

# The Transportation Employees Association of Missouri

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## Central Chapter Newsletter

### WHAT'S YOUR ASSOCIATION UP TO?

The 2007-2008 legislative session is over and there is good news to report .

The House & Senate has approved a 3% Cost of Living increase for all eligible State employees and approved a \$10.00 per month increase to the Deferred Compensation fund. The Governor is expected to approve these increases later this month. The Commission will then need to approve them at their July meeting before becoming effective.

As mentioned in my previous newsletter, the Employees Association was asking for an increase of the State match up to the \$75.00 which was approved by the legislature back in 1998. The State match has been at \$25.00 since it's implementation.

With the help of our membership by

getting involved in our "Strike a Match" campaign and the support of Representative Ray Salva and other influential legislatures we have received an additional \$10.00 taking the State match to a total of \$35.00 per month.

Even though the increase may seem small it is very much appreciated. According to our lobbyist, Mr. Harry Hill, discussions on this subject seemed to renew interest in possible future increases. Members from the House and Senate indicated they would support regular increases to the plan.

This is a great opportunity for employees to increase their contributions to the Deferred Comp Plan to prepare themselves for

the retirement years. So, if your not putting \$35.00 a month into the plan I recommend getting your contribution increased to take full advantage of the State match.

Ironically, only 62% of eligible state workers participate in the deferred compensation plan. If your not involved in this plan you should be.

In closing I would like to thank everyone for getting involved in the "Strike a Match" campaign. I truly believe it was through this campaign that the spark was started that lead to the increase to this program.

Have a safe summer.

Duane Kliethermes

Central Chapter President

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### OTHER ASSOCIATION NEWS & EVENTS

Back in April we held our Employees Association/Credit Union annual meeting. A good time was had by approximately 250 people. We gave away some nice prizes, had some good fellowship, and an excellent meal.

Also, I'm sure some of you are aware that Mr. Don Hillis has started and initiative to build a memorial to recognize MoDot employees that have lost their lives in the line of duty. The Central Chapter of the Transportation Employees Association has accepted a challenge from another chapter to donate \$1000.00 to this effort. More to come on this topic.

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