

# SEA Waves



## Simi Educators Association/CTA/NEA

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President: Amanda Hogan

October 26, 2016

Issue 2

### School Board Candidate Forum

We appreciate how many SEA Members attended the PTA School Board Candidate Forum on October 20th! SEA's presence was known!!!

All five candidates were able to explain their ideas on topics such as: their background & qualifications, goals for our district, and **how they feel about making changes to medical benefits for employees.**

Please see [Political Issues #2](#) for information on SEA Endorsed Candidates and how the election could directly affect your medical benefits.

We appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedules to show how important this is! A special shout out to SEA Members: Brian Dennert (RHS) & John Downey (RHS) for moderating the event and the PTA for arranging this valuable evening!!!

Please see your SEA Rep for additional ways to help with the November Election. The decisions made at the polls will affect you, your families and our students!

The deadline to make changes in your medical benefits is **October 31st!**

Contact Stacey Shoff at 805-306-4500 ext. 4015,

### A Reprieve on any Medical Benefit Changes!

**First some background:** A few years ago SVUSD was able to join ASCIP Trust for medical benefits. This was a milestone because our district was no longer self insured. Since the district joined the ASCIP Trust, they did not have to solely absorb any large medical bills. We now share them across the many members of the trust. This was the first opportunity that we had to make this change, and it was a huge relief to be able to!

Our contract with ASCIP Trust was up for renewal on December 31, 2016. Knowing that, this year we went out to bid other trusts to make sure we were getting a competitive product for the best price. We received several bids, but what occurred was AMAZING! ASCIP Trust wanted to keep our business so they awarded Simi Valley Unified School District a ZERO percent rate increase for this next year. Therefore there will be **NO CHANGES** in medical benefits for this upcoming year! Exciting, right?!!

Not so fast!!! Some school board members have made it very clear that through the negotiations process they want to ensure/protect the district from future rate increases. Your Bargaining Team's intent is to make sure that our employees & families retain good health care coverage and plan options.

Basically, when we return to the Bargaining Table after the November election, we expect that some board members will be pressing for cost containment of our medical benefits in the form of a **cap** on district monies spent on medical benefits for each employee and/or combining medical and salary into a **total compensation package**. This would be dramatically different than how we have done business in the past! **SEA has a proven history of working with the district to make necessary changes as medical costs have increased!**

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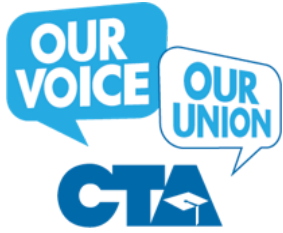
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