

# GEA Actionline

May 2003  
News From the GEA President

## No 2-Year Contract Extension

Contract extension talks with Dr. Harrison, Dr. O'Melia and Dr. Sappington resulted in an offer that was presented by the Executive Committee to approximately 100 members of the GEA at a recent meeting. Following the presentation and discussion of the offer, a vote was taken on whether to proceed with a ratification vote. The membership voted against holding a ratification vote on the 2-year contract extension. At the same meeting information on the Flex plan, which will be put in place next year, was disseminated.

We will begin to gather information about bargaining as soon as possible. The last time surveys were sent out the GEA received 56 surveys back from a membership of close to 500. From those surveys our bargaining proposals were determined. This time I would hope to get more surveys back so that all members can be fairly represented.

Money will be tight and issues that involve money will be a hard sell. If a proposal that involves money gets a high priority it will take away from funds that would provide a salary increase. Insurance will be a hard sell item. Many years ago the GEA decided that money should be placed in the salary schedule instead of insurance benefits. Now insurance is a major problem throughout the state. I would hope that the insurance issue is solved by our state legislature.

As we proceed with bargaining we will use the GEA website ([www.gea-online.org](http://www.gea-online.org)) to post information concerning the proceedings. This will give members more time to look over the proposals. Some information must be kept confidential during bargaining, but we will be as up-front with the information as possible. MAC users who have difficulty accessing the site should use [gea-online.org](http://gea-online.org) (do not use www).

## Flex Plan

District #205 employees should be receiving the GOLD colored flex plan information sheet. I have asked for this sheet to be dispersed before the end of the school year. If you do not receive it by the end of the year it will be mailed out to you this summer. **You must mark Section 125 to tax shelter premium costs. I would also suggest that everyone sign up for at least the minimum deduction for the Flex Plan. That minimum amount is \$250.**

## Board Meeting Notes

Two important bits of information came from the May board meeting:

1. Maytag 's assessed valuation was lowered, which means that over the next 5 years District #205 will lose 1 million dollars in tax revenue.
2. Our insurance fund is at \$325,000. That includes \$320,000 borrowed from the working cash fund.

## Please call:

Senator Dale Risinger 1-309-693-4921  
Representative Don Moffitt 343-8000

**Urge them to support the rescue plan.** Tell them about our insurance problems.

**Tell them to please support the Extension of the ERO to 2010.** This legislation is being held captive by Madigan. If this legislation is not passed it will expire in 2005, which means that teachers will have to teach until they are 60 years old.

**On a positive note, have a great summer vacation!**