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AD NOTES

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To touch a child's heart is to touch a life forever.

Garden Grove Teacher

Credential Renewal Changes

Just another reminder for GGEA members! As of January 1, 2007, you will no longer be required to show that you have completed 150 hours of seat time to renew your teaching credential. Senate Bill 1209 (Scott) eliminates this condition. Teachers are now encouraged to engage in an individual program of professional growth with no specific hour requirements. Also, all credential renewals will be handled online. The holder will be required to submit an application and fee for renewal to the CTC every five years and meet certain professional requirements relating to good moral character.

CTA State Council Delegate Election

GGEA held a runoff election last week for a one-year CTA State Council seat and Kolleen Nolan was elected. She will represent the GGEA members at the three remaining CTA State Council meetings this school year. Congratulations Kolleen!

GGEA Office Hours for Winter Recess

The Garden Grove Education Association will be closed over the winter recess from Monday, December 25, 2006 through Friday, January 5, 2007. The office will reopen on Monday, January 8, 2007 resuming regular office hours of 8 AM to 5 PM. We will be periodically checking phone messages over the break. However, if an emergency arises, please call the CTA Orange Service Center at (714) 978-8861 for assistance.

Contract Ratification Vote

The GGEA 2006-07 Contract Ratification vote is currently underway. The ballots are due to the GGEA Office by Friday, November 17th at 5 PM. The GGEA Board of Directors recommends a 'YES' vote on the 2006-08 contract. Thank you to the GGEA Negotiations Team for all of their work during the bargaining process. The retroactive pay should be included on your January 3rd paycheck.

**** 2006 CTA Scholarships Available for Member's Children ****

The California Teachers Association is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2007 CTA Scholarship for Member's Children. Twenty-five (25) - \$2000 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) - \$2000 scholarships available for Student CTA (SCTA) members and five (5) - \$2000 scholarships for current CTA members.

Applications are available at www.cta.org. Type a search for "Scholarships". Also, you can call the GGEA office and we will send you an application via district mail. Information about other scholarship opportunities are available at the CTA website. Please note that these scholarships are not the GGEA scholarships that will be available later this school year.

Educator Human Rights Awards

CTA is accepting nominations for the Human Rights Awards. There are eight different award categories to which members may apply. The goal of the Awards Program is to promote the development of programs for the advancement and protection of human, minority, and civil rights. Information was sent to each work site and should be posted on your GGEA board.

EPO/PPO Health Plan Alert!!!

If you are currently enrolled in the EPO or PPO health plan, GGEA and the district want you to know that two hospitals have officially dropped out of our network. They are Huntington Beach Hospital and West Anaheim Medical Center. The district is notifying all plan users about this change. **Be aware that if you choose to use either of these facilities, you will experience significant out of pocket expenses.** For additional information, contact the District Insurance Department at 663-6495.

403(B) and 457 Retirement Plans

Please be aware of companies who are trying to solicit your 403(b) or 457 retirement investment business. Although both are great retirement savings vehicles, neither CTA nor GGEA endorse any specific company since there is always risk involved with investments. We believe that these important decisions are best left up to each individual. Currently, OCTFCU is the third party provider for any 403(b) or 457 plans for Garden Grove employees. They have the ability to help you with this important decision. Contact them for more details.
