



ADVOCATE

12966 Euclid Street, Suite 220
Garden Grove, CA 92840
(714) 638-7480

NOTES

Issue Editor: Eric Padget

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Get Involved...Stay Involved

Alliance for a Better California

CTA and the Alliance for a Better California have launched a new website at www.BetterCA.com. The Alliance is a coalition of nearly 2.5 million teachers, firefighters, nurses, police officers, health care workers and average, every day people who are devoting our careers to helping others. The coalition is united in opposing the governor's damaging agenda on the November 8th Special Election.

For more information on the Alliance, please visit the website listed above. This is also an excellent way to stay informed on the latest news pertaining to the upcoming election.

GGUSD Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment is the time during which GGUSD employees may take the opportunity to change their medical and/or dental plans. The District has designated the month of September as the Open Enrollment Period. This is the **only** time during the year when such changes can be made. This is also the only time to elect or drop the Section 125 tax exempt status for the monthly insurance contribution.

In addition, you can elect to use the Section 125 Flexible Benefit Program for dependent care expenses. By using this program, you may reduce your year-end tax liability. For questions regarding Open Enrollment, please call the Employee Insurance Office at 663-6523 or 663-6495.

Group Life and Disability Insurance for New Teachers

Don't miss this special opportunity for guaranteed acceptance in the CTA Voluntary Group Life and Disability Insurance Plans. If you are a new teacher, a CTA member and you enroll for coverage during the first 120 days of your employment, your application will be accepted automatically for disability insurance and up to \$200,000 of life insurance with no health evidence required.

To enroll, call UnumProvident at (800) 282-4049 and ask for a New Teacher Enrollment Kit or call the GGEA Office. Additional information can be accessed through the CTA website at www.CTA.org and then by clicking on member benefits.

*** CALSTRS Workshop ***

Dwain Leach, a California State Teacher's Retirement System (CalSTRS) representative, will be holding an informational meeting on October 25, 2005. The meeting will take place from 3:30 - 5:00 PM at the Garden Grove District Annex.

CalSTRS recommends members attend at least one workshop prior to scheduling an individual counseling appointment. The attendance and participation of the member's spouse is greatly encouraged. Information will be provided about retirement plans available, pre-retirement elections, application process, timing guidelines, and an explanation of how benefits are calculated. There will also be a question and answer session at the end of the workshop. For additional information, go to the CalSTRS website at www.calstrs.com.

CTA First Time Homebuyer Program

First Financial Credit Union is pleased to offer a first time homebuyer program with valuable savings for CTA members. With virtually no money down, first time homebuyers can purchase a home with FFCU's special home loan rates. Additionally, FFCU also has a first time homebuyer program for CTA members teaching at high-priority schools. For more information, or to apply for the CTA First Time Homebuyer Program, please call First Financial Credit Union at (800) 537-8491.

CTA Well-Baby Program

The CTA Economic Benefits Trust is pleased to offer CTA members participating in the CTA-endorsed voluntary life or disability plan a well-baby program. The program provides scheduled calls with a registered nurse who provides education and support throughout your pregnancy and three months postpartum. Therefore, in order to maximize your benefits under the program, we encourage you to enroll within your first trimester. For additional information or to enroll in this program, contact the Mayo Clinic Pregnancy Advisor nurse line at 1-800-906-1064 and follow the prompts.

Governor's Visit

On June 15th, the GGEA staff went to protest the governor's appearance at the Grove Body Shop. We had been told by legislative staff people that the governor was in town to meet with his supporters. However, after meeting several days later with Mr. Tony Lombardi, owner of Grove Body Shop, we were told that this was not the case. Mr. Lombardi was told that the governor was coming to town to gather information from local business owners regarding raising taxes. The only support Mr. Lombardi gave to the governor that day was the use of his building for the meeting.

Mr. Lombardi supports public education and the local schools in the Garden Grove District. If you need any auto body repair on your vehicle, please give him the opportunity to work for you. His work is outstanding, guaranteed, and he gives discounts to all teachers.