



# KEEPING INFORMED

Info for EAs, Spec Ed EAs,  
ISP EAs, HAs, CSLs, & CSAs

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nm.aft.org/aeaa

## Money for raises comes from Legislators

State legislators met for 60-days last winter. During that time, they passed an education budget which provided \$1,500,000 in new money for our 07-08 raises. During contract negotiations in June, AEAA and APS agreed to distribute that new money in two pay increase packages for about 1,900 employees. Those packages are as follows:

**Package #1:** Higher pay for employees who move to the new college credit rates this year.

**Package #2:** \$750 for employees who moved to the new college rates, or got 9-9.5% raise, last year.

More employees are benefiting from Package #1 because the Union and District agreed to pay them for their college credits. If you remember, we negotiated higher college credit pay rates last year, but didn't have enough money to move everyone to the new rates. We had to phase-in employees according to their hire dates.

Last year, I promised we would bargain a package which would move all employees to the new college credit pay rates. We did it. Package #1 costs about \$200,000.

AEAA and APS also agreed to distribute equally the remaining new money among employees who moved to the new college credit pay rates, or got a 9-9.5% raise, in 06-07. This year, they get a \$750 raise. Package #2 costs about \$1,300,000.

Were these pay packages enough? **NO**. Why? The cost of living is up. Food prices are 7-percent higher. Gasoline is more expensive. PNM bills are higher, too.

Were these pay packages all we could get? **YES**. Why? Legislators control education funding, and all they sent us for pay raise negotiations was \$1,500,000.

Could legislators have sent us more money? **YES**. Why? They had a \$750,000,000 budget surplus. Most of that surplus comes from state income taxes we must pay, and state sales taxes we must pay when we buy stuff.

I asked legislators to use more of the surplus and pass a 7-percent raise because prices were going up. The House Education Committee, which is chaired by Rep. Rick Miera, approved our recommendation for a 7-percent raise. But, the House Finance Committee, which is chaired by Rep. Kiki Saavedra, would not agree to a 7-percent raise.

Instead of a 7-percent raise, the Finance Committee recommended a 3-percent raise with 2-percent more if we agreed to work 184 days instead of 182. I told them **NO WAY**. Why? *That's not a raise.*

Legislators finally passed an *average* 5-percent raise. That's how we got \$1,500,000 to negotiate Packages #1 and #2.

Will we ask for more money next year? **YES**. Legislators have another surplus. At this time, it's \$250,000,000. We need higher pay. Prices are increasing faster than wages.

Legislators are running for re-election in November 2008. If they don't send us more money for next year's negotiations, then we'll recommend that you vote for candidates who will invest more of the surplus in us.

Legislators say they're sick of me asking for more money. They say they would rather talk to you. So, I'm inviting you and them to the Union office Oct. 23. It's time you told legislators what you need. See back of this newsletter for details.

### KNOW YOUR CONTRACT: *Duties*

The principal is the only APS employee who can assign you to duty. The principal can assign you to duty outside the classroom (hall, playground, lunchroom, etc.) during the 6.5 hr. day. If the principal assigns you to duty beyond the 6.5 hr. day, she/he will pay your hourly rate.

**APS-AEAA contract says:** *The principal shall have the right to direct the work of employees and assign employees. Employees may be assigned duties on an equitable basis. Principals will consult with employees prior to assigning or reassigning duties.*