



**Maryland Classified Employees Association, inc.**

## **MCEA Press Release**

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*Marilyn J. Miller, President*

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## **2008 MCEA's Annual Convention Votes Are In!**

MCEA (the oldest and largest independent labor organization serving Maryland public employees) held its 2008 Annual Convention in Ocean City, MD on October 13, 14 and 15 at the Carousel Resort & Condominiums located on 117 Street.

It was a huge success! More than 300 members, delegates, special guest speakers and officials attended and voiced their opinions to vote on making new changes and improvements for all Maryland state and county employees for the 2009 year.

Many legislative leaders were in attendance, including Ocean City Council Secretary Nancy L. Howard, Harford County Executive David R. Craig, Senator C. Anthony Muse, Delegate Galen R. Clagett, and Congressional Candidates Andy P. Harris and Frank M. Kratovil, along with MCEA Officers, Board of Directors, Area Governors, Chapter Presidents (chief delegates), designated members (delegates) and MCEA Staff.

Three pertinent agenda items were voted on and tackled at this year's Convention. First, the slot referendum was addressed. MCEA supports slots and is in favor to legalize them in Maryland. Due to the deficit Maryland is currently facing, MCEA feels the revenue of slots will aid our state's needs to assist our economy, the horse racing industry and public education, which will lead to the betterment of all public state employees. The proposed plan is to allow 15,000 slot machines at five different locations throughout Maryland.

Second, collective bargaining's service fees were discussed. Delegates overwhelmingly voted to take all steps necessary to oppose service fees. Especially at a time when state employees are being furloughed and laid off, the delegates agreed that requiring employees to pay in order to work was outrageous. MCEA will ensure everyone's best interests are at heart and will keep fighting to defeat service fee legislation.

Third, state employee furloughs were voted on. A unanimous vote opposed the imposition of furlough days for state employees and any additional efforts to solve the State's budget crisis by adversely impacting the jobs and wages of Maryland state workers.

In addition, MCEA delegates elected three new MCEA Board Members which were Barbara Thompson, Michael Miller and Jerri Spry. Their terms expire in 2010. A warm congratulations goes out to welcome them aboard.

Members and staff unwound during the evening by participating in the MCEA President's Reception and the Masquerade Banquet Awards Ceremony events. Special thanks to all our special guests, delegates, members, Convention Committee and staff for attending this year's Convention and in making your voice count. Here's to the new 2009 year - a year to remember! More information about MCEA is available at [www.mcea.org](http://www.mcea.org). For additional information, please call Vanessa DiDomenico (MCEA Communications Coordinator) at 1-888-611-MCEA, ext. 211.

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