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AD NOTES

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Your Involvement HAS Made a Huge Difference!!

ESEA/NCLB Reauthorization Update

GREAT NEWS!!!! It is now apparent that NCLB will **NOT** be put forth for consideration until next year. The top lawmakers on the Senate Education Committee have decided that there is not enough time this year to complete the work necessary on this legislation. The Miller proposal that our GGEA fought by sending faxes, writing letters and making phone calls, has been withdrawn as well. Our collective efforts have made a huge difference and have also spotlighted CTA nationwide as a lobbying force that will not be ignored! However, there is still deep division out there over several of the issues, including merit pay for teachers and whether schools should be judged based on test scores in subjects other than reading and math.

You are encouraged to keep up the pressure on your elected Representatives in Congress. They will return to their home districts when Congress adjourns on November 16th for Thanksgiving Break. They will return on December 3rd and expect to adjourn again on December 22nd or 23rd for the Holidays. This would be a great opportunity for you to make contact by phone or in person at their offices. NCLB is still here and we need to keep working to ensure that we get our positive changes included in the reauthorization whenever that may happen. Thank you for your hard work. Keep the pressure on your Representatives to help ensure positive changes in the future!

Contract Ratification Vote

The GGEA 2007-08 Contract Ratification vote is currently underway. The ballots are due to the GGEA Office by Monday, November 19th at 5 PM. The GGEA Board of Directors recommends a 'YES' vote on the 2007-08 contract. Thank you to the GGEA Negotiations Team for all of their work during the bargaining process. The teams met 20 times to work on the issues that are before you for a vote. This Contract Ratification vote includes Elementary Stipends, returning the High School staffing ration to 29:1, agreement from the district to address and continue working on several Special Education issues, an increase to our dental coverage, and a 3.75% pay increase. The district has also agreed to cover ALL cost increases to the health and medical plan that are projected at more than 10%. **The Total Compensation for this salary and benefit package is equivalent to more than 4.75% which exceeds the COLA the district received this year.** If approved by the members, the retroactive pay should be included on your January 3rd paychecks.

**** 2008 CTA Scholarships Available for Member's Children ****

The California Teachers Association is now accepting applications for the 2008 CTA Scholarship for Member's Children. Twenty-five (25) - \$5000 scholarships will be awarded. One scholarship is designated for a student attending continuation high school in memory of Del A. Weber. One scholarship is designated as the Ralph J. Flynn Memorial Scholarship and is awarded to the highest scoring applicant. There are also three (3) - \$2500 scholarships available for Student CTA (SCTA) members and five (5) - \$2500 scholarships for current CTA members.

Applications are available at www.cta.org. Type a search for "Scholarships". Information about other scholarship opportunities is available at the CTA website. Please note that these scholarships are not the GGEA scholarships that will be available later this school year. Copies were sent to each site last week to be posted.

CTA Disaster Relief Fund

Has your home been damaged by California wildfires or other disasters? CTA can help! The Disaster Relief Fund is a separate, special fund just for members of CTA. There are \$1500 grants available but you have to apply. If you have or know someone who has suffered a loss, call the GGEA Office or visit CTA.org for an application. The assistance is there for you. All you have to do is apply!

Renewing Your Credential Online

As notified by a memo from the District on October 30, 2006, if you fail to renew your credential prior to it expiring, you now have to submit an Approval of Service Rendered Without a Valid Credential Form (CL-224) that must be signed by the district superintendent. This then must be approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Please note that a teacher's paycheck will be withheld by the OCDE until the validation of services is approved. This process can take up to three or four months. Should you have any questions on renewing your credential, please call Wendy Bartz at 663-6410 or Linda Dwyer at 663-6349.

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 a few spaces per day available on the following Wednesday dates: December 5 and 12. Appointment times begin at 3 PM. Call the GGEA Office if you wish to schedule an appointment.

Don't Forget to Continue to Write and Call Your Local Congressional Reps