



# SSA NEWSLETTER

September 2009

School Supervisor's Association (SSA) • Phone: (510) 478-4030 • Email: [ssafalk@yahoo.com](mailto:ssafalk@yahoo.com) • Website: [www.ssa1977.org](http://www.ssa1977.org)

## CONTRACT RATIFIED BY MEMBERS

Your SSA Negotiations Team members, **Mary Jones, President, Sandi Brown, Linda Castellan, and Derek Milton** extend their appreciation to the SSA members who attended the contract review and ratification meeting on August 31. Your team worked many long and difficult hours on behalf of the members in order to reach an agreement during these extremely challenging times. We will be working with the District to get the new contract printed; however, it may take a while to complete this process. When the new contract is printed we will distribute copies to our members.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION

At the September 16 Board of Education meeting the Board adopted the SSA and WCCAA contracts and also applied the terms of those contracts regarding health insurance premium costs and reduced workyear to the unrepresented Administration and Cabinet. **This means that they will pay the same contributions as SSA and WCCAA for health insurance**, will have a salary/workyear reduction comparable to ours and will have their retiree health insurance modified in conformance with our contracts, depending upon whether certificated or classified.

## SSA DUES TEMPORARILY REDUCED BY SSA BOARD—Cost Savings for Members

At the contract ratification meeting on August 31, your elected SSA Board members announced a temporary, one year reduction in your SSA dues rate in order to show support and commitment to our members during these difficult financial times. Your dues rate is established at 1.25% of salary; however, **for the period beginning September, 2009 through the end of August, 2010, your elected representatives will temporarily reduce the dues rate to 1.0%**. You should see the savings on your September paycheck.

## CURRENT ADDRESS AND WORK LOCATION

SSA has a website (see above). On that website we have a form for our members to complete to update your personal information, including address, phone number and work location. Please send us any change of information so that we will be able to communicate with you when necessary. Thank you to those members who recently sent in their change of information. If you have difficulty accessing the website, you can also email any changes to [ssafalk@yahoo.com](mailto:ssafalk@yahoo.com).

**KNOW YOUR OPTIONS - SAVE MONEY - BE INFORMED**

## **INFORMATION SESSIONS - I25 Plan and PERS**

SSA has worked with the District to set up several information sessions regarding the Section 125 Plan. An email was sent by SSA regarding the upcoming Section 125 Plan information sessions. **The District has scheduled additional meetings including some at 6:30 p.m. on September 24 and at 6:30 p.m. during the week of 9/26 – 10/2. Contact Emily Millar to set up an appointment for any of those sessions.**

In addition, a general information meeting regarding PERS has been scheduled for October 1, 4:30 p.m., Harding Elementary. Please check our website for more information about that meeting. You must sign up in advance; and the meeting is to provide general information. If you wish to have PERS do an estimate or need individual information, you must contact them personally to arrange a meeting.

## **SSA MEMBERSHIP MEETING – OCTOBER 13**

By now most of you should have received notice of our membership meeting scheduled for October 13. The primary purpose of this meeting is to accept NOMINATIONS for the SSA Board of Directors. While we encourage our members to attend, please do not be concerned if you cannot make the meeting. You can contact JIM EDWARD in the Maintenance department if you wish to make a nomination of a member to serve on the Board of Directors. Jim Edward is the chair of the nominations committee.

## **CONSIDERING RETIREMENT? DON'T RUSH—KNOW THE FACTS**

A number of SSA members (and other District employees, also) are contemplating retirement because of concern about the change in benefits, the costs for premiums to become effective January 1, 2010, or the impact on retiree benefits.

### **PLEASE DO NOT MAKE ANY FINAL DECISION WITHOUT KNOWING ALL THE FACTS AND THE IMPACT ON YOU AND YOUR FUTURE**

Before making any decision, you must contact PERS and get an estimate of what your PERS pension would be. You may also want to contact your tax advisor, financial planner or CPA for information. If you are seriously considering retirement, you can contact SSA Executive Director, Sandra Falk who has developed a “retirement worksheet” for you to use to analyze whether or not retirement is in your best interest. SSA will not provide tax, social security or PERS advice; however, we want you to make AN INFORMED AND WISE DECISION.

Contact SSA at (510) 478-4030 or [ssafalk@yahoo.com](mailto:ssafalk@yahoo.com) if you need to discuss this issue further. Any discussions are private and confidential.

**THANK YOU SSA MEMBERS FOR YOUR STRENGTH AND UNITY**