



SSA NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2010

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WELCOME NEW SSA MEMBERS

The SSA Board of Directors welcomes the employees who have been newly hired into the SSA bargaining unit. Due to many retirements in the district, including our SSA unit, there are a number of SSA positions that have been recently filled by employees new to the supervisors association. Welcome! Of course, we also extend our appreciation and recognition to our continuing SSA members and thank you for your dedication, service and commitment. The recent years have been increasingly challenging and difficult, especially because of drastic cuts throughout California to school district funding. It is your courage, hard work and resilience, that have helped to keep our district functioning for the students. SSA looks forward to continuing to provide service and representation to our members as we face future & continuing challenges.

TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

In July, your SSA President, Mary Jones and Executive Director, Sandra Falk, met with the Superintendent, the Classified Personnel Director and the new Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Ms. Ann Reinlagen. During the course of our discussion, it was agreed that during the upcoming year, the District and SSA will be working together to provide leadership training and workshops for our SSA members. We will be meeting with H.R. in September to plan some of the training opportunities and will keep you informed as the plans are finalized.

PARCEL TAX ELECTION

The SSA Board of Directors has voted unanimously to encourage our members to support the WCCUSD Parcel Tax Election which will be on the November ballot. SSA was invited to participate in community meetings where the components of the parcel tax were discussed and developed. At those meetings the District reviewed the recent and future budget challenges and demonstrated that State reductions in funding continue to seriously jeopardize our WCCUSD budget.

It is anticipated that the WCCUSD will lose as much as \$10 Million dollars over the upcoming two years due to State and Federal reductions and one time funds not available in 2011-12--just to maintain and provide some of the existing programs and staffing. Also, the budget assumptions for 2010-11, show that due to reductions in the revenue limit and per pupil funding, the WCCUSD budget loss is about \$39.2 Million per year. Without the additional revenue that a new parcel tax will provide, student programs and employees will face even more severe cutbacks that will devastate our district further than what has already occurred. For that reason your Board of Directors encourages our members who live in the District to support the parcel tax on the November ballot, and in addition, we will be notifying all members of the unit, of opportunities to work on behalf of the parcel tax campaign to help it succeed in passing.

The WCCUSD Board of Education voted to place the parcel tax measure on the November ballot at the rate of 7.2 cents per square foot (\$7.20 for vacant parcels), with an exemption for Seniors. This would bring about \$9.8 million of revenue to the District that the State could not touch, with specific services and programs stipulated and a citizen's oversight review board to insure proper expenditure of the revenue. We will continue to keep our members informed about the parcel tax elements and the campaign in the next months prior to the election.

SSA CONTRACT

We continue to meet frequently with the District to put the finishing touches on the final version of our SSA contract. There was a significant delay in the process due to the fact that the former Asst. Superintendent of H.R. left the district in May. We have been working diligently with H.R. to proofread and correct errors in the draft, so that we can get our contract completed, printed and distributed to our members. We are hopeful that we are near completion, and will notify you immediately when the contracts are printed and ready for distribution to our SSA members. It is unfortunate that this process has taken even longer than normal, but we will continue to give it our priority attention.

SSA DUES

As many of our members may recall, our SSA dues rate is set at **1.25%** of salary. Your SSA Board of Directors voted last year to temporarily reduce your dues rate for the period of one year, from 1.25% to 1.0%, effective September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010. The temporary reduction was the SSA Board's way of thanking our members and recognizing the changes made to the work year and health benefits.

The regular dues rate of 1.25% will be reinstated beginning with the September, 2010 payroll for our SSA members.

VACANCIES & POSTINGS

Transfer and Promotion opportunities in the SSA bargaining unit will continue to be posted and filled. Please be sure to check the district H.R. website for job opportunities. H.R. has been faced with a tremendous number of job vacancies due to over 125 retirements this past year. SSA vacancies have been posted and interviews conducted throughout the summer, and will continue until the remaining vacancies are filled.

CHANGES TO THE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

SSA has been notified by the District that an audit of the District's Afterschool Programs by the California Department of Education (CDE), Categorical Program Monitoring agency has resulted in notification that the District must make changes to how the Afterschool Program is operated, immediately. The consequences of not complying would jeopardize funding to the program at all of the sites. The CDE has issued a mandated that states that the WCCUSD must operate its afterschool programs with **full academic scheduled activities until "at least 6:00 p.m. every regular school day"**.

In order to comply with the State CDE mandates and to avoid jeopardizing the funding for the district Afterschool programs, the district must make adjustments in the actual hours and content of

program operation and therefore, the specific work hours of our Afterschool Program Supervisors. SSA has met with H.R. on this matter, and notice will be going to our SSA AFSP members to notify them of the need for a change in work hours to a later time during the day, the effective date of any change and how the programs offered must be modified to insure compliance and avoid funding being withheld.

THANK YOU SSA MEMBERS FOR YOUR HARD WORK!