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AD NOTES

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*Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world;
indeed it is the only thing that ever has.*

Margaret Mead

Think You Are Going to Get Social Security \$\$???

If you are going to receive a retirement income from STRS and you have enough credits to receive Social Security, your monthly check from Social Security will be reduced based upon the amount that you receive from STRS. **Do you think this is unfair? Then you need to get involved!** The "Social Security Fairness Act" (H.R. 147) now has an all time high 323 bipartisan co-sponsors. But this important bill has been bottled up in a subcommittee by the House leadership since January 2005.

Your immediate action is needed! Contact your member of the U.S. House of Representatives and ask him/her to make a commitment to sign the "discharge petition" (H. Res. 987) which will force a U.S. House floor vote as soon as possible. You can find your Congressional Representative at www.house.gov/writerep/ or use the link at www.GGEA.org. Your involvement will help to correct this situation.

Maternity Workshop

GGEA will be holding its annual Maternity Workshop on Tuesday, January 30, 2007 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, Unum Provident 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.

GGEA Holiday Open House

GGEA will be hosting its 1st Annual Holiday Open House on Tuesday, December 12th from 2:30 to 5:30 PM at the GGEA Office. Everyone is 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 some 'holiday food' and drinks as well.

CTA Conference Opportunities

There are always opportunities for you to become more involved with your local professional organization, GGEA. Another great way is to attend a local conference sponsored by CTA. Two such conferences are coming up in the next few months. First, the Urban Issues Conference will take place in Long Beach on February 23-25, 2007. This conference will again focus on issues related to Program Improvement Schools and Districts. The conference will feature site visits, speakers and a multitude of workshops highlighting best practices and lessons learned from schools, districts and CTA affiliates around the state.

Another is the Good Teaching Conference which will take place in Irvine on March 9-11, 2007. It is designed to support excellent teaching and learning practices for classroom teachers. The conference provides opportunities for professional development and offers time to network and share ideas with colleagues and experts in the field.

If you are interested in attending either one of these conferences, please contact the GGEA Office or email Eric at president@ggea.org.

GGEA Contract Ratified

GGEA members overwhelmingly voted to ratify the contract for the 2006-07 school year with more than 95% voting for approval. In addition to a 6% salary schedule increase, the district covered the increase cost for health benefits. The bargaining was also successful in adding contract language for deferment of jury duty, notification for next year's teaching assignment at the elementary level by first Monday in June, release day to be scheduled mid year on former staff development day (K-8), full credit for prior teaching experience for new hires, and a revised preschool salary schedule adding more steps and columns. 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!

Education Foundation Grants for Teachers

Teachers of core curriculum at K-12 schools in Orange County are invited to apply for an Education Foundation Grant that can be used to develop educational programs in the classroom. A joint project between the credit union and the Orange County Department of Education, the foundation has awarded 95 teachers with more than \$135,000 in grants since 2003. All grant applications must be submitted online by **February 28, 2007**. To apply, visit www.octfcu.org.

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season