our members are solidly in the middle-income range.

About 52 percent of our members have at least some college, with 16 percent having at least an associate's degree. Another 28 percent are high school graduates, and 4 percent

are presently in school.

Forty-two percent of our members are either selfemployed or employed fulltime; an equal number, 42 percent are retired. Twelve percent are currently unemployed or employed only part-time.

We believe that these statistics are fairly representative of the total RI membership; they certainly contain no glaring surprises. In general, REACT members are moderate-income working people with mid-

The next group of questions was intended to determine how active the respondents are as REACT members.

range educations.

Four percent have been members of their present Team for one year or less. Almost equal numbers of respondents – 20 percent – have been members for one to five years, or for ten to fifteen years. Twenty-eight percent have been members for five to ten years, and ten percent have been members for more than 15 years. If plotted on a graph, this distribution would be an almost perfect bell curve.

Thirty-four percent of the respondents have another family member in REACT. This is a remarkable testament to the idea that REACT is very much a family-oriented organization.

Twenty-two percent of the respondents have been a member of another REACT Team at some time. Fifty-eight percent of the respondents have served as a Team or Council officer. This statistic may tell us more about the kind of members who completed and returned the survey than it does about our membership as a whole. However, if this statistic is valid for the entire membership, it indicates that membership responsibilities at the Team and

72% of respondents have recruited one or more new members for their Team.

Council level are widely shared; it doesn't look as if Teams or Councils are run by small factions.

If there is one statistic in the survey response that is heartening, it is this: 72 percent of the respondents have recruited one or more new members for their Team.

One statistic that may be surprising is that 72 percent of the respondents said that they are still monitoring C8 Channel 9. Seventy percent said that they also monitor one or more other radio channels or services; of those, 26 percent monitor GMRS, 26 percent monitor other C8 channels, 10 percent monitor Amateur frequencies, and 4 percent monitor aviation or marine frequencies.

Eighty percent of the respondents' Teams have

adopted a standardized uniform. Seventy-two percent of the respondents report that they help with at least one Team event each year; 26 percent of the respondents say that they help with ten or more events each year.

Levels of Satisfaction

We asked the respondents to indicate their overall

> level of satisfaction with their Teams, their Councils, and *REACT* International. Of those who responded, a resounding 72 percent rated their Team as a 4 or 5 (with 5 being the highest rating); only 8

percent rated their Team as a 0, 1, or 2.

Councils get slightly lower marks; 42 percent didn't answer, presumably because their area has no Council or they do not participate in it. Of those who did rank their Council, 42 percent rated it as a 4 or 5, while 10 percent rated it as a 0, 1, or 2.

Apparently our members are not as happy with International. Only 32 percent of the respondents rated RI as a 4 or 5. But only 6 percent rated it as a 0, 1, or 2. Thirty-four percent of the respondents had no opinion of International at all.





REACTivities

News from Regions/Councils/Teams

Pacific NW REACT Council

Young Heroine Honored

whitley, 11, of Marysville, Wash., was chatting with friends on her FRS walkie-talkie when she heard a call for help. Hikers on Mt. Stuart, some 100 miles away, were trying to reach Michael Wyant, 49, who had fallen and injured his ankle.

Mikayla immediately told her mother, who called 911 and relayed the information to rescue officials. Mikayla continued to talk to the hiker's friends; over some three and a half hours she helped direct rescue workers to the injured hiker. A military helicopter from Spokane finally reached Wyant.

On Oct. 15, PacNW Council President John Fisken and RI Chairman of the Board Frank Jennings presented Mikayla with a "Little Hero Award" and a REACT Distinguished Service Award for her efforts, along with a package of AA batteries for her FRS radio.



Young heroine Mikayla Whitley with PacNW Pres. John Fisken.

Louisville (Ky.) Metro

ver a decade ago, several church-related community organizations formed an ad hoc coalition, "Louisville United Against Hunger" (LUAH), to raise funds and public awareness of the problem. An annual Hunger Walk was started. Louisville Metro REACT provided communications support for the event that first year and every year since.

This year, a changed route for the Hunger Walk would require more operators than our Team could provide. A message went out to the REACT Mutual Aid e-mail list.

OHKYIN REACT, based in Ohio but near the point where Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana meet – more than a hundred miles from Louisville – responded. Three OHKYIN members joined four from Louisville Metro and a non-member volunteer on a cold, almost-snowy day. Once again, REACT Teams working together provided the necessary service for a worth-while community event.

-George Lee Juliot, Ir.

College Park (Ga.)

hornton Williams may be visually handicapped, but there's nothing wrong with his vision.

Williams, LM 524, uses CB and amateur radio to help his community in a variety of ways. As a member of Neighborhood Watch, he patrols (with a police officer) after school to make sure kids get home safely. He is the coordinator of a program at the Scitrek Museum in Atlanta, teaching teachers and school-children about radio communications.

Once a week, at 1630, he runs a ham net on 145.41 Mhz called "Save the Children Please." Hams, kids, and parents participate, talking about keeping children safe.

And when he's not on the radio, he's likely to be up in the air, as a volunteer for the Fulton, Ga., squadron of the Civil Air Patrol.

Thornton Williams, LM524, reads a letter from one of the many children he has helped.



Pickaway Co. (Ohio)

Twice a year, Pickaway Co. REACT in Circleville, Ohio, has their hands full with two huge events: the annual County Fair in the spring and the Pumpkin Festival in October.

The Team is responsible for first aid, emergency communications, controlling access at the emergency vehicle gate, and providing bicycle and foot patrols.

One indication of the value the community places on their services: Circleville Berger Hospital donates the medical supplies for the Team's first aid operations.

-Paul Jackson, Ohio Council



Pickaway Co. REACT Pres. Mike Smallwood and firefighter Phil Jackson with some of the medical supplies donated by a local hospital.



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We accept:





For a free preview of National Communications log onto www.nat-com.org

10-9?

Corrections and explanations
The list of contributors to the
Time Capsule at the 2000
Convention, in the September-October REACTer, inadvertently omitted Southwestern REACT (San Diego,
Calif.). The Team donated a
patch, pin, and photos.

In "Shaking the Money Tree" in the July-August issue, we said that REACT of Pinellas-Pasco Co., Fla., was not listed on the Web site of the professional fundraising agency, Donation Market-place.Com. Company president Steven L. Carter explains:

"We have not updated"

our [Web] pages in some time. We are in the process of revamping our entire business." Meanwhile, Team President Gary Thomas assures us that they're still working with Donation Marketplace.Com.

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