

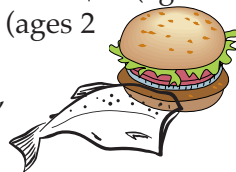
MCEA NEWS *Extra*

September 20, 2004

Maryland Classified Employees Association

Last chance for fish fry/picnic tickets

If you have not purchased your tickets for the fish fry/family picnic, you have just a few days left to do so. The fish fry will be held on Saturday, Sept. 25, from 1 to 5 p.m. at MCEA Headquarters. We'll have Chef Danny Day's tasty fried fish (all you can eat), hot dogs, salads, beverages, and beer. There will be card games, board games, D. J. Dai Rock, and raffles for two weekend getaways. Tickets are \$17 (ages 13 and up), \$8 (ages 6 to 12), and \$3 (ages 2 to 5). Call Barbara Mitchell at 410-298-8800 or 1-888-611-MCEA, ext. 204 for tickets, or you may purchase them at the door.



Health insurance rates still undecided

Employees and retirees are anxiously awaiting the 2005 State medical, dental, and prescription drug rates, and the Department of Budget and Management is working with consultants to finalize them. It remains to be seen how much premiums will increase and whether prescription co-pays will remain the same. The Board of Public Works approved 5-year contracts for CareFirst and MAMSI to offer PPOs; Aetna, CareFirst, and MAMSI/MD IPA to offer POS plans; and CareFirst Blue Choice, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, and MAMSI/Optimum Choice to offer HMOs. Open enrollment is expected to take place in November since health benefits fairs are scheduled for Nov. 1-22. MCEA will keep you informed.

Past President Ogle runs for pension board



Ruth Ann Ogle, an MCEA Past President, is a candidate for the Maryland State Retirement and Pension Systems Board of Trustees. The seat, left vacant as a result of the death of Past President Art Caple, expires July 2005.

The State Retirement Agency mailed ballots to employees and retirees on Sept. 13. Those who have not received a ballot by Sept. 21 should call the

Election Services Corporation at 1-866-720-4357 to request one.

Bowie State police ratify contract

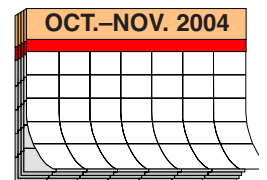
MCEA and the sworn police officers at Bowie State University are awaiting the University System of Maryland's final approval of their collective bargaining contract. The officers ratified their Memorandum of Understanding on Sept. 3. The MOU grants them a \$1 increase in shift differential and two additional personal leave days.

Not too late to register for the Convention; Ande Fulton added to speaker list

The 2004 Convention is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 25 through Wednesday, Oct. 27 in Ocean City. Andrea Fulton, Executive Director of the Office of Personnel Services and Benefits, has been added to our distinguished list of speakers. On Wednesday at 11 .m., she will give delegates the latest on the special pay plan, health insurance, and status of collective bargaining. The registration fee is \$50 for delegates and \$45 for non-delegates. To make sure your chapter is represented, forward your registration form and payment to Barbara Mitchell at Headquarters, 7127 Rutherford Rd., Baltimore, MD 21244. Information packets will be mailed to paid delegates on Sept. 24.

Important dates: Mark your calendar

Oct. 21 – Board of Directors Meeting
Oct. 25-27 – MCEA Convention, Roland E. Powell Convention Center
Nov. 5 – Area IV Meeting, Antietam Family Restaurant, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 8 – Chapter Presidents Orientation, MCEA Headquarters. Details to come.
Nov. 9 – TEAM General Membership Meeting, 6:30 p.m. MCEA Headquarters.
Nov. 18 – Board of Directors Meeting



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