



ADVOCATE

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NOTES

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**Volume XXV, Issue 9
January 12, 2006**

Welcome Back and Happy New Year

NEA/RA is in Orlando this Summer

The Representative Assembly (RA) is the primary legislative and policy making body of the National Education Association (NEA). Each summer, over 9,000 delegates representing local and state affiliates from across the nation meet somewhere in the United States to set the direction for education. The RA adopts the NEA strategic plan and budget, resolutions, the legislative program, and other policies of the Association. GGEA, by its size, is entitled to send 15 delegates to the RA representing the teachers from Garden Grove. Our members can also run for election to become a state delegate (CTA pays all expenses) representing both GGEA and CTA. This is a great opportunity to be part of the largest elected, self-governing body in the world. Postings will be coming later this month to your school sites. Look them over and consider running for one of the openings. Your involvement can make a difference for both your colleges and the students you teach.

Information or Questions? Call the GGEA office #638-7480 or talk to your site rep.

Student Scholarships Available thru GGEA & CTA

This year **GGEA** will present five (5) \$2,000 Jim Wicker Scholarships to graduating high school seniors, at least one of whom is the child of a current, retired, or deceased Association member. The GGEA Scholarship Committee carefully reviews all of the applications, interviews the semi-finalists, and ultimately selects the five winners. Applications for these scholarships are currently available from the GGEA office, through the high school counselors, or at www.ggea.org under "Committees". **Completed applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, March 3, 2006.**

CTA also offers (25) \$2,000 Scholarships for Dependent Children of teachers. Part of this program, the D.A. Weber Memorial Scholarship, is available to students attending continuation and alternative education high schools that plan to continue their education.

Additional information, including eligibility requirements and applications, is available on the CTA web site at www.cta.org or from GGEA. Forms must be postmarked no later than **January 27, 2006.**

CalSTRS Statement Error

CalSTRS recently discovered an error that occurred on a limited number of 2005 Defined Benefit Program Annual Statements. This error allowed incorrect financial information to be printed and sent to some CalSTRS members. The problem has been corrected and new, corrected statements are being sent to those individuals affected. If you have questions, please contact CalSTRS at 1-800-228-5453.

Wanted ** Secondary Teachers ** Wanted

Are you an elementary level school teacher? Have you ever thought about moving up to teach intermediate level students? Would you like to focus your teaching to one or two specific subjects, especially Math, Science or Language Arts? To become a Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) at the secondary level and acquire your single-subject credential, you need to take the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) and one (1) secondary education methods class. For more information on transitioning, please call Joli Armitage, Personnel Services Director, at 663-6387. Study guides for the CSET are available on the Orange County Department of Education website at www.ocde.us.

Maternity Workshop

GGEA will be holding its annual Baby Workshop (aka. Maternity Workshop) on Tuesday, January 31st, at the Garden Grove Community Center, starting at 3:30 PM. This workshop is a must for any prospective parents. Topics covered will include leaves, medical insurance, and pregnancy disability coverage. The workshop will also include a question and answer session. Please call the GGEA office to sign up.

Thinking about Job Sharing?

Are you thinking about Job Sharing for the 2006-07 school year? If so, you have until March 15 to submit a request to participate in Job Sharing to the Office of Personnel Services. For more information about Job Sharing, read section 12.9 of the contract (page 30) or call the GGEA Office. If you are looking for a teaching partner, GGEA does have a list of willing participants and will gladly add your name to it upon request and give you a copy of the list.

Extended Absences

If you are absent from work for more than a period of ten (10) days due to an illness or injury, you need to supply your site supervisor with a statement from a qualified medical doctor so that the proper paperwork can be completed. By doing so, this also allows the Personnel Department to procure the appropriate long term sub for your position. GGEA also advises you to contact either Wendy Bartz (Elementary Credentials) at 663-6349 or Michele Nygard (Secondary Credentials) at 663-6410 to discuss your situation. There may be leave options available to help preserve your income.