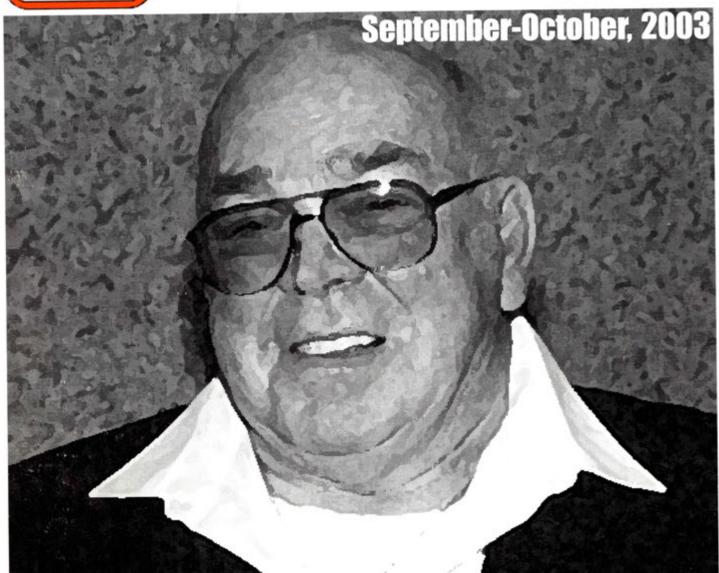


the REACTER



Full Coverage of 2003 Convention!
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Facts vs Myths: CB Radio in the New Millenium
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From the President

by Charles A. "Chuck" Thompson

Arrivals & Departures

wasn't too surprised when Board Chairman Frank Jennings handed me his resignation as Chairman as the last session of the Board's meeting at the Evansville Convention was ending. His resignation cited "health and personal reasons," and I'd had several hints that the resignation was coming. (Frank will continue to serve as Director for Region 6.)

Nonetheless, all of us were a bit saddened. Frank stepped forward in 1997, when chaos reigned in *REACT*-dom, with a plan of reorganization that would create a Board that was directly responsive to those who elected them. Though his original plan received several modifications, the fundamental ideas were adopted, leading to our current governance plan of Directors being elected by region.

Frank was elected to the Board in June 1999, and became chairman in February 2000. He worked diligently to make the new plan successful. As Chairman, he made it clear that he expected the officers to do their jobs, and checked up on us regularly. Many of the good things happening in *REACT* today are directly attributable to his guidance and leadership. He is well deserving of *REACT*'s highest award, the W. E. Goebel Award, presented to him at the Convention banquet.

At the Convention, two other Directors stepped down. After five and a half years, Jack Murrell (Region 4, Indiana) didn't stand for reelection and Paul Jackson of Ohio was elected to replace him. Jack was appointed in February 1998 at the same time I was, to replace a resigning (Field) Director, and has contributed greatly to the reorganization effort. He served as President for one year, also. Jack believed in the new plan of governance, and regularly reminded the Board not to micro-manage the corporation. His common sense approach and dedication to *REACT* will be missed.

Also stepping down was Region 8 Director Robert Leef, in order to concentrate on his other job as RI's Executive Vice President. Bob was appointed to the Board two years ago, and did a great job in





Jack Murrell

R. K. "Bob" Leef

developing new Teams and bringing in members in Region 8. Eric Hutchins of California was appointed to replace Bob.

To all three of these fine folks – Well done, and thanks from all of *REACT*.

The Board reviewed attendance and participation at the past three annual Conventions and decided that the *REACT* conventions will be held every two years. Several areas are interested in hosting the 2005 convention. Start saving up now, and plan to attend it.

Elsewhere in this *REACTer*, you'll find a notice that the Board has amended the corporate Bylaws (see Page 25). These changes were considered necessary to clarify several areas of operation, especially operation of corporate committees, and to reinforce the current governance plan. Please review these amendments so you'll be better familiar with how *REACT* International is run.

Finally, you are reminded that every Team in *REACT* (except those few who have obtained their own exemptions) is covered under *REACT* International's Section 501(c)(3) Group Exemption 2746. If your Team needs proof of this, it's not necessary to contact the IRS — Dora in the *REACT* International office will provide the Team with a copy of the RI Determination Letter and an RI certification letter concerning your Team. Teams might need this to ensure exemption from local or state taxes, to qualify for a license issued only to non-profit organizations, for a U.S. Postal Service non-profit mailing permit, to apply for a grant, etc.

The REACTer



From the Chairman of the Board

by Dick Cooper

Taking Up the Gavel

s you will read elsewhere in this issue, there were some significant changes as a result of the meetings of the RI Board of Directors during the 2003 RI Convention in Evansville, Indiana. You can read about these actions in the minutes summary in this issue.

The change that affected me the most was the resignation of Frank Jennings as RI Chairman of the Board and my subsequent election to fill his term (until the Board's Annual Meeting in February, 2004).

Frank has devoted countless hours in his Team and Council and many *REACT* members know of his successes in these areas. Many *REACT* members don't realize the thousands of hours that Frank has given to the improvement of *REACT* International, Inc., especially since the RI Board's reorganization in 1998.

Although much of Frank's work may not be that obvious to members, the results of his "behind the scenes" work can be seen in all parts of *REACT* International. In recognition of his tireless efforts as Chairman, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to recognize Frank with the Eugene Goebel Memorial Award, the highest honor *REACT* can bestow, at the Convention. Thank you for everything, Frank.

In my new position as Chairman, there are several projects that I want to see started or continued. I expect to spend a lot of time on these and other projects. If I am re-elected to this position or any other officer position. I will need to relinquish my position as Region 2 Director effective the summer of 2004. I want to urge members of Region 2 (Kentucky, Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Delaware and New Jersey) to look seriously in their Teams and Councils for someone to nominate for that position.

Nominees for this position must be a *REACT* member for 3 years or longer, a member of a Team in Region 2, at least 21 years of age, and have demonstrated leadership in *REACT* or other non-profit corporations or public agencies.

Also remember that you can nominate yourself for this position if you desire. You can find a nomination form on the RI web site at the following URL: < http://www.reactintl.org/pubs/nomination.pdf > . Please contact me if you have any questions.



In a closing note I would like to say that in my new position I am dedicated to doing the best possible job for *REACT* and *REACT* members. Frank helped to steer the Board of Directors and *REACT* in the right direction during the past few years and I will try to continue that trend. If anyone wants to contact me, my email address is < dcooper@react intl.org > , and my toll free phone number is 877-881-3995.



949-770-9501 Web: www.rkleef.com E-mail: kb6don@earthlink.net



Report from Headquarters

by Norman Kaplan, Treasurer, REACT International

s you can see from the map, REACT has no Teams in several states: Arkansas, Nevada, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. We have only one Team in each of ten states: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, and Tennessee. Our ability to provide reliable communications for public safety is seriously compromised by the vast areas where we simply have no members.

I realize that *REACT* got started on Citizens Band radio to help the general public and specifically the motoring public, but cell phones and the Family Radio Service radio have cut into our "service area." Yet, the interface between the government and the civilian population is still CB Radio when all other services go out.

In a disaster the telephone and cell phones are the first to go and people depend on alternate communication services, amateur radio for distance communication, and GMRS and CB radio for local communications.

Truckers still look to *RE-ACT* to aid them. Cobra Radio was at the *REACT* International Convention and their salesman made a point to ask for information on *REACT* International and how truckers may join. There is still a need for Citizens Band Radio.

If you look at the hours monitored, as reported by the Teams last year, the largest num-



Pin map showing location of *REACT* Teams in the U.S. (Hawaii Teams not shown in photo). The map is in RI's Headquarters in Suitland, MD.

ber of hours of monitoring was on CB. (I am still accepting any and all late monitoring reports, by the way!)

Midland would like *RE-ACT* to join them in their "Channel 1" program of monitoring FRS Channel 1, CB Channel 1 and GMRS Channel 1, (462.550). REACTers generally monitor CB Channel 9 and GMRS 462.675, and may not be interested in changing, although there's nothing to prevent people from monitoring two or more channels.

Where will *REACT* be in five or ten years? What are our members interested in doing? According to the monitoring reports, *REACT* teams have made agreements with police, fire, emergency management agencies, school districts, highway management, Coast Guard and a host of other agencies. Is this the

way to go?

I have given the REACT Board the 2002 Annual Report and will make it available to any one via e-mail by request to < nkaplan@reactintl.org > . RE-ACT International, Inc. has adopted a National Disaster Plan, which states that the primary director of any response is the Team that is in the affected area. Of course with only 276 Teams, this leaves a lot of the country underrepresented. We have begun discussions with Homeland Security and the Civilian Corps about our role in disasters, but it's still not clear what we can and will do. Will the Regional Director take the lead? Will REACT International take the lead? Will we do nothing? Please e-mail or mail me your thoughts at International and I will see that the new Five-Year Planning Chairman gets them.

Getting the Word Out

by Ron McCracken, REACTer Advertising Manager

The REACTer is looking for advertisers. Your publication welcomes your help. Either as an advertiser, if you have a product that could benefit Teams and their members, or as a sleuth to recommend potential advertisers whose products you've used and like, come on board.

Ads help make the REACTer possible. They also put you in touch with suppliers whose products can help your Team do a better job more easily.

Your Team itself can place an advertisement to congratulate another Team, Council, individual, etc., or to promote its services. Imagine being able to give a copy of the REACTer with your Team's ad included to local authorities, agencies, community groups you seek to serve, etc. Advertising in the REACTer is an inexpensive and effective way to promote your Team or Council. Do you realize a "business card" size ad costs only \$20 or less? Consider it.

Special thanks to Paul Oby who has submitted a steady supply of leads to us for potential advertisers. We need others to join Paul in this search. Thanks also to *REACT*ers who have contacted us already about placing ads for their businesses.

Can you give us a hand? Contact me for advertising rates and other details if you, your Team, or a firm you know, is keen to reach the *REACT*er audience.

< ronmccr@juno.com >

Check your office supply store when you visit. New tools keep appearing that can help your Team. Be sure to alert your Team's PR officer when you see an item that seems to have potential.

Staples now offers corrugated folding table displays in color. I saw dark green and dark blue. The dark blue would work particularly well for REACT displays. They will show off light colors much better than the original white. They will stay cleaner to give a better appearance. This new edition also has a detachable "header" panel where you could display your Team name. Thus, the three display panels can display more photos, testimonial letters, news clippings, etc. Like the original, these are lightweight and will stand on a table or the floor to make a very effective display.

Office Max can help Teams that send speakers to community groups, etc. It offers an inexpensive laser pointer that can help in slide presentations, etc. It can attach to your key ring, although I don't recommend it, but that indicates its size.

REACT HQ offers inexpensive soft plastic leaflet holders that you can place in radio stores, tourist information centers, etc. filled with REACT leaflets. They are unbreakable so if they fall off a counter no damage will result. Add a REACT logo decal to the front and they will advertise for your Team even when empty. Position it carefully so it will be hidden when leaflets are in the

holders. Place an address label with your phone number on the back of the holder so the staff can call you if the leaflets run out. Of course, it is your job to ensure that doesn't happen, right?

Tools abound to help your Team with PR. If you've found some we should know about, please share your info.

New Membership Brochure available now from REACT International!



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Preparing for the

REACT Teams Get Ready for Disasters

As *REACT* Teams have become more involved in disaster relief and recovery, they are increasingly invited by local emergency management officials to participate in disaster drills – simulation exercises designed to test the various parts of the community's emergency preparedness. Here are three recent examples.

MALAYBALAY, PHILIPPINES

Around 9:00 a.m., an explosion rocked the bus terminal. Initial reports indicated that there were two fatalities and ten people seriously injured. Within minutes, police, firefighters, and rescue teams were dispatched to the scene – all part of the annual disaster drill conducted by the City of Malaybalay. REACT Kaamulan was invited to provide communications and first-aid assistance.

Our Team set up a mobile Incident Command Post with VHF/UHF radios. We provided communications equipment to the Red Cross, the Philippine

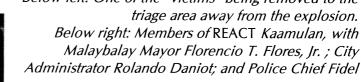


Army's Explosive Ordnance and Detonation Unit, and rescue groups. Two "jump teams" and a mobile EOC were deployed, relying heavily on equipment and personnel provided by *REACT*.

— Eric Conrad

Photo above: The first jump/rescue team attends a "victim" suffering a badly wounded left leg.

Below left: One of the "victims" being removed to the







WORST

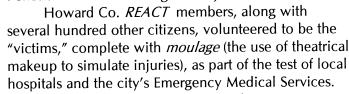


COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

On a beautiful, quiet June day, members of Howard County *REACT* were setting up for the day's event in a city park. Suddenly there was a huge explosion and a large orange cloud rose over a nearby building. The *REACT*ers and other citizens in the park were overcome with toxic fumes!

Team President Daniel O'Keefe was among the first to be transported to a nearby hospital, suffering from a lacerated arm, contusion on one knee, and intracranial hemorrhage. Off to surgery, STAT!

Team members Nickie O'Rourke (left) and Anna Pelletier were also among the "injured."



According to O'Keefe, some volunteers were called on for some acting, "such as the hysterical patient who did not let the nurses at Sinai Hospital within five feet of her." Another "victim" decided he had waited too long to be treated, so he "died"!

-Daniel O'Keefe





TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Tropical storms and hurricanes are such a regular occurrence in Florida that they are the subject of annual disaster drills conducted by the Florida Emergency Management Office. For the past several years, the Florida Council of *REACT* Teams has participated.

For this year's exercise, FCORT added a new element. Teams could "follow the action" of a simulated hurricane (with attendant tornados and floods) by e-mail, using the Yahoo! Group established by RI Director John Knott. Even Teams outside of the drill area, or in other states, were able to "observe" by logging onto the e-mail list.



Knott reports that the system worked well, and he recommends it to other *REACT* Councils.

— John Knott

ait a minute! Isn't that supposed to be, "Don't become a statistic?"

Not necessarily. Sometimes we need to become statistics, in order to get credit for what we, and REACT, are doing.

Years ago, *REACT* received a lot of support from General Motors Research Corporation and the state of Ohio, largely because we were gathering statistics to show how monitoring CB channel 9 could improve highway safety.

We still have some remnants of that statistical data collection program, but the forms no longer reflect everything we do, and the incentive to keep filling them in at the grass roots level has dwindled.

As a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, one of my first collateral duty assignments was Flotilla Staff Officer for Information Systems (FSO-IS). The FSO-IS collects all the monthly activity reports from other members, and enters them into the database from which the Coast Guard learns how much the Auxiliary contributes to its missions.

Based on this information, the Coast Guard allocates budget support and issues awards to members for sustained service. (The Coast Guard Auxiliary is an all-volunteer organization that supports the Coast Guard.)

This turned out to be a great way to learn about all the things I could get credit for doing as a member. I got more active in the Auxiliary just by looking at all the activities other members were reporting. The Auxiliary has an elaborate system of awards for sustained service and requires a

Become a

by William M. Riley, President, Flotilla Commander, Coast Guard

certain level of activity for a member to retain certain qualifications. Awards and current qualifications are represented by certificates, ribbons, and miniature medals. All the reports filled out at the grassroots level feed directly into a central database.

'The key...is to offer an incentive...'

Compare this to the reports we try to fill out as *REACT* members. We have a monitoring hours report and not much else. At the end of the year, each Team is asked to fill out a comprehensive statistical report that includes many activities not recorded as they happen during the year. How many Teams are just making wild guesses at the numbers on that annual report?

Of course, if we create a lot of forms for members to fill out, some of them just won't do it. Even the forms we have now get filled out differently by different members of the same team. Some take the time to place an X in every box on the monitoring hours matrix; some just write a total

number of hours at the bottom. Some fill out a separate sheet for each channel they monitor; others combine everything on one page with no indication of which is which. Transferring the mixed information to the annual report is pure guesswork.

The key to getting our members to do extra record-keeping is to offer them a reward or incentive. Maybe the only incentive we can offer is a certificate, but at least that's something.

Small trophies, lapel pins, patches, etc., could be created to denote annual accomplishments. Granted, some people might pad their numbers to reach an award level. However, at present the problem is that people fail to report what they do.

The forms need to reflect the statistics that we want to collect. Monitoring hours logs are useful for only one category of activity, and even then a member would have to fill out a separate log for each radio service (CB, GMRS, Amateur, etc) each month, using the current forms available from *REACT* International. There is currently no form for recording the other types of activities that *REACT* Teams perform.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary has two basic reports to be filled out by all members monthly. A Mission Hours report (ANSC

Statistic!

Prince George's Co. (Md.) REACT Auxiliary Flotilla 054-07-03

7030) lists all the activities of members involved in a particular patrol, radio net, public affairs event, etc. One form covers one event for all the participants, to be filled out by the person in charge.

A Member Activity report (ANSC 7029) shows the time spent by an individual that does not fit into any of the categories on the Mission report, including preparation and travel time. For a look at these forms, go to www.cgaux.org and follow the links to "Members Deck" and "Forms." We might be able to modify these forms for *REACT* missions without having to re-in-

vent the wheel.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary Mission Activity Report currently provides for about thirty different mission categories, each indicated by a numeric code listed in the instructions. Earlier versions of the form listed all the mission categories in the top half of the page, in a check-the-box format, which was easier to use.

This report format would be useful for Team activities such as meetings, radio nets, public service events, etc, with the form being filled out by the Team leader for that event. Individuals should fill out a similar form for independent activites in the same categories. The Member Activity form would be used only for things that truly do not fit in one of the established categories.

Note that the Coast Guard Auxiliary keeps track of preparation time and travel time. Only the individual member can accurately provide this information, so we often miss it in *REACT* statistics. I would also add a column for mileage, just to provide a convenient place for the member to keep track of this item for purposes of a tax deduction.

How do we keep track of monitoring hours and calls taken? I think the monthly monitoring hours sheets are still the most effective way to handle this, with a separate sheet for each emergency channel/frequency each month. However, calls taken are not included on this form, and the old "REACT Monitor Call Log" does not work well either.

The more useful the form is to the operator, the more likely it is to be filled out. For the annual statistical report, *REACT* International needs the number of calls in each category, for each radio service (CB, GMRS, Amateur, etc). Members, however, should keep some record of what information was received and what agency it was relayed to, in a free-form, narrative log or on a separate sheet for each call taken.

Input from other members with forms design and statistical database experience would be helpful in re-designing and revamping the *REACT* International data collection effort. As dedicated communicators, we know how important it is to have the *right* information, and *all* of the information!

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Facts

e live in the Information Age, yet an abundance of misinformation continues to circulate. Surprisingly, one of the most often misunderstood subjects, a matter close to the heart of *REACT*ers, is the present state of 11-meter CB radio popularity and usage.

Surprising, that is, for folks like *REACT* members and quite a few others who rightly pride themselves on being highly proficient in radio communications.

When the CB craze of the 1970s faded as rapidly as it had arrived, many people both within and without the CB world naturally concluded that CB radio was either dead or dying. Aside from the fad, though, how has CB radio popularity fared over the last two-plus decades?

Even disregarding the entire CB craze phenomenon of the mid-1970s, a large number of communications volunteers and hobbyists, as well as occupational users and professionals, seem to feel that interest in CB radio has been on a steady decline over the past twenty years. Various members of the Internet e-mail REACT-List have asserted that CB radio popularity is on the decline. Some have used this assumption as justification for abandoning the monitoring of Channel 9. But is this assumption valid?

For those of us who lived the CB fad in the mid-1970s, it's

an all-too-easy conclusion. In 1976, all 23 CB channels were loaded with traffic in nearly every part of the country. The three main trucking channels then (10, 15, and 21, in

VS

searchers at Michigan State University. There, the National Science Foundation was launching a major multi-year research project on CB radio popularity in the US, and researchers were then in an early round of source material gathering. Now, Research Associate Carol Ting has provided rudimentary statistics about the history of CB usage, and what she has found may surprise you.

Just how big was the CB

Just how big was the CB radio fad of the 1970s? Staggering! CB radio sales soared from just under two million units in

most areas) were busy around the clock in even the remotest areas within range of any major highway. Today,

truckers nearly everywhere in the US are on one channel: Channel 19. The remainder of the 40 channels we have today are largely quiet, except for the daytime DXers on Channels 35-40 on sideband, and one or two lower channels with AM DXers. It's easy enough to jump to the conclusion that CB is no longer a viable communications medium.

But jumping to such a conclusion might rob us of some highly relevant realities. In the course of my own research over the years, I have noticed an unfortunate dearth of statistics on CB radio use, sales, manufacturing and imports, or anything else useful.

Finally, in early 2003, I was contacted by a group of re-

Myths:

1974 to over eleven million in 1976. Sales volume began plummeting just a year later, however. By 1979, annual sales volume had dipped to just under two million, about the same sales level seen just before the fad.

Research shows two main factors that spurred the beginning of the CB fad. One was motorists' need to find fuel while on the highway during the Arab oil embargo. This was tightly coupled with the effect of the nationwide speed limit of 55 mph and motorists' keen interest in related enforcement activity.

The second factor was massive media attention in newspapers and magazines. Several country-western genre songs about truckers' exploits with CB radio became crossover hits, assuring airplay on nearly every radio station featuring any form of contemporary music. Television shows and movies rapidly followed suit. Millions of people bought, and tried to use, a CB radio simply because millions of other people were doing so.

Almost as suddenly, several factors led to the demise of the CB fad. The first factor was a direct effect of the fad's rapid onset: Demand began to outstrip supply. In 1975 alone, some twelve million units were ordered for retail sale. But only five million were delivered. Distributors routinely submitted duplicate orders in hopes of receiving adequate quantities.

demand imbalance which, as researcher Ting succinctly notes, typically leads to a dramatic market correction.

Another factor resulted from the radio industry's lobbying of the FCC to authorize more CB channels. In the summer of 1976, the Commission responded by increasing the number of channels from 23 to 40, to be effective January 1, 1977.

Sales of 23-channel CB radios were ordered to cease after that date, but sales of 40 channel units were not permitted at all prior to that same date. This short-sighted transition policy gave vendors only five months to clear out their collective massive overstock of 23-channel sets. An industry

40-channel radios were in relatively short supply. The hog-cycle effect of overstocking, coupled with a disastrous FCC transition policy, drove up CB radio prices (again, relatively) while choking the supply. The result was a steep plummet in CB radio sales, with a supply-and-demand dynamic that fueled an uncontrolled downward spiral from which the industry never recovered.

When we step back and look at the bigger picture however, we can see that, disregarding the "spike" caused by the rise and fall of the CB fad, CB radio popularity had only increased over the roughly 45 years that 27 MHz CB radio has existed. Consumer enthusiasm has steadily in-

CB Radio in the New Millenium

by Alan Dixon, N3HOE/WPUC720/KST8678
REACT Affiliate Member 3345

New manufacturers entered the business, and related stock market performance would come to bear a strange resemblance to the Internet dot-com business boom that would occur two decades later. This market, that would prove to be overly optimistic, caused distributors to amass excessive stockpiles of CB radio units. The marketing momentum at work in this case spiraled into what economists describe as a "hog-cycle" supply-September-October, 2003

panic ensued, causing retailers to dump their standing inventories into the market at "fire-sale" pricing levels. Still-new 23-channel radio closeout units were often sold at a mere twenty percent of cost, just in time for a heavy Christmas shopping season!

Then, as 1977 dawned, new CB radios with all 40 required channels typically sold at ten times the price of otherwise comparable new CB radios sold only a month before. And the new

creased even since 1980, contrary to the opinions of those who no longer personally support CB radio.

In the statistical science of mathematics, there is a process known as normalization. This process discounts aberrations that are statistically insignificant when considering a larger range of data. (Several times larger, that is, than the aberration in question.)

(Continued on Page 30)

HamComm 2003



Several thousand amateur radio operators, many with friends and family in tow, descended on the Arlington, Texas, Convention Center June 20-22 for a weekend of seminars, speeches, and displays of the latest bells-and-whistles radio gadgetry (and not a few items that had nothing to do with radio communications).

This year's HamComm, an annual event sponsored by Dallas-area amateur radio clubs, also was the National Convention of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). As part of the festivities, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by ARRL and representatives of the federal Homeland Security Administration (HSA). The ceremonial signing was performed by two



representatives of HSA (whose names, regrettably, we did not obtain) and by Jim D. Haynie, W5JBP, President of ARRL and a member of Dallas County REACT. RI President Charles A. "Chuck" Thompson was also present, and promised to meet with HSA staff soon to negotiate a similar MOU between REACT and the federal agency.

(Photo courtesy ARRL)



Well-known radio authority and journalist Gordon West was one of many experts who conducted workshops and seminars during the three-day HamComm.

12 The REACTer

Dallas Area Hams, with help from Dallas County REACT, Host ARRL National Convention in Arlington, Texas

Text and Photos by Stuart M. DeLuca, KC5CFQ

Dallas County REACT used HamComm as an opportunity to show off its three communications vehicles, one of which housed ARRL's event station, W1AW. Properly licensed radio operators were given the privilege of operating the station for a few minutes, and each operator received a certificate – computer-generated on the spot – attesting to their operation of the famed ARRL station.





The Texas State *REACT* Council also made its presence known at HamComm 2003 with this new exhibit booth. The banner at the back of the booth and the one at the front of the table were produced for TSRC by Art-Trig Company of San Antonio. Terry Parker of Travis Co. (Tex.) *REACT* and RI Secretary Lee W. Besing, who is also President of TSRC, were among several Texas *REACT*ers who staffed the booth during the weekend, explaining *REACT* to hams – and soliciting new members.

Evansville 2003

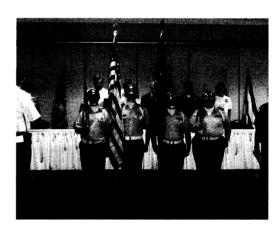
RI Meets Hoosier Hospitality!



More than eighty *REACT* members from all parts of the U.S., plus Trinidad, assembled at the Executive Inn hotel in Evansville, Indiana, the week of July 21, 2003, for the *REACT* International Convention.

The main business of the Convention got underway on Tuesday, July 22, with the Opening Session. An Evansville ROTC drill team provided the presentation of the U.S. and Indiana flags; flags of all the countries where *REACT* has Teams were

displayed across the back of the platform.





The Evansville Police Department's Motorcycle Team performed precision drills to the delight of the Convention attendees. Convention Chairman George Lynn (right) presented a

certificate of appreciation to the squad leader.

Another special event was held Tuesday evening: Dinner (on land) and a cruise on the *Chattanooga Star* paddlewheel riverboat.





14 The REACTer



The Official Portrait of REACT International Convention 2003

Below Left: *REACT* Life Members at the Convention. Below Right: Amateur Radio Operators at the Convention.







Junior *REACT* Members at the Convention. The youngsters were pressed (pun intended) into service as Junior Reporters; during the day, they took pictures and interviewed Convention attendees. In the evening, they wrote up their stories, which were published in the "Porthole News" the following morning. Pat Knight and Lee Besing managed the project.



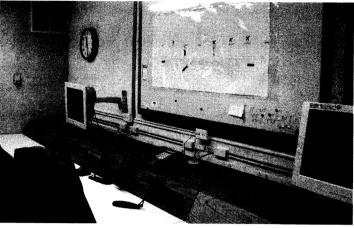
The *REACT* Board of Directors met most of Tuesday, part of Wednesday, and all morning Thursday to carry out necessary business. From left: Dick Cooper, Paul Jackson, Bob Kaster, Fred Lanshe, Larry Fry, Bob Leef, Frank Jennings, and Eric Hutchins. Chuck Thompson and Kenny Jagdeosinghe arrived a few minutes later.

John Knott was unable to attend the Convention.

Workshops and seminars were held throughout the day Wednesday. Here, Sean Davis and Matt Sharfenberg of Chagrin Valley (Ohio) *REACT* (with Paul Jackson) explained their success in building a Team of Junior *REACT*ers.



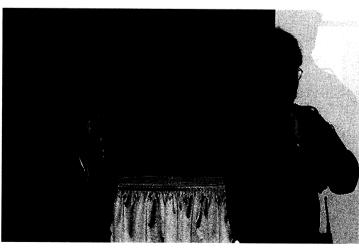




Sherman G. Greer, KB9WFY, Director of the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Emergency Management Agency, explained the capabilities and functions of the agency's Mobile Command Post. The fifty-foot-long trailer is equipped with nearly every kind of radio communications gear, and has space for a small conference room and office.

Members of Vanderburgh County *REACT* and the Indiana State *REACT* Council staffed the Hospitality Suite throughout the Convention, offering free beverages and snacks, and the opportunity to rest and socialize with other attendees. A Communications and Operations Center also was open most of the time, allowing attendees to access their e-mail, copy notes to a computer file, and generally use whatever technology they needed.



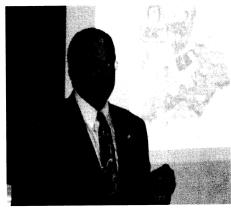


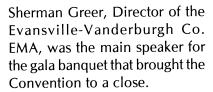
Paramedics Jerold Blackburn and Russell Straight, of the LifeFlight helicopter ambulance service of St. Mary's Hospital, explained to Convention attendees the proper procedures for requesting LifeFlight transport and assisting in preparing a landing zone for the chopper. Theirs was one of a series of workshops on Wednesday. Other speakers included Adam Thorpe, Deputy Director of Vanderburgh EMA; Katherine Draughon, American Red Cross; David Pifer, Indiana Section ARES Coordinator; Tom Currie, Louisville Metro REACT and RI Training Committee chair; Lee Besing, RI Secretary.





As always, the last day of the Convention featured the Open Board Meeting. Frank Jennings, Chairman of the Board, opened the meeting, but quickly turned the podium over to Dick Cooper, Vice-chairman, who later was elected by the Board to succeed Frank, who retired from office at the end of the day. RI President Chuck Thompson reported to the delegates on the various decisions made by the Board during the Convention.







Greer pointed out that emergency planners need to focus on the kinds of emergencies that are most likely to happen. For Evansville, that would include fires, floods, and earthquakes — not terrorists.

Finally, George Lynn, Convention Chairman, and Sue Barton, Council Secretary, presented a number of awards, including "Youngest *REACT* Member present," which went to Corwin Johnson, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Leland Johnson of Albert Lea (Minn.) *REACT*. (A list of other awards is on Page 29.) A number of door prizes and other special prizes also were awarded. But the highest honor and most important award was the W. E. Goebel Award, presented by President Chuck Thompson to retiring Board Chairman Frank Jennings.

Text and photos by Stuart M. DeLuca; additional photos by Lee W. Besing and Pat Knight



September-October, 2003

Summary of the Minutes of A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of *REACT* International, Inc.,

Held at Evansville, Indiana, 21-24 July 2003

Directors Present.

Frank Jennings (Wash.), Chairman & Region 6
Dick Cooper (N.J.), Region 2, Vice Chairman
Fred Lanshe (Penn.), Region 1 (arrived 2:24
p.m., July 21)
Jack Murrell (Ind.), Region 4 (arrived 8:45 a.m.,
July 21)
Larry Fry (Wisc.), Region 5
Bob Kaster (Okla.), Region 7
Robert Leef (Calif.), Region 8
Kenny Jagdeosingh (Trinidad & Tobago), Region 9 (arrived 8 a.m., July 22)
Charles A. "Chuck" Thompson (Tex.), President,
ex officio

Directors Absent.

Meeting called to order by

John Knott (Fla.), Region 3

Officers Present.

Charles A. "Chuck" Thompson, President Robert Leef (Calif.), Executive Vice President Lee Besing (Tex.), Secretary Norman Kaplan (Md.), Treasurer

Officers Absent.

None

Guests (at various times during the meeting).

Tony Lane, Midland Radio Marketing (TLane@MidlandRadio.com)
Jeff Geyer, Affiliate (Tex.)
Steve Lindquist, Rio Grande Valley REACT
President (N. Mex.)
Eric Hutchins, So. Calif. REACT Council
President (Calif.)

Chairman Jennings at 8:45 a.m., Monday, July 21, 2003. The Chairman expressed appreciation to those in attendance and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the past year's Silent Mics.

1. Establishment of Quorum; Agenda. The Secretary announced there were six of ten Directors present, and there was a quorum. The President distributed

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting. Motion Mr. Kaster, 2d Mr. Fry, to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board held at the corporate office in Suitland, Maryland, in February. Unanimous.

copies of the agenda.

3. Election results. The President announced results of the Director Elec-

tions. Re-elected were Fred Lanshe (Region 1) and Robert Kaster (Region 7). Elected for Region 4 to replace Mr. Murrell (who did not stand for re-election) was Paul Jackson (Mich.). Ballots were counted by Singleton & Bardowski, LLC, Certified Public Accountants, who certified the results in a letter to the Board. Motion Mr. Fry, 2d Mr. Kaster to approve results. Unanimous. Discussion on when the newly elected Region 4 Director was to be seated. Mr. Murrell said that it had been decided in 1998 that a new Director was to be seated when the election results were approved.

4. Special Presentation. Tony Lane, Senior VP & Chief Operating Officer of Midland Radio Corp., spoke about his hopes of

reaching some agreement with *REACT* to do some cross marketing to the membership and provide assistance in promoting *REACT* membership to Midland customers.

- **5. 2003 Convention.** Mr. Besing reported about 80 registered convention attendees.
- 6. Treasurer's Report. Mr. Kaplan presented a yearto-date profit and loss statement (not including investment returns). He projected a slight loss for 2003 because of lower interest rates on investments. He is paying the insurance premium in quarterly installments to keep funds invested a bit longer. Discussion held on investment reports and who gets copies, and on level of investment returns. The Chairman thanked Mr.
- Kaplan for a job well done.

 7. New Director Seated.
 Paul Jackson arrived at 9:50 and was seated as Region 4 Director. Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Kaster, to commend Mr. Murrell for his years of service as a Director since 1998. Unanimous. Mr. Murrell departed and did not participate further in the meeting.
- 8. Officer Reports.
 a. President Thompson stated his report was built into the agenda and would be covered.
- b. Executive VP Leef see report below under Committees.
- c. Secretary Besing no report.
- **9. Director Reports.** a. Region 6 Mr. Jennings reported some teams had merged because of declining membership. Teams in

Idaho were growing as was one team in Hawaii, but others were holding their own. He discussed what groups were actually participating in running Disaster Services in Washington State.

b. Region 4 – Mr. Jackson reported at least one ALERT Team in Ohio working with the local *RE-ACT* Team. Ohio is growing in members.

c. Region 2 – Mr. Cooper reported he had been unable to reach Virginia Council, but had attended Maryland and New Jersey Council meetings.

d. Region 5 - Mr. Fry reported he was experiencing problems with membership levels in his region, and had handled minor membership problems in Illinois and Iowa. e. Region 7 - Mr. Kaster reported he hasn't been as active as he would like because he took a position as Emergency Coordinator in Oklahoma City that has been eating up his time. Oklahoma is working on membership ideas. He discussed last year's PSA video. The volunteer working on the project dropped it and he is looking for someone to continue the work

f. Region 8 – Mr. Leef reported he was covering four states and reported on them. Utah has no teams although he had worked some leads, Arizona has 2 teams, Nevada has 2 teams, and California has 33 teams with two councils (Northern Council has disbanded). Discussion held on why California has been growing in teams

and members and on involvement in a new program called TIP (Traffic Information People) which involves traffic reporters from radio and TV, and the Highway Patrol. Mr. Hutchins added he felt that growth was due to high visibility of teams with lots of public events, the Repeater Users Group (RUG), and the 800 inquiry line. Mr. Leef announced that he would resign at the end of the convention and concentrate on his Executive Vice President duties. 10. Reports of Committees of the Board. No reports filed, no action taken. 11. Corporate Committee Reports. Of 16 committees and liaisons, 4 are vacant (Public Relations, Membership, Ways and Means, and Government Relations). Written reports were received from Tom Currie (Training & Development), Stuart DeLuca (Publications Review), Wayne Barringer (Awards & Recognition), and William Riley (Communications and FCC Liaison). Paul Obv (Convention Site Selection) made a verbal

Mr. Riley asked for action on four items: (1) Encourage increased FCC enforcement on CB, (2) Do more to educate members about FCC GMRS rules, (3) Promote logical advancement paths of radio use/licensing for members and non-members (e.g., FRS to GMRS, CB to Amateur), and (4) Have REACT become a partner in the Federal Highway Administration high frequency emergency radio network. Consensus was that (1)

report.

was unrealistic, (2) and (3) were approved, and to ask for more info about (4).

The Site Selection Committee has not received any bids for 2004 convention.

12. Proposed Bylaws Amendments Review. Mr. Thompson passed out an updated version of the proposed Bylaws amendments. Extensive discussion was held, including a line-by-line review of proposals. Many proposed changes are minor corrections in grammar or clarification of intent. Article 7 on committees is substantially changed. Considerable discussion on whether President should appoint committee chairs and members and have removal authority or whether the President should merely appoint/remove chairs and have the chairs select committee members. Eventually, discussion on Article 7.2(c) was tabled to allow a rewriting of the wording of section 7.2(b). Various other proposed changes were discussed, and with some modification, approved. Final approval was held pending resolution of the wording of section 7.2(b).

13. Consideration of Committees and Chairs. Seven committees did not file reports. It was decided to retain the Emergency Response Committee but to find a new chair. The chair of the Junior REACT Committee will be contacted, but it is likely that a new chair will be needed. Current chairs for the Five-Year Planning Committee, the Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures Committee,

and Computer Services Committee, as well as the Voluntary Agencies Liaison, will be retained. 14. Status of Statements/ Memorandums of Understanding with Various Organizations. The proposed MOU with the Civil Air Patrol appears to be stalled. Mr. Kaplan suggested that the recent war activities has contributed to the slow progress. Mr. Thompson spoke briefly at the annual ARRL Convention in Dallas with several Homeland Security officials to explore establishing a Statement of Understanding (SOU) between HS and REACT similar to the one signed with the ARRL. Modifications will be discussed with the American Red Cross and Salvation to clarify wearing of REACT uniform and ID as appropriate, insurance coverage, etc. during operations involving REACT members working with their agencies. It was noted that REACT Teams expect to be used as Teams, rather than individuals.

15. Policy Reviews. Mr. Thompson presented the latest revised RI Policies for review and approval. Policies are numbered according to the Bylaws sections that are implemented. REACT website and the "14 steps..." document need to be changed, as well as some RI standard letters, to be consistent with Policies. Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Fry, to approve Policy 7.1 as submitted. Other policies will be considered later, after added review.

16. Awards. Discussion held on suggestions coming from this committee. including use of electronic newsletter to distribute information regarding awards. Mr. Thompson expressed concern about discriminating against teams without e-mail. Mr. Fry said that new projects, awards or otherwise. should include details about how the project would be funded. Mr. Besing and Mr. Cooper agreed with Mr. Thompson that the appearance and wording on any awards, certificates, etc., that are distributed electronically or printed on behalf of RE-ACT International should be controlled in order to comply with standards set by the Board as to phrases, logos, etc. Mr. Thompson was directed to develop a new policy statement on this subject. It was noted that while individual Teams were free to develop their own awards, Teams should be encouraged to make their awards, etc., follow the standards set by RI. 17. Publication of Committee Reports. Mr. Cooper suggested that Committee Reports be posted on the Website, and that this be reported in the REACTer. Mr. Besing suggested that the reports not be given to the computer committee until approved for publication by the President and Executive VP. 18. New REACT Brochure. A new brochure is being printed, but will probably not be received in time for distribution at the con-

19. Liability Insurance.

Discussion held about high cost of coverage for members in California compared with members in other states. Mr. Leef has found a possible source for insurance at a significantly lower premium, but it would be limited to California Teams only. One complication is that rates will not be available until after January 1, 2004. Mr. Thompson said this might involve creating a California-chartered subsidiary of REACT International, Inc. Mr. Leef mentioned that SCRC, the one remaining incorporated council in California, might assume this role for the entire state. Discussion held on ramifications. Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Kaster, to direct the President to continue working toward the objective of reducing the cost of liability insurance. Unanimous.

Meeting recessed until 8 a.m. on Tuesday, July 22, 2003.

Meeting called to order at 8 a.m., July 23, 2003. Quorum present. Mr. Jagdeosingh was present.

20. Convention Scheduling. The Board held extensive discussions on the viability of continuing annual conventions. Consideration was given to whether biennial conventions would cause lessening of interest. Various suggestions were made on how to reduce costs of attending convention (lower cost rooms and registration fees, closer to major airports, etc.). Mr. Jagdeo-

singh stated that Trinidad & Tobago was interested in hosting another convention in the future but understood the high cost of travel. Motion Mr. Leef. to extend the deadline for receiving bids for the 2004 convention to September 1, 2003; motion not finished due to point of order raised by Mr. Thompson. Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Thompson, to hold REACT International conventions in odd numbered years and to encourage regional conferences during even numbered years. FOR: Thompson, Lanshe, Cooper, Jackson, Kaster, Leef. AGAINST: Frv. Jagdeosingh. ABSTAIN: Jenninas.

21. Affiliate Member Program. Discussion held about viability of program and dues charged for this membership status. Mr. Kaplan reported there are 67 Affiliate members in 2003. Dues are \$25 per vear and are prorated the first year so that all renew at the same time each year. If an affiliate member joins a Team, prorated credit toward Team dues is allowed. Mr. Jackson spoke in favor of program, saving it was working in Ohio. Mr. Cooper spoke in favor. Mr. Leef asked for a chart of the various rate structures with amounts and the assigned benefits of each class of membership. Mr. Kaplan suggested this program should be retained and revitalized. Mr. Besing suggested developing the new arrangement with Midland Radio to promote the program. Mr. Jagdeosingh has some prospective Af-

filiate members in the Caribbean that he would begin working on upon his return. Mr. Leef asked that Directors and Councils be notified whenever new Affiliate members join. 22. Final Report of Disaster Response Procedures Committee, Mr. Kaster distributed the final report and recommendations of the Disaster Response Procedures Committee, appointed by the President subsequent to 11 September 2001. Motion Mr. Thompson, 2d Mr. Cooper, to accept the report and proposed procedures. Unanimous. Mr. Kaster expressed his thanks to Tom Currie (Ky.) for his assistance in developing the procedures. 23. Proposal to Revise Family Member Program. Mr. Besing asked the Board to consider revising the dues structure pertaining to family members, so that a family's total dues would be lower. He suggested that some families may register fewer members because of the cost of membership. There are currently less than a dozen families who have more than two members registered. Motion Mr. Frv. 2d Mr. Leef, to cap family membership at \$38 with extra members at \$5 each (plus insurance charge). Discussion on how this might affect RI bylaws. Consensus was favorable. more details need to be worked out. Motion withdrawn. Matter will be brought up at the Thursday Open Board Meeting. 24. REACT Store Items. New caps are selling well. New "volunteer communi-

cations" flash patches have been received and are being sold at the convention. Mr. Thompson reported that the lanyard project of Oklahoma County REACT has dried up and he is investigating carrying a lanyard with REACT name and logo in the RI Store. Discussion held on sources and trends. Consensus to move forward with project. Mr. Kaster will approach company that provided the OCR lanyards.

25. Budget Review. Mr. Kaplan reported that he estimated that RI would finish the year no more than a thousand dollars out of budget. He said that Directors should not utilize their budgeted reimbursement amount in an effort to keep RI in the black, Mr. Thompson stated that this was budgeted, and that while most Directors would probably not ask for reimbursement, expenses had already been incurred on the basis of having reimbursement available, and that those who ask to be reimbursed, should be. No budget changes were made.

26. REACT E-mail Program. Mr. Besing was asked if a program which allowed REACT members use a personal "react.org" e-mail address could be implemented. He responded that this was not currently feasible with the software, etc., available to him (Mr. Besing's company currently provides, at no charge, website and some e-mail services to REACT International). It was the consensus of the Board to September-October, 2003

work towards implementina this capability. 27. Bylaws Amendments Mr. Thompson presented two variations of wording modifying section 7.2 dealing with who appoints/removes committee chairs and members. Mr. Thompson urged that it didn't make sense to allow the President to create a new committee, state its purpose, and name its chairman but to deny the President the authority to appoint committee members. Motion Mr. Leef, 2d Mr. Jagdeosingh, to approve the version that would allow the President to create, rename, reorganize, redirect, or abolish corporate committees and to appoint and remove committee chairpersons, but allow the chairperson to appoint and remove committee members (with the President's approval). Discussion held. FOR: Leef, Jagdeosingh, Lanshe. AGAINST: Thompson, Cooper, Fry, Kaster, Jackson. ABSTAIN: Jennings. Motion failed. The version which states that all committee members, including the chair, are appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of the President, will be used.

A question was raised about the wording specifying that the "annual meeting of the members" is to be held in conjunction with the annual convention. The President will research to determine if an annual membership meeting is required by Illinois statute.

Modification of Section 6.2 to provide for a two-year term for the President was approved.

Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Kaster, to approve the package of Bylaws amendments as modified during this meeting. Unanimous. Amendments will be published in the REACTer and will become effective 90 days later, unless sufficient Teams file objections.

28. RI Policies. Motion Mr. Thompson, 2d Mr. Cooper, to approve package of policies as modified during this meeting. Unanimous.

29. Status of Director Missing Two Consecutive Meetings. Director John Knott (Region 3) will have missed two consecutive Board meetings when this meeting is adjourned. Bylaws Section 5.5(b) states "Any director who misses two consecutive. non-electronic meetings of the Board of Directors will be deemed to have resigned as of the conclusion of the second meeting." Mr. Knott started a new job immediately prior to the last Board meeting and could not attend. His new iob didn't work out and he started another new job several days prior to the convention and was involved in new employee training. He has been active as Director in all other aspects. Tabled until a closed meeting at the end of the convention. Unanimous.

Meeting recessed at 11:55 a.m., July 22, 2003.

Meeting called to order at 3:40 p.m., July 24, 2003. No change in quorum.

30. Midland Proposal. The Board considered Mr. Lane's offer (see item 4 above) to print and insert REACT brochures into their radio product boxes. Also suggested was a possible monthly award program with a Midland product as a prize, and also the possibility of including a coupon in selected Midland products which would entitle the purchaser to a rebate of new member REACT dues. Mr. Cooper suggested these should be handled by the Awards and Recognition or the Public Relations Committees to enhance current programs. Motion Mr. Leef. 2d Mr. Lanshe, to direct the President to contact Mr. Lane and ask for specifics of the Midland proposals. Unanimous. Mr. Thompson asked that the officers be authorized to finalize acceptable program(s) with Midland. Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Lanshe, that REACT International pursue a continuing rela-

Unanimous.

31. Other Awards Programs. Discussion was held about awards programs sponsored by K40 Radio and Cobra Radio to ensure continuity of these programs with REACT. Mr. Fry suggested that the chairman of the Awards & Recognitions Committee contact K40 and Cobra. Mr. Besing has provided two posters promoting

tionship with Midland along

the lines suggested by Mr.

Lane earlier in the meet-

ing, and that the President

be authorized to finalize a

suitable arrangement.

REACT membership to Bill Thourling for use in the Cobra mobile display vehicle.

32. Resignation of Director. Mr. Leef submitted his resignation as Region 8 Director, effective at the end of the convention, and recommended Eric Hutchins (Calif.) for appointment to this position. Discussion was held on other possible candidates from that area. Mr. Lanshe suggested Johnny Stowers (Calif.), but Mr. Besing advised that Mr. Stowers had declined to be considered and had recommended Mr. Hutchins, Motion Mr. Cooper, 2d Mr. Jackson, to appoint Eric Hutchins to the remaining term of Region 8 Director, effective at the final adjournment of the Board on July 24, 2003. Unanimous.

- 33. Annual Board Meeting Date. The Chairman asked that the date for the Annual Board Meeting be set. After discussion, Mr. Jennings announced that the meeting would be held beginning on Friday, February 20, 2004, through Sunday, February 22, 2004.
- **34. Commendation of Convention Hosts.** Motion Mr. Thompson, 2d Mr. Fry, to commend the hosts of the 2004 Convention and present a proclamation to the Convention Chairman during the Banquet. Unanimous.
- **35. REACT History**. Mr. Jagdeosingh asked that the RI history on the website be amended to reflect that representatives from Trinidad & Tobago were present at the 1991 convention. It was noted

that delegates were present from the United Kingdom at the 1982 convention.

36. Nextel. Mr. Jennings presented some information about services available from Nextel (cellular phones). Consensus of the Board for him to get additional information and make a recommendation later.

Meeting was recessed at 4:40 p.m

Open Board meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, July 24, 2003. All Directors present except Mr. Knott and Mr. Lanshe.

- **37. Open Board Meeting. Meeting.** Opening comments by Vice Chairman Cooper.
- (a) Credentials report bySue Barton, Joyce Julianand Missy Schonabaum.11 Councils Present with11 Delegates and3 Alternates
- 31 Teams Present with 31 Delegates and 13 Alternates
- 18 Guests 6 Juniors
- 80 Total Registered Attendees
- (b) Mr. Cooper explained that this meeting would be a combination of the traditional Open Board Meeting and Meeting of the Membership.
- (c) President Thompson summarized the actions taken by the Board so far and the election results: Director Lanshe was reelected for Region 1, Paul Jackson was elected to

Region 4, Director Kaster was re-elected to Region 7. None of the elections were contested.

- (d) Question was raised as to whether K40 and Radio Hero Awards would be restricted to members in the USA or open to our full membership. The answer is that they are open to all Teams.
- (e) The question was asked if "hanger bars" were available to recognize, for example, 1000 monitoring hours. Answer was that they were not available, but since a number of delegates expressed an interest, a check will be made to see if they can be stocked. Also, number of years of service hanger bars will be investigated.
- (f) Mr. Thompson announced that a new brochure has been printed, and will be available upon request.
- (g) It was noted that the premium for the RI general liability police had almost doubled from under \$12,000 to more than \$22,000. About \$14,000 is collected for insurance fees, and RI is subsidizing the balance.
- (h) The move to biennial conventions was discussed. Many delegates were in favor of regional conferences in the off years.
- (i) Mr. DeLuca (Texas), REACTer editor and Publications Review Committee Chairman, discussed guidelines for submitting items for the REACTer, and for other publications.
 (j) Mr. Roberts (Hawaii) reported that RI gained

only three new Life Members in 2002, and suggested that a great way for Teams to recognize hardworking members was with a Life Membership. (k) Mr. Cooper reviewed the procedures of running *REACT* International on a day-to-day basis.

- (I) Mr. DeLuca moved that the Membership Meeting be adjourned, and recommended that the Board stand in recess. Motion passed.
- (m) Motion Mr. Thompson, 2d Mr. Kaster, to recess and reconvene the Board in a closed meeting at 4:20 p.m. Unanimous.

Meeting reconvened at 4:20 p.m., Thursday, July 24, 2003. Mr. Lanshe was not present.

38. Action on Absent Director. Mr. Thompson stated that Region 3 Director John Knott has missed two consecutive non-electronic board meetings and according to the Bylaws is deemed to have resigned. Motion Mr. Fry, 2d Mr. Leef, that Mr. Knott's resignation not be accepted as authorized in the Bylaws. Lengthy discussion held on reasons meetings were missed, and about precedent set by three prior situations. It was reported that Mr. Knott had been extremely active in his region as Director and that his unavailability would be over shortly. FOR: Lanshe, Cooper, Jackson, Fry, Kaster, Leef, Jagdeosingh. ABSTAIN: Jennings, Thompson.

39. Resignation of Chair-

man. Chairman Jennings submitted a letter of resignation as Chairman, but will remain as Region 6 Director. The Bylaws provide that the resignation is effective upon receipt by the Secretary, Motion Mr. Thompson, 2d Mr. Leef, to appoint Vice Chairman Cooper as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Cooper accepted the nomination. Unanimous (Mr. Cooper abstaining). Term is until Annual Board Meeting in February.

Upon motion by Mr. Thompson, 2d Mr. Jennings, the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors was recessed, and providing no additional business arose, will stand adjourned at 12 midnight, July 24, 2003, sine die.

The Board reconvened at 7 p.m., July 24, 2003. Mr. Jennings and Mr. Lanshe were absent.

40. Goebel Award. Mr. Cooper called the meeting at the request of the President, who recommended that the Wilson E. Goebel Award be made to Frank Jennings, in recognition for his many years of service to *REACT*, for the major role he played during the reorganization of *REACT*

in 1998 and subsequent years, and for his service as Chairman of the Board. Motion Mr. Kaster, 2d Mr. Fry, to award the Wilson Goebel Award to B.F. "Frank" Jennings during the banquet (the plaque will be delivered to Mr. Jennings following the convention). Unanimous.

Meeting was recessed at 7:10 p.m. and no further business arising, was adjourned at 12 midnight, July 24, 2003, sine die.

Respectfully submitted, Lee W. Besing Secretary

President Charles A. Thompson prepared this summary from the extensive minutes submitted by the Secretary. The complete minutes are available electronically by sending e-mail to <secretary @REACTintl.org> or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope with \$0.83 U.S. postage (for U.S. delivery) to REACT International, Inc., 5210 Auth Road, Suite 403, Suitland, MD 20746-4330.

NOTICE OF BYLAWS CHANGE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of *REACT* International, Inc., at its special meeting on Tuesday, July 22, 2003, amended various sections of the Bylaws. Amendments are as follows:

Section 5.2(c) to make it clear that the President serves as an ex officio Director;

Section 6.1 to provide for an Executive Vice President;

Section 6.2(a) to provide for a two-year term for the President,

Section 6.3 to provide that the Board may appoint additional Vice Presidents and other additional officers;

Section 6.5 to specify that the President is also chief executive officer and to specify duties of the President;

Section 6.6 to change the title to "Executive Vice President";

Article VII is renamed "Committees" and extensively rewritten to distinguish between "Committees of the Board" and "Corporate Committees," and to establish various policies;

Section 9.6 to specify that the President signs contracts, acting on behalf of the Board of Directors;

Section 9.7 to specify that the President, within limits established by the Board, may accept gifts to the corporation;

Section 9.8 to allow stock shares of other corporations to be held in "street name";

Section 9.9 to remove requirement that the annual audit by CPAs be "certified";

Section 9.10 to clarify that termination of membership terminates authority to use the corporation's trademark and to correct several cross references. In addition, several corrections were made throughout the Bylaws to spelling and punctuation.

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

Articles and/or sections amended are set out, as amended, below. Only those Articles and sections of Articles which have been amended are shown.

Article V - Board of Directors

Section 5.2 *Number, Term of Office, and Qualifications.* The number of Directors of the corporation shall be eleven (11). Directors shall be qualified as follows: ...

(c) In addition to the eleven directors specified, the President of the corporation, if not already a director, will be an *ex officio* member of the Board Director of the corporation.

Article VI - Officers and Employees

Section 6.1 *Officers.* The officers of the corporation shall be a President, <u>an Executive</u> Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and any additional officers that may be appointed by the Board of Directors.

Section 6.2 *Election, Terms of Office, and Eligibility.* (a) The President of the corporation shall be elected for a two-year term in even numbered years at the Annual Meeting of the Board. All other The officers of the corporation shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting of the Board, provided that new or additional officers may be elected at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 6.3 *Subordinate Officers.* The Board of Directors may appoint <u>Vice Presidents,</u> assistant Secretaries, assistant Treasurers, Controllers, and other officers and agents as the Board of Directors may determine are needed, to hold office for the period and with the authority and duties as the Board determines.

Section 6.5 *President.* The President shall be the Chief <u>Executive</u> Officer of the corporation, and shall also serve as an *ex officio* member of the Board of Directors. The President shall be responsible for implementing policies of the Board of Directors, supervising the day-to-day operation of the corporation, and performing All other duties of this office shall be as directed determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 6.6 Executive Vice President. The Executive Vice President shall serve in the absence of the President. Other duties of the office shall be determined by the President and/or Board of Directors.

Article VII - Committees of the Board

- **Section 7.1** *Committees of the Board.* The standing committees of the Board shall be the Finance Committee, Operations Review Committee, and Membership Committee.
- Section 7.2 (a) *Purpose: of Committees*. Committees are intended to assist the Board by working in specified areas, with members who will gain additional expertise. All committee decisions and actions are subject to review by the Board of Directors, which retains final authority.
- (b) Section 7.3 The Operations Review Committee: The function of the Operations Review Committee is to conduct periodic audits of the financial and operational procedures and decisions of the corporation. Its purpose is to act as the Members' representative in safeguarding the assets of the corporation. The committee will work with the operating officers and employees of the corporation, accountants, service bureaus and auditor, and utilize such special skills as circumstances dictate. The Operations Review Committee will consist of at least three members of the Board.
- (c) The Finance Committee: The Finance Committee shall consist of the Treasurer and two Directors, with the Treasurer serving as Chairperson. It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to provide rules and procedures for the authorization of expenditures and the approval of vouchers for the payment of money, and prior to the annual meeting of the Board of Directors, to review and recommend a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. All expenditures, payments of money, and financial obligations of the association corporation, are subject to the jurisdiction of the Finance Committee.
- (d) Section 7.5 The Membership Committee: The Membership Committee shall consist of four (4) elected Directors on the Board, plus any additional qualified persons chosen by the Board of Directors to serve on the committee when the Board deems appropriate. This committee shall review *REACT* International Membership-related matters as needed or when denial or revocation of Membership is considered. This committee shall have full investigative authority, in accordance with policies and procedures established by the Board of Directors, and involving *REACT* Teams or Councils. This committee shall report to the Board of Directors their investigative findings and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors for action.
- (e) Section 7.6 Special or Temporary Committee(s): The Board of Directors may, by resolution passed by a majority of the Board of Directors then in office, designate special or temporary committee(s) of the Board and/or membership to address specific topics or issues of importance, to the corporation.
- (f) Committee Members: Committee members, and the committee chairperson, shall unless otherwise provided by these Bylaws be appointed by the Chairman of the Board with the approval of the Board. Each committee member shall continue as such until the next annual meeting of the Board of Directors, unless the committee is sooner terminated, or unless such

member is removed. The committee chairperson shall be responsible for reporting to the Board on all committee actions and recommendations.

7.2 Corporate Committees.

- (a) **Establishment:** The President may establish additional standing or temporary committees to assist in the operation of the corporation in areas such as publications, membership development, awards, training, etc. These committees will perform duties as directed by the President and may be renamed, reorganized, redirected, or abolished as the President may deem necessary.
- (b) Members: Committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the President, who may appoint or remove members as deemed necessary. Section 7.7 Committee Term and Membership. Except as otherwise provided in the resolution establishing each committee, or the standing committees of the Board, each committee member shall continue as such until the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the corporation and until his/her successor is appointed, unless the committee shall be sooner terminated, or unless such member is removed.
- Section 7.8 Committee Chairperson. Except as otherwise provided for in standing committees, one member of the committee shall be appointed chairperson who shall be responsible for reporting to the Board on all committee actions and recommendations.
- Section 7.9 Vacancies. Vacancies in the membership of the committee may be filled by appointments made in the same manner as provided in the case of the original appointments.
- Section 7.10 *Quorum.* Unless otherwise provided in the resolution of the Board of Directors designating the committee, a majority of the whole committee shall constitute a quorum.
- Section 7.11. *Manner of Acting*. The committee acts in meetings, and the act of a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the committee. Meetings may be held in person or by any means of communications, oral or electronic, as specified in the meeting notice.
- **Section 7.123** *Rules.* The committee may adopt rules for its own operation not inconsistent with these Bylaws or with rules adopted by the Board of Directors.
- Section 7.13 Informal Action by Committees. Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the members of the committee may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing setting forth the action taken, shall be signed by all of the committee members entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof and such written consent is filed with the minutes.

Article IX - Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 9.6 *Contracts and other instruments.* Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, the President acts on behalf of the corporation. However, the Board of Directors may by resolution authorize, any officer, agent, or agents to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name and on behalf of the corporation and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 9.7 *Gifts.* The President, within limits established by the Board, Board of Directors may accept on behalf of the corporation any contribution, gift, bequest, or device for the general purposes or for any specific purposes of the corporation.

Section 9.8 *Stock in Other Corporations.* Any shares of stock in any other corporation which may from time to time be held by this corporation shall be in the name of *REACT* International, Inc., and be represented and voted at any meeting of shareholders of such corporation by the Board of Directors or by any other person or persons thereunto authorized by the Board of Directors, or by any proxy designated by written instrument of appointment executed in the name of this corporation. Certificates for shares so held for the benefit of the corporation shall be endorsed in blank or have proper stock powers attached so that said certificates are at all times in due form for transfer, and shall be held for safekeeping in such manner as shall be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors. Alternatively, when authorized by the Board of Directors, shares of stock may be held in "street name" by a registered stock broker with whom the corporation maintains an account.

Section 9.9 Annual Audit. An annual Certified A audit of the books and records of the corporation shall be prepared by a Certified Public Accountant. The A annual A audit report should be submitted to the Board of Directors and to the membership no later than the end of the third month following the close of the fiscal year.

Section 9.10 *Trademarks.* The Board of Directors may authorize the limited term use of the Corporation's trademark. With respect to Members, T-this authority becomes immediately void upon the termination of membership or resignation as covered in Sections 3.67 and 3.78.

REACT ivities Team, Council, & Region News

REACT Lake Simcoe (Ont.)

REACT Lake Simcoe members again assisted the Georgina Association for Community Living to pull off its second annual walkathon recently. Safety is a prime concern since many of the participants are intellectually challenged.

Changes to the route and rest stops recommended by *REACT* volunteers after last year's walk proved helpful. A misty rain in the early stages of this year's event made them all the more valuable from a safety angle.

Bright yellow ribbons tacked to power poles clearly marked out the route for walkers and alerted drivers to the event. Helium balloons given to the walkers made it easy for *REACT* personnel and others to keep participants in their sights. After the walk everyone enjoyed a feed of hot dogs at the pavilion in a lakeside park which was the start/finish point.

The walkathon generated some \$6000 which will enable the association to better serve its clients. Among those services GACL operates a sheltered workshop where some of its adult clients can learn work skills and apply them to projects for local businesses. *REACT* Lake Simcoe was proud to be part of the operation.

This pickup failed to beat the train to the crossing -- an all-too-common experience for railroad workers. That's why the railroads sponsor Operation Lifesaver.



Southern Minnesota Albert Lea REACT

Southern Minnesota Albert Lea *REACT* sponsored a presentation by Operation LifeSaver at a local trade show in Albert Lea in March.

Operation LifeSaver is a nationwide educational program aimed at preventing and reducing crashes, injuries, and fatalities at

REACTer Ron McCracken and GACL walk organizer Robin Hannah compare notes on safety.



the nation's highway-railroad grade crossings.

Representatives of the Union Pacific Railroad displayed a vehicle that actually had been hit by a train. Several videos were shown of people racing trains; the results are usually pretty gruesome. More than a thousand people die or are seriously injured every year by being on or too close to railroad tracks, and the number is *rising*!

United REACT (Penn.)

In March, United *REACT* participated in a district emergency training session with the Old Forge Eagle McClure Hose Co., Station 933. Capt. Bill Stull is in charge of the station. The emergency response drill was a success and our Team has been invited back for the next drill.

Nebraska State REACT Council



When Ray Brown's Gage County (Neb.) REACT Team acquired a used van and equipped it as a mobile communications center, Ray decided to reproduce the vehicle -- to scale. Ray's hobby is model building. The model is complete in every detail, inside and out, including a winch under the front bumper in case the van gets stuck somewhere. Inside are a computer, radios, the power source, antennas -- even the coffee pot!

Ray was named REACT Member of the Year in Nebraska for his dedication. The van also was on display at the RI Convention in Evansville.

-Rich Ryan

Bay County (Mich.)

Bay Co. REACT was recognized by county officials in June for the Team's many contributions to the community, including its involvement with the Michigan Eye Bank in Ann Arbor. For the past twentyfive years, Bay Co. Team members have picked up donated eyes and delivered them to the Kellogg Eye Center for use in transplantation. -Char Johnroe

Convention Awards

The following awards were presented at the close of the RI Convention 2003:

Best Team Display:

Gage Co. REACT, Nebraska

Best Council Display: Texas State REACT Council

Best Team Banner:

RELI REACT, New York

Best Council Banner: Southern California REACT Council

Best Team Placard:

Great Lakes REACT, Ohio

Best Council Placard: Garden State REACT, New Jersey Best Council Newsletter:

Wisconsin State REACT

Best Team Newsletter:

[None]

Best Team Website:

Central Oklahoma REACT

Best Council Website: Florida Council of REACT Teams

The following awards were given to individuals, Teams, and Councils present at the Convention:

Largest Junior *REACT* Team: Tri-City *REACT*, Wisconsin

Youngest Jr. REACT Member: Corwin Johnson

Best Dressed *REACT* Team: Rio Grande Valley, N. Mex. Farthest Traveled REACT Team:Honolulu REACT, Hawaii

Farthest Traveled Council:

Southern California REACT

Council

Largest REACT Team: Bexar Co. REACT, Texas

Largest *REACT* Council:

TIE: Wisconsin State Council

& Texas State Council

Oldest Chartered Team:

Northern Trinidad, Trinidad

& Tobago

Oldest *REACT*er:

Robert Kaster, Region 7 Director

Special Awards of Appreciation:

Tom Currie

E-Comm Seminar

Lee Besing

EchoLink Seminar

Pat Knight

Amateur Radio Exam

Chagrin Valley *REACT*: Membership Develpm't Workshop

Pat Knight

Porthole Newsletter editor

Evansville Police Motorcycle Team

Vanderburgh Convention & Visitors Center

Executive Inn Convention Center

Vanderburgh County Emergency Management Agency

Sherman Greer, Director, Vanderburgh Co. EMA Adam Thorpe, Asst. Director, Vanderburgh Co. EMA

American Red Cross

St. Mary's LifeFlight

Facts vs Myths: CB Radio in the New Millenium

(Continued from Page 11)

Therefore, when we look at the 45-year span of CB radio history, even just roughly normalizing the four years during which the CB fad occurred, we can clearly see that CB radio sales have increased nearly steadily over the entire span.

The number of new CB radio units sold topped one million annually in 1973. This was up from about 100,000 new units licensed in 1960. Overall, sales had stepped up to roughly 1.8 million annually by 1980. Since 1980, new unit sales steadily increased to just over two million during 1989. After that time, sales dipped slightly to just under two million annually until 1995.

After 1995, CB radio annual sales have increased sharply through 1997, at a rate closely approximating that of the rise of the CB fad, circa 1973 to 1975! It is interesting to note that during these same years of the late 1990's, FRS radio was introduced. It appears at this point that FRS radio popularity has complemented, not competed with, 27MHz CB radio popularity.

To date, there is no real accounting for the tens of millions of CB radios already in existence. The Michigan State University group is still in the process of investigating the status and use, as well as disposal, of previously sold units.

Nevertheless, the total sales of new CB radio sets is an unimpeachable and solid measure of public interest in 11-meter radio. Those who claim that CB radio popularity is dead or dying simply do not know whereof they speak. CB radio is unquestionably alive and, moreover, growing.

Given this, what are your Team and its members doing about increasing Channel 9 monitoring? How about collateral monitoring of Channel 19 or the newly established fourwheelers' travel channel, CB Channel 1?

There are more new CB radio sets on the road now than since 1980, by far. Some twenty times the number of new 27MHz CB radios are being put into use every year, than were in use in 1973, and the present increase is rapidly approaching the number of new CB radios put on the air in 1975! The fact is, the number of new 11-meter CB radios being put on the air is not only increasing, but increasing at an increasing rate (indicating an upward spiral) as well.

If that's not enough, the American Trucking Associations, Inc., reports 1.68 million Class 8 (semi-trailer) commercial trucks on the road nationwide in recent years. Nearly all of them rely on CB radio 24/7/365, for tactical (operational) communications, professionally.

There can be no more excuses. Got CB? Get it and get on the air, monitoring. Better yet, get back into operating CB and show the uninformed how courteous and professional radio communications are conducted.

Cell phones frequently

fail during widespread emergencies and at mass casualty incidents. Repeaters, trunked or conventional, can certainly fail, and high-power commercial and amateur radios drain batteries far more quickly than does a simple 4-watt transmitter.

We are in the midst of an ongoing War on Terrorism, where lack of preparedness is never an option. It's high time for us to catch up with the rest of the public, and add 11-meter radio to our "comm" arsenal!

Sources

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Standard Trucking and Transportation Statistics, ATA Economics & Statistical Analysis Department. American Trucking Associations, Inc. February/ March 1999, pp. 1,7.

US Freight Transportation Forecast ... to 2006, Standard & Poor's DRI. 1997.

Additional information provided by:

Dealerscope Merchandising Cobra Electronics Federal Communications Commission Midland Radio Corp.

violatio Radio Corp. *The REACTer*

Silent Mics

Southern Minnesota/Albert Lea *REACT* lost a very dedicated member when Millard Hamersly passed away on June 13, 2003. Millard was the last original Charter member of the Team. He could always be counted on to help with the Team's many community projects, and he was a faithful volunteer in the community.

Ralph Angel, age 73, of Evansville, Indiana, died Saturday, August 9, 2003, at St. Mary's Riverside. Ralph was born April 27, 1930. He volunteered for various organizations delivering blood throughout the Tri-State area for the American Red Cross. He especially liked helping truckers on Channel 19, as well as any other individual in need. Ralph was a member of Grace Baptist Church, the Owls Nest 30 and Vanderburgh County *REACT* (since 1976).

Calendar

September 1 Labor Day (U.S.)

October 3 Deadline for submissions for November-December *REACTer*

October 9 Thanksgiving Day (Canada)

November 11 Veterans' Day (U.S.);

Remembrance Day (Canada)

November 27 Thanksgiving Day (U.S.)

December 5 Deadline for submissions for January-February, 2004, *REACTer*

December 12 Guadalupe Day (Mexico)

December 25 Christmas

December 26 Boxing Day (Canada, U.K.)

lanuary 1 New Year's Day

February 5 Constitution Day (Mexico)

February 6 Deadline for submissions for

March-April *REACTer*

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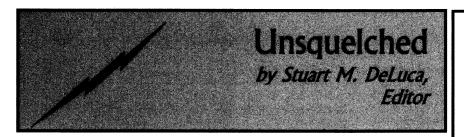
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See Ya!

t the end of the Evansville Convention came an announcement that was not entirely unexpected, but still disappointing.

The RI Board of Directors decided not to hold a Convention at all next year – or in any future even-numbered year. International Conventions will be held only in odd-numbered years.

The reason, of course, is the steady decline in Convention attendance. The folks in Evansville did a superb job of planning and putting on this year's confab. But the 80 people who attended were not enough to cover the costs borne by the host Teams and Council.

That's a darned shame. Out of more than 4,000 members, there ought to be at least a hundred (the break-even point for Vanderburgh County *REACT* and the Indiana State Council) interested in getting together with fellow *REACT* members from around the world. One member was sufficiently interested that he flew in just for one day's meetings – from Trinidad! But how many members from Illinois, Michigan, or Ohio were there? For that matter, how many members from Indiana were there? Not enough.

Confession time: I haven't attended every Convention ever held. In fact, I have missed one in the past three years: Trinidad 2001. In simple terms, I couldn't afford it.

Ah, but there's the rub. Going to Trinidad would have been a neat adventure – but there was no compelling reason for me to go. And there were plenty of other ways I 32

could spend the money that it would have cost. So I didn't go.

I have a feeling all the folks who weren't at the Evansville convention had the same excuse: It cost too much. Even if it didn't cost more than the price of gas to get there and back.

"Cost" is always a relative term – relative to the value one expects to get and the importance one places on the object of the expense. If you don't expect to get much in return, any cost is "too much."

The Evansville people did a terrific job of lining up speakers for workshops, and there were some great "just-for-fun" events such as the paddlewheel boat trip. But do those add up to a compelling reason to go?

A convention generally is held for the members of an organization, through their delegates, to discuss, debate, and decide issues important to the organization. The plain fact is, there are few issues for Teams' delegates to discuss, let alone decide. Under the current organizational structure, all policy decisions are made by the Board of Directors, who are chosen in elections held before the Convention.

There used to be one important issue decided by the Teams' delegates at the Convention: Where to hold the next Convention. Now we don't even have that.

Teams and Councils are encouraged to hold "Regional Conferences" during the even-numbered years – and I hope they can find good reasons to do so.

Whenever and wherever the next RI Convention is held, I'll try to be there. See ya there — I hope!

About Your Subcription

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*, 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 subscribe to *The REACTer* but the subscription fee (U.S.\$6) is not included in their dues. To subscribe, send your name, full address, and payment to RI headquarters.

Nonmembers 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.

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September, 2003

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