

# GEA Actionline

April 2004

## CONTRACT

The Galesburg Education Association and Galesburg District #205 have ratified a two-year agreement. Your bargaining team members were Isaac Triplett, Margaret Tolley, Mary Woodson-Johnson, Russ Ulrich, Shirley Pauer, Pat Willems and Gary Wagher. The GEA Contract language can be acquired by going to [gea-online.org](http://gea-online.org). On the back of this page is the salary schedule.

## WARNING: GEA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEARS EXTINCTION!

In the next two or three years most of the board will be retiring. I have asked on numerous occasions for members to step forward into leadership roles. I have been unsuccessful. This will be a problem unless more people step forward to help. To run for an elected office, you need to have served as a building Association Representative (AR). To become an AR, give me a call and I will make arrangements. Please start your commitment at the building level.

## HAVE A GREAT SPRING BREAK!



## RETIREMENT

Teachers who are eligible to retire must submit a letter of retirement by May 1, 2004, if they are planning to retire at the end of the 2003-2004 school year or at the end of the 2005-2006 school year. Don't wait until the last minute.

### 2004-2005 RETIREES

If you have fewer than 180 days of sick leave the district will increase your sick days to 180 at the start of next year to give you one year of sick leave. This can only be accomplished if you submit your letter of retirement by May 1, 2004. If you already have more than 180 days this language will not help you.

### 2005-2006 RETIREES

If you have accumulated 180 days of sick leave by the end of this year (June 2004), the district will give you 180 days so you have a total of 360 days. In order to qualify for the 20/20 bonus at retirement, you must not fall below 340 days. That gives you a total of 20 sick days to use over the next two years. Remember, each teacher would have already received a 20% bonus. Don't play games with your sick leave. Falling below 340 days will cost you thousands of dollars and also cost the district thousands of dollars for ERO costs. District #205 pays 20% per year for each year that you are under the age of 60. District #205 would also have to pay your share, 7% per year for each year under age 60. This is the reason why District #205 agreed to the 20/20 bonus.

Next year 8 or 9 people can retire. In June 2005-2006, another 16 can retire. As funds get tighter District #205 will have to make cuts. Instead of RIFing teachers, retirements will save young teachers' jobs.

**May 1, 2004, is the deadline for retirement letters for the retirement years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006.**