

GEA Actionline

September 2003

News From the GEA President
Gary Wagher

Welcome Back

The 2003-2004 school year is off to a good start. The weather has cooled down a little, at least for the time being. At this time there are no serious problems to deal with. If there are problems at your school, please contact an AR in your building. ARs can then contact me at home (343-3647) or on my cell phone (335-0997). My phone will be off in the mornings while I am teaching. If I do not answer, please leave a message. I will return your call as soon as possible.



Bargaining

The following are my thoughts on some issues of concern in the upcoming bargaining sessions:

- ◆ insurance
- ◆ transfer policy – ESEA or NCLB
- ◆ RIF – make the contract go beyond the state RIF policy
- ◆ transfer to an opening, no bumping rights (Elgin contract language)
- ◆ cost of living raise (2.8% last year)
- ◆ possible ways to revamp the salary schedule
- ◆ 2 years of sick leave accumulation: 170 days actually accumulated; District #205 would give you the second year.

Please send any suggestions to Isaac Triplett.

ESPs

ESPs are required to take 60 hours of college credit or pass a test to become “highly qualified”. I have contacted Stacy Burroughs, IEA, about getting copies of the review material and practice test booklet. I hope to receive 50 copies, which can then be shared among our ESPs. This booklet was produced by the NEA and will be an excellent tool to use in preparing for the test. I will be dealing with Dr. O’Melia’s office in regard to distribution. I hope to receive these booklets by the week of September 8.

Legislation Issues

Early retirement option may not get renewed. Rep. Mike Madigan hasn’t allowed this legislation on the House of Representatives floor. If he continues to do this it will sunset in 2005. Teachers will need 32 years of experience or reach the age of 60 to retire.

Representative Madigan is also talking about legislation to end all retirement incentives such as 20/20. He is one man with too much power. He is a sly politician who wants something; the IEA does not know what that something is. I have talked to Representative Moffitt and he is on the teachers’ side of this and other issues. Please call Representative Moffitt and thank him for his support.

Windfall Pension Offset/Government Pension Offset is a federal issue that deals with social security. Teachers who are eligible for social security can only collect approximately 40% of what is due them. It also limits teachers from collecting a spouse’s social security benefits. Lane Evans supports the elimination of the WPO/GPO. Please call him and thank him for his support. Please call Senators Durbin and Fitzgerald and urge them to support the elimination of the WPO/GPO.

To the ARs: Thank you for your help throughout the year!

Rose Hoben	Heather Allen and Zack Crowl
Churchill	Lisa Justus and Sandy Odell
Lombard	Shirley Pauer and Charley Armstrong
King	Mary Woodson-Johnson
Nielson	Debbie Smith, Liz Lott, and Celia Godsil
Gale	Vera Fornander and Michele Archer
Silas	Tammy Myers
Stone	Alma Singleton
Cooke	Hillary Coffman
Steele	Will Braxton
Central Office	Joy Behrens
Lincoln	Richard Stevens and Nancy Goff
Mary Davis	Gayla Morrow
GHS	Bob Hendrickson, Russ Ullrich, and Gary Wagher

Knox-Warren Special Ed. Coop	
Abingdon HS	Mary Lou Crow
Abingdon JH	Keri Bryant
Hedding	Sherry Andrews
Alexis	Rita Collins
Monmouth HS	Chad McKenna
Lincoln (Monmouth)	Candy Cargill
Central JH	Lisa Farmer
Harding	Gena Hasten
Willits	Jane Kellogg
Garfield	Robin Perrine
Warren	Pat Holland
Roseville Elem.	Donna DeSelms
Roseville HS	Jane Didway
ROWVA	Nancy Behringer
Williamsfield	Jana Simms
Yorkwood JH/HS	Debbie Kessler
Knoxville JH	Kathy Walck
Knoxville HS	Janice Johnson