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# ***AD NOTES***

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*Take a Second, Make a Difference*

## **GGEA Holiday Open House**

GGEA will be hosting its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Open House on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 6:00 PM at the GGEA Office. Everyone is invited and welcome to stop by and enjoy a good time with some old friends, make some new friends, or just see what GGEA is all about. There will be plenty 'holiday food' and drinks available. There is no need to RSVP for this event-just drop in and stay as long as you desire.

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## **CTA Conference Opportunities**

There are always opportunities for you to become more involved with your local professional organization, GGEA, by serving as a site rep or on one of the GGEA committees. Another great way is to attend one of the local conferences sponsored by CTA. Two such conferences are coming up in the next few months. First, the Urban Issues Conference will take place in San Jose on February 29 - March 2, 2008. This conference will focus on issues related to urban and suburban schools and districts such as Garden Grove. The conference will feature speakers and workshops geared towards meeting the needs of the diverse populations of students in these districts.

Another is the CTA Good Teaching Conference which will take place in Anaheim on March 7-9, 2008. It is designed to support excellent teaching and learning practices for classroom teachers. Offering a variety of diverse workshops in curriculum content areas for K-12 teachers, the conference provides opportunities for professional development and offers time to network and share ideas with colleagues and experts in the field.

The GGEA Board has approved sending some of our members to these conferences, especially those teachers new to the profession. It is an excellent way to see first hand some of the work GGEA and CTA do on our behalf. If you are interested in attending either one of these conferences, please contact the GGEA Office or email Eric at [president@ggea.org](mailto:president@ggea.org).

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**Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season**

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## GGEA Contract Ratified

GGEA members overwhelmingly voted to ratify the contract for the 2007-08 school year with more than 93% voting for approval. In addition to a 3.75% salary schedule increase, the district agreed to cover the increase cost for health benefits projected to be around 10%. The bargaining team was also successful in adding contract language for stipends at the elementary level, lowering the staffing ratio at high school back to 29:1, increasing the annual dental benefit to \$2000, and language designed to help preserve the job share opportunity. Once again, we all need to send a big THANK YOU to the bargaining team for all of their time and efforts for this outstanding contract!

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## Maternity Workshop

GGEA will be holding its annual Maternity Workshop on Tuesday, January 29, 2008 at the Garden Grove Community Center from 3:30 – 5:00 PM. This is always a great workshop for those who are or might be expecting an addition to their family. Topics covered include pregnancy disability leave, voluntary unpaid maternity leave, insurance coverage, differential pay, The Standard Disability Coverage, and a question and answer period. Please call the GGEA Office to RSVP so that we can have materials for all attendees. Prospective Moms and Dads are welcome!

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## Social Security Offset Repeal Update

The Senate Finance Committee's Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing on November 6 on legislation to repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision. **This was the first hearing ever held in a Senate committee with jurisdiction over the issue.** A hearing has also been promised in the House for early 2008. NEA was the driving force for this hearing.

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## 403(B) Compare – Your Retirement Helper

The [www.403bCompare.com](http://www.403bCompare.com) website is a bank of free objective information about 403(b) vendors and the products they offer. This site was created to help employees of California's local school districts, community college districts or county offices of education make better-informed investment decisions by offering information about:

- 403(b) plans, available investment options, fees involved and product performance.
- Registered 403(b) vendors' experience and services for the products supplied.
- General retirement planning information and educational materials.

The California State Teachers' Retirement System created and will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of this site, as per the requirements of [California Education Code 25100 et seq.](#) If you are thinking of starting a 403(b) retirement account, this is a must-visit website.

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