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AD NOTES

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Teaching is the choicest of professions because everybody who is anybody was taught how to be somebody by a teacher.

Source Unknown

Site Council Trainings

The current state budget allocated several hundred million dollars to local schools to be spent at the school site level. However, the school site council is the decision making body for these expenditures. This money can be used for instructional materials, classroom and lab supplies, art and music supplies, PE equipment, school and library materials, educational technology, and professional development. Therefore, GGEA is working with the district to provide site council training for teachers and administrators to ensure that the rules and regulations relating to site councils are followed. Information will be sent from GGEA to each work site with times, dates, and places where these meetings will be held.

Segment Director Openings - Elections

There are two open seats on the GGEA Board of Directors, one (1) Elementary Segment Director and one (1) High School Segment Director. There will be open nominations and elections at the next Segment meeting being held on September 26th at the Courtyard Center. The meetings start at 3:15 and will be followed up by Rep Council at 3:45. If you are interested, check the posting at your site or call the GGEA office for more information.

Attorney available at the GGEA Office

GGEA provides its members with the opportunity to meet with an attorney for 30 minutes about non-job related issues free of charge. This is on a first come, first served basis. There are 4 spaces per day available on the following Wednesday dates: September 27, October 4 and 10, November 8 and 15, and December 6 and 13. Appointments times begin at 3 PM. Call the GGEA Office if you wish to schedule an appointment.

OCTFCU 2006 Retirement Forum for School Employees

The Orange County Teachers Federal Credit Union (OCTFCU) is hosting a retirement forum for School Employees. It will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2006 at the Plummer Auditorium in Fullerton. There are two sessions, the first is from 9 to noon, and the second is from 1:30 to 4:30. The admission is free but pre-registration is required. Information on this event can be found on their website at www.octfcu.org or by calling 714-258-4000.

Wanted: Writers for the Advocate

Ever thought about writing an article for the GGEA Advocate? Well, give us a call and submit your name. We will be happy to add you to the list! The Advocate Editors are always looking for interesting stories involving teachers, students or events happening at your work site.

403(b) Retirement Tax-Deferred Savings

As a teacher in California, you can participate in a 403(b) tax-deferred annuity plan. These plans allow you to set aside a portion of your paycheck for retirement purposes that can be used to supplement your CalSTRS retirement. CalSTRS has a website that compares more than 100 vendors and 300 different retirement investment products. Called 403bCompare, this website is a free retirement planning tool for all CTA members and school employees. The website can be found at www.403bCompare.com.

IRS Code 125 Flexible Benefit Plan

The 125 Flexible Benefit Plans are available to District employees and will help to reduce your taxes and increase your spendable income by authorizing tax-free withdrawals from your before-tax salary. The money can be used for two areas: Medical Expenses and Dependent Care. You should have already received information from the district about informational meetings that are being held this month. Remember, September is when open enrollment takes place for this district. For more information, contact the Insurance Office at 663-6523 or 663-6495.

Online Credential Renewal

Starting in January, 2007, you will no longer be able to renew your teaching credential by mail. All renewals must be done online. The process is simple and takes less than 5 minutes and can be completed up to one year in advance of your credential's expiration date. This transaction can be completed at www.ctc.ca.gov. Once there, click on "credential renewal" and then follow the step by step instructions. If you do not want to use your credit card online, you can pre-purchase a visa debit card for the correct amount and then use that card to complete the transaction. If you need additional information, call 1-888-921-2682 Monday thru Friday between 1 PM and 4:45 PM.