

Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board

News-At-A-Glance MAY 2000



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This publication is prepared by the staff of the Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board. Its content is extracted from information received in the FEB Office and gleaned from public information sources. Please forward your agency newsletter or "news items" to the FEB Office for inclusion in future FEB News-at-a-Glance editions.

National Training Conference on Employment of Federal Employees Who Are Deaf & Hard of Hearing (3/2000)

Andrea Winkler, a hearing-impaired detailee to our FEB from the IRS, attended this annual conference in Bethesda, MD. Since May is Deaf Awareness Month, she agreed to be interviewed to assist our readers in working with hearing-challenged personnel.

FEB: Who attended the conference?

AW: Over 1,000 Federal employees with hearing losses, managers of such employees, & EEO staffers participated.

FEB: What did the conference include?

AW: Excellent general sessions & many helpful workshops were presented, along with a job fair & exhibits of assistive technology for the hearing-impaired.

FEB: Did you learn of any new PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCERS for employees without normal hearing?

AW: Yes! Some highly-recommended examples follow:



CART (Computer-Assisted Real-Time Transcription): A court reporter types what is being said, which the hearing-challenged employee reads, on a lap-top computer screen. CART is ideal for the many hearing-impaired people who do not use sign language & who miss out at meetings & training classes. CART vendors are paid with Reasonable Accommodation funds.



PVCO [Pocket Speak & Read VCO (Voice Carry Over)]: This new portable device slips over mobile, cordless, pay & other phones, to allow Voice Carry Over TDD (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) users to call when away from home & office. The user dials any relay service which types what is said for the user to read on the PVCO screen, as the user speaks into the phone. This great device from Krown Manufacturing (817 738 2485, fax 817 738 1970, TDD 817 738 8993, krownntty@aol.com, www.krownntty.com) costs only \$250 of reasonable accommodation funds.



WyndTell Pager: This palm-sized computer enables the hearing-impaired to communicate wherever wireless coverage exists, by keyboarding e-mail, faxes, voice messaging to a phone, or TDD messages. The user reads messages received on the small screen. The device

costs only \$199 or \$299 (allows chat), plus a monthly fee, e.g., \$24.95, like a cell phone. For the last 2 years, my WyndTell has been a great help! Wynd Communications, 800 549 9800, fax 805 781 6001, TDD 800 549 2800, info@wynd.com, www.wynd.com.
♥ MSN Instant Messaging: The Director of Microsoft Human Resources, Recruiting, told the conference about a free download at www.msn.com allowing people to chat back & forth by e-mail. Also, see www.abletowork.microsoft.com/enable. The next instant messaging version will allow internal instant messaging with security. (Any *E-mail* is a great communication equalizer for the hearing impaired.)
♥ Computer Software: NXi Communications Text Services for the Deaf (NTS) offers software for a computer to function as a TDD, saving the typical \$500 TDD cost. The hearing-impaired employee may be hooked into your agency LAN/WAN system & chat & send/receive faxes, TDD messages, e-mails, & alpha paging, with video coming soon. In addition to helping employees, this system makes Federal agencies accessible to the hearing impaired public calling with TDDs. The contact is **A. Philip Aiello** at 301 942 9766, fax 301 942 9110, TDD 301 942 9769, phil@TCSASSOC.com, www.TCSASSOC.com.

A modest investment in any of the above technologies will be returned many times over through better productivity.

FEB: Is there anything else about the conference you would like to share with our readers?

AW: **Janice LaChance**, OPM Director, in the keynote address, indicated the Federal government should be a role model in employing the disabled, especially in higher-level positions. Thanks for giving me this opportunity to share the latest information with our local Federal leaders! They may contact me at 800 735 2922 & ask for 213 576 3091, fax 213 576 3092 or andrea.winkler@m1.irs.gov.

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, often called GPRA or the Results Act, requires federal agencies to develop strategic plans, performance measures, annual performance plans, and performance reporting. Beginning with FY 1999, agencies developed annual performance plans parallel to their annual budget requests to Congress. In March 2000, agencies began reporting on the results achieved on their FY 1999 annual performance plans. More information on GPRA is at www.npr.gov/initiati/mfr.

Senator Fred Thompson, R-Tenn., chair of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, in a series of letters to agency heads, praised those agencies that showed improvement in correcting performance weaknesses, noted by the General Accounting Office. To agencies showing little progress in correcting weaknesses, Thompson stated: "With so many tax dollars being wasted, this committee expects agencies to take every opportunity to use the many tools available to them, such as GPRA plans, to resolve major management problems."

After surveying agency implementation for the National Partnership for Reinventing Government, **Kathleen Monahan** said, "There are a lot of people with long years in government that for whatever reason seem to have blissfully ignored the fact that the GPRA is a law. This is not a choice; it isn't going away."

Agencies are supposed to account for the money they receive and spend, demonstrate the importance of their programs, and ultimately make clear to the public their purpose and contribution in bettering the country. Prompting agencies to be more accountable for their spending and programs will lead to greater visibility as to where funds go, which should be invaluable in catching wasteful ventures and excesses. Time is running out for agency leaders to become serious about implementing the Results Act in the spirit intended.



US Coast Guard & US Fish & Wildlife Service Star

These two agencies staffed popular conservation displays at the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific on Earth Day. The Coast Guard presented a video showing how oil spills are cleaned up and a "Happy Habitats" display demonstrating how underwater creatures are affected by the depletion of coral reefs.

Inspector Mike Osborn of the US Fish & Wildlife Service dispensed information to visitors shocked by the illegal animal products confiscated as people tried to bring them into the US: a full-size mounted tiger, a partially-mounted rhinoceros, a polar bear rug, and two stuffed sea turtles. All these animals are on the endangered species list. Osborn said, "A lot of visitors can't believe people are still bringing these things into the US." Ten-year-old **Gregory Bell** of Redondo Beach was saddened & angered to learn of illegal poaching. His mother, **Barbara Bell**, said, "I think (they) made an effort to educate people, and I think they succeeded. I learned things here today, and I think my boy did too."



George Nelson, retired in 1998 after a successful career in the military and as a civilian federal employee, wants "to challenge the retired federal community into becoming involved in elementary and high school teaching, maybe as I have done, as a substitute teacher in my own local school district. I must point out that I am naturally adverse to volunteering for anything: twenty years in the Infantry taught me that it is dangerous. After doing some basic research, I came to a conclusion that serving my community by teaching was a way to truly give something back, not just to the community but to our collective future, the children."

What are the requirements to teach? **George** found, "The first requirement was having a bachelor's degree and passing the California Basic Education Skills Test (CBEST). Beyond that, teaching required passing a personal background check, getting a \$56 state permit, and completing an application for the school district you want." **Barron's** "How to Prepare for the CBEST," with its model practice exams helped **George**. "Using the Internet, I was able to identify information on the education process in California." To **George's** surprise, he could not find library or other books on "first hand experience, methods and what a sub could expect in getting the job done - classroom management, how a day goes by, how to handle situations, etc." until he looked on the Internet, where he ordered a few books.

George has been "enjoying the experience from day one. In every assignment, I found a detailed lesson plan by the teacher, the textbooks needed with lessons annotated, a daily schedule and directions in a substitute folder provided by the school, and the name and extension number of a full time teacher that could assist in answering any questions. The glowing feeling of success comes in the eyes and smiles of the students when they understand the lesson, when they truly enjoy the story that you have just read to them, when they say 'thank you' for giving a little extra help in understanding a math or other lesson."

References

- Pronin Barbara, "Substitute Teaching: a Handbook for Hassle Free Subbing," New York, NY, St. Martin's Press, 1983.
- Collins, Harold, "Classroom Management for Substitute Teachers," Eugene, OR, Garlic Press, 1982.
- Seeman, C. & Hofstrand, S., "Super Sub," Glenview, IL, Good Year Books

Web Sites

www.cde.ca.gov & www.cbtest.nesinc.com
www.ctc.ca.gov & www.ctc.ca.gov/credentialinfo
www.sccoe.k12.ca.us/cbest

“Political Activity & the Federal Employee”

This **Hatch Act** pamphlet by the US Office of Special Counsel may be found at www.osc.gov/documents/dederal.pdf. Call 202 653 7143 or e-mail Hatchact@osc.gov. Can you score 100% on this Hatch Act quiz?

1. Most federal employees may work on partisan campaigns while off duty. True False
2. Most federal employees may hold office in political parties, including serving as a delegate to a convention. True False
3. Some federal employees may solicit, accept, or receive political contributions. True False
4. An off-duty federal employee may work at the polls on election day, holding a sign or distributing literature for a candidate or party. True False
5. Penalties for **Hatch Act** violations range from a 30-day suspension without pay to removal. True False

Answers are at the bottom of Page 4.



Condolences go to the families of 6 Marines and a Navy corpsman who died December 9 when a helicopter crashed off San Diego. **Marine Staff Sgt. William Dame** was from San Diego & **Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jay Asis** was from Oceanside.

We also send condolences to the families of the 15 local servicemen, including **Long Beach resident Marine Pfc. George Santos**, who died in an April Osprey crash near Tucson.

Camp Pendleton memorial services honored both groups.

National Volunteer Week April 9 - 15, 2000

- V = valuable
- O = outstanding
- L = loyal
- U = untiring
- N = notable
- T = trustworthy
- E = eager
- E = effective
- R = ready
- S = special



We salute all our federal volunteers, including Federal Volunteer Corps members, for their community service!



In this issue, we are happy to have an extraordinary number of local Federal accomplishments to celebrate!

- ★ Greater L.A. Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Award Winners:
 - US Postal Service (USPS) Marina Processing & Distribution Center
 - US Post Office Norwalk
 - Social Security Administration Studio City
 - USPS Industry Processing & Distribution Center
 - US Bankruptcy Court
 - DOL Office of Labor-Management Standards
 - NASA Dryden Flight Research Center
 - US Post Office Canoga Park
 - Federal Labor Relations Authority Diamond Bar
 - INS
 - SEC
 - US Food & Drug Administration
 - USPS Los Angeles Performance Cluster
- ★ Goodwill Industries Industrial Services Award: Defense Commissary Agency, L.A. Air Force Base
- ★ Dedicated US Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt traveled by dog sled in January to lead a team ensuring that even residents in remote areas of Alaska are counted.
- ★ Specialist science teacher & NASA Dryden Ambassador Bill Mead offers hands-on training to Hawaiian Gardens magnet elementary school students on aerospace projects in the new Thomas J. Riley Multimedia Lab & Project HEART Science Discovery Lab.
- ★ NASA Jet Propulsion Lab overcame previous technical concerns to successfully send Galileo to probe Jupiter's moons, despite intense radiation & a distance of 433 million miles from Earth.
- ★ SBA Los Angeles helped our local entertainment industry by loaning money for the first time for a film ("The Gristle" about racial stereotyping).
- ★ VA Long Beach Medical Center employees Betty Ciaccio, Gary O'Guin, & Gil Hernandez let students shadow them on the job, as part of the Greater Long Beach School-to-Career Consortium.
- ★ Southern California Rideshare Diamond Award winner Dan Dickerson of L.A. Air Force Base helped make Rideshare Week '99 successful.
- ★ Congratulations go to 21 World War II Asian American recent Medal of Honor winners, including retired L.A. school-teacher Rudolph Davila, 84, whose heroism saved a rifle company from a Nazi ambush.

More **KUDOS**

- ★ Javits-Wagner-O'Day Project groundskeeper Dan Mohlman overcame severe disabilities to become a model employee at the GSA Federal Center in Bell, CA.
 - ★ HHS and IRS voluntarily have provided child care subsidies, from appropriated funds, to lower income federal employees, under OPM final regulations (www.opm.gov)
 - ★ Local Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund (FEEA, a CFC charity) scholarship winners :
 - Sarah Kellett; mother Sue, March AFB
 - Cassandra Huynh, Army L.A.
 - Collette Wieland; mother Teresa, INS L.A.
 - Tina Barbaro; father Domenic, Navy China Lake
 - Dorothy Hall, Navy Coronado
 - Eryn McChesney; father George, Navy China Lake
 - Leilani Roser; father Mark, Navy San Diego
 - Candace Webb; spouse Steven, Navy Port Hueneme
 - Michele Oberly; father Lee, Probation Long Beach
 - Katherine Tobin; father Richard, USDA Goleta
 - Christopher Diggs; father Richard Tunzi, USPS L.A.
 - Lawrence Garrett; mother Cynthia, USPS L.A.
 - Raina Hernandez; father Henry, USPS Hesperia
 - Anh Bui; father Diep, VA Long Beach
 - Amanda Johnson; father Douglas, VA San Diego
 - Brooke Silver; father Alan, VA West L.A.
 - ★ US Coast Guard (Long Beach & Port Hueneme), Navy, FAA, NTSB, & FBI served beyond the call of duty after the Alaska Airlines crash off Point Mugu. The Salvation Army helped with 20,000 meals served and 100 counseling hours completed.
 - ★ Partnering with the Salvation Army, GSA, and VA for the last 13 years, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Harry Pregerson, 76, has founded 4 local homeless shelters, which provide housing, food, counseling, and job preparation for thousands in unused federal buildings.
 - ★ The Navy at Port Hueneme and the EPA have turned a liability into an asset by overseeing a decontamination study at a toxic plume of MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether). The findings will help communities with MBTE, a carcinogen, in their drinking water, e.g., various detoxifying bacteria are being tested to convert the MBTE into harmless substances like carbon dioxide and water.
 - ★ L.A./Long Beach Blacks in Government(BIG) celebrated Public Service Recognition Week by honoring the following with awards for dedication, excellence & accomplishments: Sheila Medina, Air Force, El Segundo; Belynda Lindsey, EEOC, L.A.; Kathrene Hansen, our own FEB Executive Director; and Customs Management Center in Long Beach.
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WEB SITE CORNER

Looking for a fast way to survey your external customers? If you have \$30,000 for each customer segment, you may use the generic clearance used for the 1999 government-wide customer survey (www.customersurvey.gov) sponsored by the National Partnership for Reinventing Government. You must use the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) (www.acsi.asq.org) as a data collection method. ACSI is on the GSA mobis schedule (GS-10F-0040K-SIN 874-3. Survey Services). Contact Rhudy Tennant, 202 694 0077 or rhudy.tennant@npr.gov.

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Although the world is full of suffering, it is also filled with the overcoming of it. HELEN KELLER

Hatch Act Quiz: All 5 statements are True!