

UPDATE

Week of March 16, 2009

BREAKING NEWS!

AALA has been advised by Superintendent Ray Cortines that the District will not be moving forward with the plan to eliminate the classification of AP-EIS. The Superintendent and the Board of Education will review the proposed 2009-2010 budget recommendations on Tuesday, March 24, 2009. We will continue to monitor these proposals and will keep AALA members informed.

AALA would like to thank the EAPO Executive Board and all others who joined in this comprehensive effort to have this proposed change carefully reviewed and ultimately rescinded.

DOOM AND GLOOM OR BOOM AND BLOOM

Philosophically, it is possible to consider a glass half full or half empty. Doom and gloomers would say half empty while those with a more positive outlook, the boom and bloomers, might say it was half full. AALA is concerned that the federal stimulus windfall is being viewed as doom and gloom instead of a positive happening.

For each of the next two fiscal years, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, the Los Angeles Unified School District is receiving \$180,524,420 for Title I Education for the Disadvantaged, \$84,211,000 for special education, \$9,726,682 for enhancing education through technology and \$386,887,000 to help stabilize funding in years 2008 – 2011. Conservatively, this amounts to \$467,905,601 for both 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.

The District budget shortfall before the stimulus was projected to be approximately \$608 million dollars in 2009-2010. Therefore, simple arithmetic would tell anyone that the doom and gloom has turned into a much rosier scenario.

Therefore, AALA strongly recommends that the Board of Education do the following:

- 1) Write to the President, the Secretary of Education and the California Congressional delegation to thank them for the two years of money being sent within the next six months.
- 2) Reassess the proposed budget and include all stimulus monies urgently designed to prevent layoffs.
- 3) Inform the public that Sacramento has been negligent in their budgeting responsibilities to schools thereby requiring the federal stimulus.
- 4) Make plans to enhance revenues locally.
- 5) **PUT A HOLD ON ANY LAYOFFS UNTIL THE STIMULUS REVENUE HAS BEEN FACTORED INTO YOUR FINAL BUDGET.**

DOOM AND GLOOM OR BOOM AND BLOOM (Continued)

AALA believes that the new stimulus package, the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, tells us to above all prevent people from losing their jobs. Here is language directly from the law: *The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, CREATE OR SAVE MILLIONS OF JOBS, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century.*

Restructuring does not have to mean downsizing school staffs. Using the stimulus money wisely can save approximately 8,000 jobs, and the Superintendent and the Board of Education could use these employees in creative ways. Let's show President Obama that LAUSD is using the stimulus for its intended purpose and demonstrate that federal funding should be maintained past two years.

AALA urges all members to contact our Congressional delegation that is listed in this edition of Update and thank them for the stimulus funds and for saving jobs. Let's think positively for a change let's boom and bloom.

Los Angeles Congressional Delegation and California U.S. Senators:

Buck McKeon, District 25	buck.mckeon@mail.house.gov
Brad Sherman, District 27	brad.sherman@mail.house.gov
Howard Berman, District 28	howard.berman@mail.house.gov
Henry Waxman, District 30	henry.waxman@mail.house.gov
Xavier Becerra, District 31	xavier.becerra@mail.house.gov
Diane Watson, District 33	diane.watson@mail.house.gov
Lucille Roybal-Allard, District 34	lucille.roybal-allard@mail.house.gov
Maxine Waters, District 35	maxine.waters@mail.house.gov
Jane Harman, District 36	jane.harman@mail.house.gov
Laura Richardson, District 37	laura.richardson@mail.house.gov
Grace Napolitano, District 38	grace.napolitano@mail.house.gov
Linda Sanchez, District 39	linda.sanchez@mail.house.gov
Dana Rohrabacher, District 46	dana.rohrabacher@mail.house.gov
Senator Barbara Boxer	barbara.boxer@mail.senate.gov
Senator Diane Feinstein	diane.feinstein@mail.senate.gov

SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS

Note: Please copy and share the following message regarding the Social Security Fairness legislation now pending in Congress.

To our community:

Did you know that in California almost one million employees who qualify for Social Security benefits or are married to a Social Security earner are denied their earned retirement benefits?

California is one of 14 states where public school teachers fall under this federal penalty. This law not only affects teachers it affects almost all firefighters and public safety officers. It also affects some city and county employees.

We cannot recruit teachers in 36 states. We cannot recruit in the business community. Why?

If a teacher worked for 20 years and earned Social Security and then entered teaching in California and taught 20 years, that teacher could lose more than half of his/her earned Social Security retirement benefits. Add to that, if the teacher's spouse was a Social Security earner and preceded the teacher in death, the teacher would lose the earned Social Security spousal death benefit.

It's time to right this wrong. There are two bills in Congress that correct this unfair statute – HR 235, the Berman/McKeon Bill, and S 484, by Senator **Diane Feinstein**. Please contact the Speaker of the House, **Nancy Pelosi**, and Senate Majority Leader, **Harry Reid**, to encourage the passage of the legislation.

Speaker of the House **Nancy Pelosi**

District Office: 450 Golden Gate Avenue, 14th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102,
(415) 556-4862.

Washington, DC Office: 235 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515, (202) 225-4965.

Senate Majority Leader **Harry Reid**

528 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, (202) 224-3542 or

Fax: (202) 224-7327

To send a message to President **Barack Obama**, please visit:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

Editor's Note: All educators in California are affected not just teachers.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION –

A BETTER WAY TO SAVE FOR RETIREMENT

“New knowledge is the most valuable commodity on earth. The more truth we have to work with, the richer we become.” Kurt Vonnegut

Most administrators have a 403(b) tax-deferred retirement plan. Congress developed these plans decades ago. The logic of the plan had you initially put money away while you were working and in a higher tax bracket. Then, when you retired, on a smaller income, as you withdraw funds, you'll be in a lower tax bracket and thus pay less in taxes. Sound familiar?

The logic was valid in the 1970s when we had 31 different marginal tax brackets. The income range per bracket was narrow so, while you are working, you would be in one bracket and when you retired and your income was less you could move down to a lower tax bracket and end up paying less in taxes.

Two problems; first, the government changed the rules and second, administrators have advisors that never informed them of the change. We've gone from 31 different tax brackets to 6! The income range per bracket is now wide. Two marginal tax brackets, the 25% and 28%, cover incomes from \$32,550 to \$164,550. This means most administrators will work and retire in the same tax bracket! Plus, in California add another 9% for state income tax. There is a better way.

Forbes magazine, in a recent article, stated, “Over time most families could end up with nearly all their financial assets in tax-deferred accounts... considering the current budget deficits and the coming bulge of retirees who will run up Medicare and Social Security costs, it seems likely taxes will climb... every penny you eventually take from a pre-tax 401(k) or a deductible IRA is taxed at the much higher ordinary income rate.

Three years ago Boston University economics professors did some controversial calculations showing that couples earning \$50,000 stood to raise their lifetime tax burden by contributing to 401(k)s / 403(b)s / 457s / SEPs / and IRAs, in part because of the way Social Security is taxed: even people with \$100,000 in income might do better saving outside a 401(k).

It sounds like heresy to workers who have been unremittingly lectured for the past two decades to save in their IRAs and 401(k)s... but the truth is that there is such a thing as too much tax deferral.”

A 2005 Retirement Survey said, “A majority of retirees said their biggest mistake in planning for life after work was failing to invest in tax-free accounts.”

You should be certain you clearly understand exactly how your retirement income will be taxed and the impact of withdrawals from a tax-deferred account? If you would like to learn about an IRS approved tax-free plan, visit us and learn how you can develop tax-free retirement income.

By, Preston Davis, CWPP, RFC
Sr. Vice President
Wealth Concepts, Inc.

ACADEMIC DECATHLON STATE COMPETITION RESULTS

The nine (9) LAUSD schools competing in the California Academic Decathlon State Competition this past weekend in Sacramento are to be commended for their fine overall performances. The schools are as follows: El Camino Real High School, coached by **John Dalsass** and **Stephanie Franklin**, 2nd Place; North Hollywood High School, coached by **Jim Hatem**, 3rd Place; Palisades Charter High School, coached by **Chris Lee** and **Ming Ha Ngo**, 7th Place; Marshall High School, coached by **Larry Welch**, 8th Place; Granada Hills Charter High School, coached by **Sharon Menotiades** and **Kelly Byars**, 11th Place; Garfield High School, coached by **John Bennett** and **Lucy Romero**, 13th Place; Crenshaw High School, coached by **Jeff Goldberg**, 19th Place; Los Angeles High School, coached by **Richard Cunningham** and **John De Toro**, 30th Place; and Venice High School, coached by **Sam Espinosa** and **Eric Schoenbaum**, 37th Place. In Super Quiz, El Camino Real High School placed first and North Hollywood High School placed second.

The principals of the competing schools are to be commended for the strong performances of their teams. They are: **Dave Fehte**, El Camino Real; **Randall Delling**, North Hollywood; **Martin Griffin**, Palisades Charter; **Daniel Harrison**, Marshall; **Brian Bauer**, Granada Hills Charter; **Michael Summe**, Garfield; **Richard Mattingley**, interim principal, Crenshaw; **Elena Brown**, Los Angeles; and **Lonnie Wallace**, Venice.

We are proud of the teams' accomplishments!

REMINDER

(IF YOU ARE RETIRED)

ADULT/ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY/EEC/SUPERVISORY

RETIRED MEMBERS LUNCHEON

**The Center at Cathedral Plaza
Viewing Foyer**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2009
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

RECOVERING PAST THE STATUS QUO

For tens of millions of Americans, economic recovery is not enough, writes **Bill Shore** on *politico.com*. "What about those problems that affect people so voiceless and vulnerable there are neither economic nor political markets to serve them?" asks Shore, founder and executive director of the national anti-hunger organization Share Our Strength. Recovery, in Shore's estimation, implies a return to the pre-recession economy. This economy was one in which 35 million Americans lived below an unreasonably low poverty line, without access to quality health care or education. "When the economy is roaring," writes Shore, "the poor are so far removed from the prevailing culture of consumption, investment and growth as to be all but forgotten... When the economy tanks, on the other hand, the poor find that other priorities, like the financial system and infrastructure, must be addressed first." For the recovery to have moral weight, it must mean economic inclusion. This amounts to decent housing, health care, food, quality education, and training for jobs of the future -- for all Americans, not just those who had these basics but recently lost them. To bring this about, says Shore, President Obama must devote his considerable political skill not just to market-driven leadership, but moral leadership.

Read more: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0209/19062.html>

BREAKING NEWS!

**ON MARCH 10, 2009,
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
VOTED TO OFFER THE EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM
(ERIP)
TO ALL ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES.**

**PACKETS WERE MAILED TO ALL ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS ON
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009.**

RETIRING, ANYONE?

Those of you who are still working, are you planning on retiring soon? AALA would appreciate it if you would call Gema Pivaral in the office (213.484.2226) or e-mail gpivaral@aala.us and let us know. We would like to provide you with a plaque and notify all your colleagues (via UPDATE) of your intentions. So, let us hear from you!

Reminder —

ATTENTION: REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

The next AALA Representative Assembly meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2009, at the AALA offices, 3rd floor Conference Room. The meeting begins with department caucuses from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. followed by the general meeting at 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served prior to the start of the general meeting; therefore, we request that Representative Assembly Members RSVP their attendance to the AALA office at 213.484.2226 or email to rsvp@aala.us so that an appropriate amount of food can be ordered.

The agenda will include department concerns, president's update, negotiations update, nominations from the floor for Executive Board positions, and a review of the proposed AALA budget for 2009 - 2010.

**AALA SCHOLARSHIP AND COMMUNITY AWARDS
BANQUET**

**MILLENNIUM BILTMORE HOTEL
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2009
5:30 - 8:30 P.M.**

FOR PRINCIPALS & OTHER MANDATED REPORTERS

Once again, the annual April 1 deadline for the state-mandated Form 700 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) filing is fast approaching. Principals should have an opportunity to walk through the filings as part of the March principals' meetings in their local districts. Please help to ensure that other school site filers (e.g. Assistant Principals, Senior Financial Mangers, and Financial Managers) are reminded of their filing obligation as well.

Filers who would still need to complete the requirement can watch the "Form 700 video" on the Ethics Office website at www.lausd.net/ethics <http://www.lausd.net/ethics>, which provides an online in-service that walks filers through the completion of the forms. Please remember that by law, faxed or electronic copies of the Form 700 cannot be accepted. You can also contact the Ethics Office at 213.241.3330 with any questions.

RETIREMENT CELEBRATIONS

Name	Date, Time	Location	Contact
Sharyn Miller	Sunday, June 28, 2009 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Porter Valley Country Club 19216 Singing Hills Drive Northridge	Cindy Welden 818.256.2973
Martha Gurrola-Soria and Margaret Andrews	Friday, May 8, 2009 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.	Mijares Mexican Restaurant 145 Palmetto Drive Pasadena	Nightingale MS 323.369.7649 mdb4747@lausd.net
Mary Lewis	Saturday, June 20, 2009 11:00 a.m.	Marriott Hotel 4100 Admiralty Way Marina Del Rey	Peggy Taylor Presley 323.832.4690
Robert Coburn	Friday, May 15, 2009 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.	94 th Air Squadron 16320 Raymer Street Van Nuys	Marie Ferry 818.773.4700

IN MEMORIAM

DONALD JOSEPH WILLIAMS – Former Principal at Winnetka ES and Superior ES. He retired on June 30, 1982, and passed away on February 14, 2009.

PUBLIC-SCHOOL KIDS OUTPACE PRIVATE-SCHOOL PEERS IN MATH, STUDY FINDS

A new study by the University of Illinois has found that public-school students outperform their private-school classmates on the *National Assessment of Educational Progress* exam, thanks to certified math teachers and a modern, reform-oriented math curriculum, Science Daily reports. To account for the difference in test scores, **Sarah Lubienski** and her co-authors looked at five critical factors: school size, class size, parental involvement, teacher certification, and instructional practices. "There are so many reasons why you would think that the results should be reversed -- that private schools would outscore public schools in standardized math test scores," she said. "This study looks at the underlying reasons why that's not necessarily the case." Of the five factors, school size and parental involvement were "mixed or marginally significant predictors" of student achievement, while smaller class sizes, which are more prevalent in private schools than in public schools, significantly correlate with achievement. Despite this, many private schools aren't accountable to an external body when designing curricula, and thus may not be keeping up with trends. "There's been this assumption that private schools are more effective because they're autonomous and don't have all the bureaucracy that public schools have," Lubienski said. "But one thing this study suggests is that autonomy isn't necessarily a good thing for schools."

Read more: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/02/090226093423.htm>

See the report: <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/590677>