



# ***ADVOCATE***

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# ***NOTES***

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## **Stay Focused on Education**

### **2005 NEA-RA Host Committee Volunteers**

The 2005 NEA Representative Assembly will be held in Los Angeles July 1 – July 6 at the Los Angeles Convention Center. The annual meeting of the National Education Association brings over 9000 delegates and their families, exhibitors, press, visitors and staff into the host city for a week of intensive activities. The efforts of many people are needed to make this multi-faceted meeting run smoothly and efficiently. The Host Committee would like as many local teachers as possible to volunteer.

If you are not going to the RA as a delegate but would like to participate for a day or more behind the scenes, please contact the GGEA office for more details. We will send you the necessary forms or you can download them from the CTA website at [www.cta.org](http://www.cta.org). Click on "Inside CTA", then go to the Governance Support Department and click on "2005 NEA Convention Host Committee-Volunteer Information and Forms".

Volunteering on the Host Committee during the Convention is fun and very rewarding. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

### **ELD / SDAIE - SB 395 / AB 2913 Training**

The district is offering teachers the opportunity to participate in SDAIE training this summer. This will be offered in conjunction with the Orange County Department of Education. This 45 hour training is an alternative to the traditional CLAD format. The training requires 45 hours of classroom attendance which includes formative and summative assessments.

For more information on this training, please contact Cheryl Hartley at #663-6004 in K-12 Educational Services by Friday, June 3, 2005. However, there are currently less than 20 seats left for this class and they are available on a first call, first reserved basis.

## Update on NEA's Lawsuit against NCLB

NEA has joined a lawsuit to compel the federal government to pay the costs of the so-called "No Child Left Behind Act" (NCLB). The lawsuit is not intended to dismantle NCLB but to focus on the underfunding of the program. The gap between appropriations and costs is between \$30 and \$70 billion. NCLB Section 9572 says "Nothing in this Act shall be construed to...mandate a state or any subdivision thereof to spend any funding or incur any costs not paid for under this act." The US Department of Education appears to be acting as if this provision does not exist. The lawsuit is part of the effort to fix and fund NCLB. We will keep you informed on the progress of this case.

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## Weekly Contract Maintenance

In case you did not know, GGEA meets every Wednesday morning with Mike Miller, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Services, to discuss and resolve concerns, issues, and problems relating to our members. On average, we discuss and seek solutions for about 25 issues per week. Some matters involve an individual and others a group of teachers. Because of confidentiality concerns, we are not always able to report the details of the problems or resolutions except to the individuals involved.

However, some of the larger issues are ongoing and cannot be resolved in just one week. These issues can be very detailed and end up on our agenda until some sort of satisfactory resolution is reached. GGEA wants its members to understand that your concerns and issues, whether large or small, are important. We take each issue seriously and will work diligently on your behalf to find a resolution.

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## Retirement Tribute

GGEA's Annual Retirement Tribute will take place on Thursday, June 16, at 3:30 PM. It will be held at the Garden Grove Community Center in Room A. This event is open to anyone wishing to show their support and respect for those certificated personnel who have taught in the Garden Grove Unified School District. This year's retirees have been teaching anywhere from 10 to 43 years, with a combined total of over 2,135 collective years of teaching experience.

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## June 8<sup>th</sup> Rally

On Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, the CTA Orange Service Center Council in conjunction with a coalition of labor unions from throughout Orange County will be holding a demonstration against the governor's "Paycheck Deception Initiative". It's time to start talking about it. We must keep the momentum going, especially

as the school year draws to a close. Mark this date on your calendar! More information will be sent to your site soon with more details on this event. Remember, YOU are GGEA. GGEA needs YOUR support.