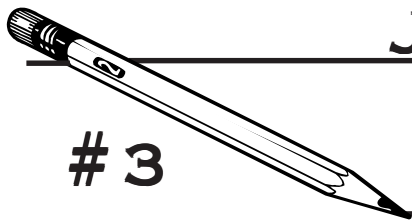


JANUARY 30, 2006



3

NEWSLINE

From the President

Bob Naski

Teacher Tax Break

For the 2005 tax year, a teacher can claim an above-the-line tax deduction for the first \$250 of “out-of-pocket” spending on student supplies. The above-the-line deduction is important because an eligible school employees does *not* have to *itemize* to qualify.

Political Action Contribution/ MEA-Retired Deductions

Most members paid their 10th and last dues deduction for this school year on January 27th. If you signed up to make a political action contribution by payroll deduction, it will be taken out of your February 10, 2006 paycheck. If you were hired after the start of the school year and have not yet completed your dues deductions, dues will not be taken out of the February 10th paycheck, but will continue on your February 24th paycheck. Any further PAC contributions during this school year must be made by check or charge card.



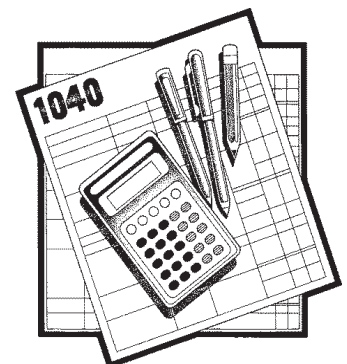
Also, there are some members who have enrolled in MEA-Retired with the option to pay over three years in \$50 yearly lump sums. The last of these payments will be made on February 24th.

2005-2006 Board Paid Annuity

According to Article XIII, Section C, 2c of the WEA contract, you received a Board Paid Annuity contribution of 1.2 percent of your Schedule A salary (.012 times Schedule A salary). On January 27, 2006 the District remitted the 2005-06 contribution to your designated 403b or 457b annuity. If last year you did not select a carrier or you are a new hire this year, it is important to enroll in a 403b or 457b with a carrier and notify the district that you want your contractual, Board paid annuity paid into this account. If this is not done by June 30, 2006, you will **forfeit** the 1.2 percent contribution for this year.

Dues and Tax Info

Your WEA/MEA/NEA dues for the 2005-2006 school year are \$822.70. This is the figure that you should use for you 2005 taxes. However, our understanding of the tax law is that union dues are not deductible unless you have miscellaneous deductions exceeding 2% of your gross income. The dues can then be lumped into miscellaneous deductions, and you can only deduct those expenses in excess of the 2%. We would, however, advise that you consult your tax accountant before claiming such a deduction because of the constant changes in tax laws.



Warren Education Association, MEA/NEA