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AD NOTES

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Election '08 Update

November has been a busy month as we have a new U.S. President-Elect. Congratulations to Barack Obama and his history-making moment! In local news, all three of the GGEA endorsed School Board candidates were elected into office. Best wishes to incumbents KimOanh Nguyen-Lam and Linda Paulsen-Reed, as well as newcomer George West. On a side note, thanks to everyone who helped with the campaign, including the PIC Committee and all of our dedicated phone bankers. Your hard work and cooperation paid off!

Health Insurance Information

Recently the District changed billing companies for our health insurance. No other changes were made regarding participating doctors, benefit coverage, or billable amounts. Unfortunately, there have been some delays with the old company forwarding information to the new company. Please notify the District Insurance Department if you are having any problems during this time of transition. This department can be reached at (714) 663-6523. They are working hard to get all of the payments processed as quickly as possible. It is also important to notify your current doctors of the change so that their offices can forward the information properly.

CalSTRS Member Benefits

CTA has stated that our CalSTRS benefits are secure, despite the recent downturns in the market. They also assure us that none of the benefits will be changed. Benefits do not depend on the funds in the CalSTRS investment portfolio, or on the amount in individual CalSTRS accounts. CalSTRS benefits are a contractual right protected by the California Constitution.

CalSTRS remains strong thanks to sound investment principles and professional management. The investment portfolio is built to ride out the shocks of a fluctuating marketplace, even in times as unprecedented as these. However, with the credit crunch, it is important to remember that CalSTRS offers a home loan program. For details, visit: www.calstrs.com/homeloanprogram.

Email/Website Advisory

It is important that all teachers are aware of the possible ramifications when dealing with email and personal web pages. District personnel can review anything you have accessed through the District network. Teachers need to be very careful with what they are accessing and at when through the District network/computers. Emails are written documentation and can be used as such in an investigation. When dealing with personal matters, personal email addresses should be used on a non-District server. There have been cases in other districts where teachers had their contract terminated due to information discovered in emails.

Furthermore, problems have arisen from teachers having web pages on websites such as "My Space" or "Facebook". CTA and GGEA both recommend that teachers do not have these personal websites. Pictures posted could be manipulated by students to put a teacher in a precarious situation. This might lead a teacher having to defend him or herself to a charge of "unprofessional conduct". Such websites also leave the door open for inappropriate teacher/student communications. Finally, there have been instances where these web pages were used as a forum to bully other students. In a nutshell, please use your best judgment when dealing with these issues.

CTA Discount on Enterprise Car Rentals

CTA recently reached a discount program agreement with Enterprise Rent-A-Car to provide discounted rates for all CTA members. The program supplies rentals at a defined flat rate, regardless of location. It does not include options like supplemental insurance, but there will not be additional charges for one-way rentals as long as both locations are in California. To utilize the discount use the Account Number: **NACA068**. If booking a reservation online, you will have to enter **CTA** as the Company's name. Additional information is available on the CTA website under the Member Benefits tab.

Reminders

- November Rep Council is on the 18th, not on the 25th at the Courtyard Center. There will be no Segment Meetings this month.
- November is open enrollment for TheStandard Disability Insurance if we meet our goal of about 100 new members. A sales representative can visit your school site if needed. Please contact the GGEA office if you are interested in setting this up.

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