



SALINAS VALLEY  
FEDERATION OF  
T E A C H E R S

*Serving the community of Salinas for 50 years*

**TERMINATED? - HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY FOR  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE  
(LATEST INFORMATION)**

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IS NOT A “HANDOUT”.** Part of the taxes deducted from your paycheck pay for the state’s unemployment insurance program. You paid in – you’re entitled to get something back.

**WHO CAN APPLY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT:**

- ❖ **Probationary teachers** who were terminated by Board action (i.e. you didn’t resign) but not terminated for specific reasons of “misconduct”
- ❖ **Teachers hired on 12-month** or less contract terminating at the end of school
- ❖ **Long-term substitutes** with assignments ending at the end of the school year are probably eligible
- ❖ **Adult school teachers** who are part-time or full-time teachers who have no other ongoing employment are also eligible.

*Note: if you have been offered and/or accepted a summer school position, you will not be eligible until the end of the summer school session.*

**WHEN TO APPLY:** Submit your application ASAP following the last week of school on June 11<sup>th</sup>. **Most of you will be getting July or August paychecks – however, those are deferred pay checks from your September through July pay, and don’t count.**

**WHY TO FILE IMMEDIATELY?** There is an automatic one-week waiting period between when you file a claim and when you can start receiving benefits. The amount of your weekly benefit is calculated based on your preceding year’s wages. You want to include your full year’s salary as a teacher in the calculation.

**HOW TO FILE A CLAIM:** You can file a claim with the Employment Development Department in three ways:

**TELEPHONE:** 1-800-300-5616 **INTERNET:** [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov) **AT AN EDD OFFICE:**

**SALINAS:**  
730 LaGuardia (near airport)  
Tel: 796-3635  
Fax: 796-3650

**MONTEREY:**  
480 Webster Street  
Tel: 649-2925  
Fax: 649-2828

**SANTA CRUZ:**  
2045 40<sup>th</sup> Ave., Capitola  
Tel: 464-6260  
Fax: 475-1557

**WHAT TO EXPECT:** Expect the EDD office to verify the status of your termination with the Monterey County Office of Education. Depending on your base earnings, you are eligible for 12 to 26 weeks of unemployment benefits during a given year. While receiving benefits you are obliged to register with the EDD job base, actively seek work, and report weekly on your job finding progress.

**PROBLEMS OR QUESTIONS:** Call the SVFT office. The local CFT rep has a great deal of experience with unemployment claims.

### **GOLDEN HANDSHAKE LEGISLATION LURCHES FORWARD THROUGH LEGISLATURE**

Phil Moore

AB 1207, a California Federation of Teachers sponsored bill, has been making progress through the Legislature, albeit with one major setback, the ***urgency clause***. AB 1207 would reinstate two versions of the “Golden Handshake”, the teacher early retirement incentive program that expired in 1999. The **first version** would give retiring teachers two years SERVICE CREDIT. The **second version**, called the “2+2” would give retiring teachers two years SERVICE CREDIT as well as two years AGE CREDIT; a significant improvement because the STRS retirement benefit is based on age as well as on years of service. Both versions require a District to demonstrate potential savings and pay into STRS a lump sum amount, which may be paid out over a number of years. The two years service credit is expected to cost districts \$37,000 per eligible retiree, while the “2+2” is expected to cost \$90,000 per eligible retiree.

AB 1207 carried an “**urgency clause**” added by CFT so that school districts with layoffs could offer retirement incentives as an alternative. However, the urgency clause requires a two-thirds vote of the entire House to pass, and only did so by a vote of 42-0 on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The bill was amended to pass without the urgency clause, which requires only a majority vote, but this delays implementation of the bill to affect teachers who retire only after January 1, 2004.

The bill with the urgency clause is being reintroduced in the State Senate, where the probable sponsor will be Salinas’ own **Senator Jeff Denham**. Call Senator Denham at his local office – 769-8040. Action is expected soon.

**(Lindsay, I tried to bold the names of the awards, but couldn't)**  
**MEMBER NEWS:**

**CFT STATEWIDE AWARDS**

Announced at the CFT Convention,  
March 21, 2003:

**DEDICATED UNIONIST:**

Ken Dvorak, special education teacher  
at La Paz Middle School , one of many  
special education teachers to provide  
leadership in SVFT.

*EMERGING LEADERSHIP:*

Rosa Montoya, ESL teacher at Alisal High  
School and SVFT building rep for the  
last 4 years.

*POLITICAL ACTION:*

Nina Wolff, special education teacher at  
Harden Middle School, for her efforts  
encouraging teacher volunteerism  
during the Measure M campaign.

*COMMUNICATION AWARD:*

Woody Woodson, art teacher at Alisal High  
School, 3<sup>rd</sup> place for Continuing Feature  
for – *what else?* – “Mr. Fish”.

**RECUPERATING:**

Vicki Aamodt, long-time Salinas High  
counselor, presently SHS assistant principal,  
and spouse of Alan Aamodt.  
Our best wishes for her recovery.

**IN MEMORIAM:**

Gene Frassetto, retired, long-time physical  
education teacher and activities director  
at Salinas High School. Our condolences  
to his family.

## OFFICER' S COLUMN

Phil Moore

### **A FIRST STEP TO UNION UNITY AROUND HEALTH CARE:**

Many thanks to the 110 + teachers who attended last week's rally to get our health care benefits fully covered! We also thank our fellow employees the CSEA members, who are just starting their own negotiations; and our fellow public sector workers and the SEIU members from the county and Natividad Hospital, who joined to support our cause, as we have supported them. There are several lessons we need to draw from this first step . . . . .

- ❖ UNITED ACTION BRINGS STRENGTH – relying on joint action with our most active fellow unions in Salinas brings weight to all our struggles to maintain decent health care, and
- ❖ ALL PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS NEED HEALTH BENEFITS COVERED – The County of Monterey has a tiered health plan in which managers get by far the best benefits, and pay the least out of pocket each month (sound familiar?) while low-paid county employees struggle to cover high monthly deductions. Cover everybody equally.
- ❖ WE NEED TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SOLUTIONS TO THE ONGOING HEALTH CARE CRISIS COUNTY-WIDE AND STATEWIDE. Statewide, health care rates continue to soar, and state programs to fund MediCAL for uninsured families and children face major cutbacks. PERS has just announced a 26% rate increase for its health plans this coming January. Locally, our health care plan faces high expenses from two major hospitals – Salinas Valley Memorial and Community Hospital - which refuse to give meaningful discounts to health plans, and charge some of the highest rates in the state. Meanwhile, one of our best Monterey County alternatives, Natividad Hospital suffers from a crippling funding shortage which affects quality of services and which hinders many of our members from even considering it as an alternative. The community, including the ag. industry, the Board of Supervisors, the medical society and unions, are giving serious consideration to a sales tax to support Natividad Hospital services. If passed, it will give us as teachers and education employees a shot at a viable alternative for major services, which won't bleed our paychecks. Even more importantly – it will help maintain health care services for our many, many parents and students without any alternative to county services. The health of our education system depends – literally – on theirs.

Be prepared to participate in joint actions to improve health care – it's good for all of us.