



AD NOTES



President: Chris Francis, Volume XXIX, Issue 5, February 3, 2010

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Consult Process

The Rodda Act of 1975 gave teacher associations not only the right to bargain, but it also allowed teacher associations to consult on such topics as textbook selection. This section of the law has been implemented very well in Garden Grove and, in my opinion, is one of the main reasons we have had such success in improving student achievement. Through the Consult Process, members work collaboratively with District representatives to create important implementation choices and guidelines, such as the elementary standards-based report card and the School Wide Intervention Model (SWIM).

There are several important considerations to keep in mind with the consult process. **First, both sides choose members to participate.** This ensures a balance between District needs and policy with classroom implementation and the impact on teachers and students. For example, the current 7-12 Grading Consult is led by District 7-12 representatives and has several principals, but it also has a fair level of GGEA representation as well. Included is a current GGEA Board of Directors member, former GGEA President, and many GGEA Site Representatives. When choosing a consult member, the Association looks for somebody who is knowledgeable, assertive enough to voice his or her opinion, and open-minded to take into account the relevant data, research, and opinion of other consult members. **Please give your input when asked for it by consult members.** This can be a vital piece in examining what current practices exist so that better decisions can be made during the consult process.

Furthermore, all GGEA consult members should submit Consult Report forms to the Association upon the conclusion of the consult. This form gives vital information about the conclusions that were reached and if there were any lingering issues. Members can also submit a "Minority Report" that explains why he or she does not agree with the consensus reached. When something has gone through the consult process, it has GGEA's "stamp of approval". The Association knows that members have had a significant influence on the decisions that were made and support the results.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund

Applications for the CTA Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund are available thru the GGEA Office. To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must:

1. Be a dependent child of an active, retired, or deceased member of CTA, a member of Student CTA, or an active member of CTA.
2. Be a member of one of the following defined ethnic minority groups: African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian/Pacific Islander, or Hispanic.
3. Be pursuing a college degree or credential for a **teaching-related career in public education.**

All applications must be received in the CTA Human Rights Department by March 5, 2010. Further details and instructions are provided in the application packet.

Personal Email Addresses

Public education is facing the possibility of many changes in the coming years. As communicated previously, changes at the State level to improve California's application for the Race to the Top could have a drastic and permanent impact on what we do as educators. Two bills have already been passed that will have a large impact on some districts. In addition, the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind will very likely use the Race to the Top competitive grant as the framework for change. Finally, we will have to continue to deal with impact of the budget cuts that Sacramento has placed upon us. As the cuts continue, and as the Federal Stimulus monies and local reserves come to an end, the impact it will have on us here in Garden Grove will continue to grow.

For these reasons, it is as important as ever that we remain as organized as an Association as possible. **To this end, I am asking that all GGEA members submit personal email addresses for Association use.** Email is a quick, easy way to have direct communication with the membership. If you have not already done so, please send an email to cfrancis@ggea.org using your personal email address. In the email, include your first name, last name, and school site. If you have submitted this information already, but are not receiving any Association emails, please resubmit your information again to correct the problem.

Prior to Returning From Leave of Absence

Prior to returning to work after a leave of absence, it is essential that you contact the district insurance department to confirm that your district benefits will begin again upon your return. If you have TheStandard Disability and/or Life insurance, you must also contact them to reinstate your benefits. They will send the proper information to payroll to begin your deductions on your next payroll check. If you have other voluntary deductions, you also need to contact the payroll department to ensure that they are also reinstated. Be sure to check all of your deductions on your pay stubs on a regular basis. It is your responsibility to ensure they are correct.

GGEA Team Tuesdays

The newly formed GGEA Organizing Committee has created GGEA "Team Tuesdays". The committee is asking all GGEA members to wear blue every Tuesday. Tuesdays are the traditional day of the week for GGEA Meetings. By wearing your blue, you are making the statement that you support public education and the work we are doing on a daily basis in our classrooms, while creating more solidarity within the Association.

T.E.A.M. GGEA: "Together Everyone Achieves More"
