

The NEA RA Will Be In Washington D.C. July 2-7, 2004!

- State Petitions are available in the December *California Educator* and the January 20 *Contact*. (Due to CTA February 9.)
- Local Petitions are available on the reverse side of this *Contact* and at montebelloteachers.org. (Due to MTA February 20.)

Teacher Tax Credit Not Suspended In 2003 *Be prepared with the right information!*

The teacher tax credit began in 2001, was suspended in 2002, and is intact again in 2003. It entitles teachers to a credit based on the number of years of teaching. The Franchise Tax Board is requesting the credential number listed on the front of your credential.

The Certificated Personnel Office will assist all members in retrieving this information (extension 2252). Some older records are kept on microfiche records and take a few days to access.

In some cases the Certificated Personnel Office will not have the information. In addition to the Certificated Personnel Office, members may retrieve information from the sources listed below.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education Certification Unit
(562) 922-6503
Office Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing
(888) 921-2682
Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This is a toll free number with several menu items. Press menu option 6 to speak directly to a certification officer.

In order to file for the teacher tax credit you must complete Form 3505 which may be downloaded from the internet at www.ftb.ca.gov. Consult with your tax advisor whether or not you are entitled to this credit.

Stull Bill Improvements Mean Some Will Be Evaluated Every 5 Years

The District and the Association have amended the *Contract* to state that some Bargaining Unit members will be evaluated every 5 years instead of every 2 years. The amended language appears below.

The following (bold print) shall be added to *Operating Procedures*.

- I. All probationary Bargaining Unit members will be evaluated every year. All permanent Bargaining Unit members, with the exception of Head Start, will be evaluated every other year.
 - II. **Bargaining Unit members who meet all the following qualifications shall be evaluated every five years:**
 - a. **NCLB Highly Qualified;**
 - b. **Ten consecutive years Bargaining Unit experience within the District at the time of the completion of the Stull evaluation; and,**
 - c. **Not referred to the PAR Program within the past two years.**
 - III. **Amendment to Five-Year Cycle**
 - a. **A site administrator or designee may notice a Bargaining Unit member of possible intent to evaluate the Bargaining Unit member the subsequent year.**
 - b. **Notice of intent to evaluate must be provided to the Bargaining Unit member by January 31 of any year beginning the year following the prior evaluation.**
 - c. **The Bargaining Unit member must be notified by May 15 in writing on a form provided by the District of the administrator's intent to evaluate the Bargaining Unit member the following year.**
 - d. **Any Bargaining Unit member may return to the two-year cycle by notifying the site administrator or designee in writing no later than May 15 of the year prior to the evaluation year.**
3. All numbering and sequencing will be corrected to correspond with the additional language.
4. The District shall prepare forms for III. a-d no later than March 1, 2004. The District shall publish the forms following the approval of the Association.

Important Dates to Consider

- Wednesday, March 3 - State Teachers Retirement Workshop, 3:30 p.m. at District Office (interviews April 2)
- Thursday, March 25 - MUSD-MTA Retiree Benefits Workshop, 3:30 p.m. at District Office
- Thursday, April 15 - Early Retirement Option form due.