

**COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**Representative Assembly Meeting
Minutes
April 10, 2015
San Diego, CA**

1.0 Call to Order and Parliamentary Items

President James P. Heiden, Presiding Officer of the Representative Assembly (RA) called the meeting to order at 12:39 p.m. He introduced President Elect Antonis Katsiyannis, Immediate Past President Robin Brewer, Treasurer Sharon Raimondi and Executive Director Alexander T. Graham.

Monitors for the Assembly meeting were introduced by the Presiding Officer: CEC Past Presidents Bill Bogdan, Hellen Bogie, Parthenia Cogdell, Mary Ruth Coleman, Marilyn Friend, Mike Grimes, Jerry Hime, Jamie Hopkins, Diane Johnson, Linda Marsal, and Kathy Puckett.

1.1 Report of Documented Representatives and Alternates

110 representatives and alternates from 60 divisions, units and the student membership were registered. The credentials report was adopted without objection.

1.2 Seating of Additional Representatives and Alternates

There were no additional representatives or alternates to be seated.

1.3 Roll Call

One representative from each unit and the student membership reported their representatives present. President Heiden then recognized members of the Board of Directors (non-voting members of the RA).

1.4 Determination of Quorum

President Heiden reported that a quorum was present.

1.5 Adoption of Standing Rules

RA Committee Member Mandy Lusk moved to adopt the Standing Rules. The Standing Rules were adopted as printed.

1.6 Adoption of the Agenda

RA Committee Member Dennis Cavitt moved to adopt the agenda. The agenda was adopted as printed.

2.0 Motions and Resolutions

2.1 Courtesy Resolutions

2.1.1 Frederick J. Weintraub Courtesy Resolutions

California CEC members John Hess and Jerry Hime read the courtesy resolution honoring Frederick J. “Fred” Weintraub. The resolution was unanimously adopted. President Heiden then presented Fred’s wife and one of their daughters with copies of the resolution.

2.1.2 Kenneth E. Wyatt Courtesy Resolutions

CEC Past President Parthenia Cogdell and Georgia CEC member Suzanne Korngold read the courtesy resolution honoring CEC Past President Kenneth E. Wyatt. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

2.1.3 2015 Convention & Expo Courtesy Resolutions

President Jim Heiden read the courtesy resolution honoring the 2015 Convention & Expo. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

3.0 Information Items

3.1 Necrology

During the past year, CEC was informed of the passing of the following members:

Magnolia Vallery Austin	Oakley, CA
Nancy R. Berggren	Chicago, IL
Stella Bronson	San Jose, CA
Teresa Bush	Kenner, LA
Ann B. Carr	San Francisco, CA
John D. Castellani	Columbia, MD
Amanda Crow	Canandaigua, NY
Patricia Dunlap	Sequim, WA
Dawn Gallup	Coldwater, MI
Laurent O. Gaudreau	North Fork, CA
Daniel J. Gonet	Niantic, CT
Henrietta Henryon	Saugatuck, MI
Carrie S. Johns	St Thomas, VI
Frederick H. Kingdon	Fullerton, CA
Mary Ann Marvil	Sharpsburg, MD
Henry A. Norman	Columbus, OH
Carole S. Scott	Santa Ana, CA

Mary L. Sundberg	Lake Forest, IL
Frederick J. Weintraub	Los Angeles, CA
Brooke R. Whitted	Northbrook, IL
Valene E. Woods	Ferrelview, MO
Kenneth E. Wyatt	Covington, GA

The Necrology was read by RA Committee members Sheila Bailey, Maureen Burness and Jennifer Lesh.

The following names were submitted as additions to the necrology:

Peter Beveridge	Toledo, OH
Richard Whelan	Olathe, KS

The Assembly observed a moment of silence.

3.2 Governance Reports

3.2.1 President's Report

President Heiden referenced his written report that was previously posted for members in the RA online community prior to the meeting. He took the opportunity to individually recognize members of the Board of Directors, He also recognized Michigan CEC on its 75th anniversary.

3.2.2 Report of the Treasurer

Treasurer Sharon Raimondi reviewed the Treasurer's Report, which included information on the FY 2014 audit, as well as statements of activities (current and historical), investment income, statements of financial position (current and historical), significant items on statements of financial position and the 2015 Program Plan and Budget.

3.3 Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Alexander T. Graham indicated that CEC's goal is for 2015 to be a financial turn-around year and noted that, for the first time in 3 years, the convention will be profitable. Graham noted that, in the past 24 months, there has been a 48% reduction in full-time staff and provided a number of examples of non-core functions that have been outsourced. New member model trends show that the basic membership has been the most popular so CEC will be re-examining the business model. Graham also provided information on the Summer Leadership Institute, which will be joint for units and divisions, immediately followed by a Legislative Summit in conjunction with the Council of Administrators of Special Education.

3.4 Call for Nominations – 2016 Board of Directors

Immediate Past President and Nominations Standing Committee (NSC) Chair Robin Brewer reported that the NSC was soliciting nominations for the following positions on the Board of

Directors: President Elect, Member-at-Large Non-Designated (3), and Member-at-Large Diverse Ethnic and Multicultural Groups (2) and noted the May 13th application deadline.

3.5 Bylaws Workgroup Report

John Hess, Chair of the Bylaws Workgroup, provided a brief report on the activities of the workgroup, indicating that the Bylaws Workgroup presented its final report with proposed amendments to the Board at its April 8th meeting. The proposed amendments are being recommended because 1.) the Council for Exceptional Children is incorporated in the District of Columbia and its Bylaws must comply with the laws thereof. Some amendments will ensure compliance with current DC laws; 2.) bylaws are rules and regulations enacted by an association or a corporation to provide a framework for its operation and management (CEC's Bylaws contain a number of policies that need to be relocated to CEC's *Policy Manual*); and 3.) to rectify conflicts between sections of the Bylaws or clarify items that are not well defined or are ambiguous. Hess further indicated that, as required by CEC policy, notice of a 60-day comment period would be provided to members.

3.6 Convention Workgroup Report

Christy Chambers, Chair of the Convention Workgroup, provided a brief report on the purposes and past and future activities of the workgroup. She noted that the workgroup is being assisted by an event consulting company, which has provided recommendations that the workgroup is evaluating in order to enhance the education and networking experiences of attendees. Final recommendations of the workgroup will be provided to the Board of Directors in June.

3.7 Educators with Disabilities Policy Workgroup Report

Jennifer Diliberto, Chair of the Educators with Disabilities Policy Workgroup, provided a brief report on the activities of the workgroup, which is charged to develop a draft CEC Policy regarding the inclusion of educators with disabilities in special education research, policy and practice. A random survey of the general membership will be conducted in May to identify any additional themes that may have overlooked by the workgroup. Next steps will be determined based on survey results. Final recommendations are due to the Board in October 2015.

4.0 Discussion Items

4.1 Mega Issue Discussion

President Heiden introduced professional facilitator Glenn Tecker of Tecker International Consulting. Tecker facilitated a discussion, conducted in small groups with facilitators for each table, to answer the questions: What can (a) CEC headquarters, (b) divisions, and (c) units do to successfully increase CEC's membership? The RA worked in small groups, with Board members and the Past Presidents serving as small group facilitators.

The notes from each group were collected at the end of the discussion sessions and the assembly was reminded that a report will be made for the Board of the conversations to be used to help CEC leaders at all levels to develop member recruitment and retention plans.

4.2 Bright Futures

Past Presidents Mary Ruth Coleman and Linda Marsal, on behalf of the CEC Pioneers Division, reviewed the purposes and findings of CEC's 1998 *Bright Futures* report, which examined barriers to high-quality special education. They facilitated a discussion, conducted in small groups with facilitators for each table, to gain insights for an updated study of special education teaching conditions. Discussion focused on societal trends influencing education; educational trends influencing special education; barriers to high-quality special education; and enablers that support a high-quality special education.

4.3 Emerging Professional Issues

President Heiden opened the floor for emerging professional issues. There were none.

4.4 Member Needs and Concerns

President Heiden opened the floor for emerging professional issues. There were none.

5.0 New Business

There was no new business.

6.0 For the Good of the Order

6.1 Formal Recognitions by the Presiding Officer

President Heiden recognized Immediate Past President Robin Brewer for her leadership and service as President of the Council in 2014, and her total of six years of services on the Board of Directors.

6.2 Assembly Online Evaluation Form

Representatives were encouraged to complete an evaluation of this meeting, which will be opened following the Convention.

7.0 Announcements and Adjournment

Heiden reminded the Assembly about Happy Hour in the Expo Hall following the RA meeting, immediately followed by the "Yes I Can" Awards ceremony, and the Closing General Session on Saturday at 2:30.

Without objection, the Representative Assembly Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.