# MCEA NEWS *Extra*

June 2004 Maryland Classified Employees Association

## USM Regents approve Frostburg MOU

The collective bargaining agreement between MCEA and the Frostburg State University sworn police unit is a done deal. The FSU President signed the 3-year Memorandum of Understanding, and on June 23, the University System of Maryland Board of Regents approved it. The contract is effective in July.

## State positions eliminated

At the recommendation of the Department of Budget and Management, the Board of Public Works approved $30.2 million in reductions for the FY05 budget. Approximately 361 positions were eliminated; 43 were filled, mostly from the Departments of Health and Mental Hygiene and Human Resources. The affected employees will receive four weeks pay and 100 percent employer-paid health benefits through October 2004.

## New MCEA benefit: Notary Service

MCEA members can take advantage of our notary service which is available at Headquarters. This service is free for members, but you must call for an appointment. For more information, contact Philip Deitchman, Labor Relations Specialist, at 410-298-8800 or 1-888-611-MCEA, ext. 218.

## When will the COLAs arrive?

As you know, the $752 cost-of-living adjustment and step increases is effective July 1. The first bi-weekly payment for regular State employees will be pro-rated in their July 10 paychecks and for University System of Maryland in their July 16 checks.

## Last chance to petition for a Board seat

Members interested in running for the Board of Directors may go through the petitioning process. To get your name on the ballot, you must collect 200 signatures of members, with the last four digits of their Social Security numbers. A copy of the chapter meeting minutes that show a motion approving your candidacy was made, seconded, and passed must accompany your petition. Petitions must be received at Headquarters on or before July 1. For details on the petitioning process, refer to the MCEA Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 3. Call Barbara Mitchell at MCEA , 410-298-8800 or 1-888-611-MCEA with any questions you have.

Another way to become a candidate is to run "from the floor."Again, refer to the Bylaws for specifics.

## Tawes crab feast, scholarship cruise tickets available

**July 21, Tawes Crab Feast and Clam Bake**, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Crisfield. Contact MCEA's Salisbury office for tickets ($30) at 1-888-610-MCEA.

**Aug. 21, Cruise on the Bay Lady**, 11:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Baltimore Inner Harbor. Tickets $30. Call Barbara Mitchell at MCEA Headquarters or Joan Queen, Memorial Scholarship Chair, at 301-860-4190.

## Plan to attend the Convention

This year's Convention will be held on Oct. 25-27 at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City. The headquarters hotel is the Princess Royale, 91st Street and Ocean. A discounted room rate of $67.48, including safe fee and tax, is available Oct. 24-28. For reservations, call 1-800-476-9253 and identify yourself as an MCEA member. The Princess Bayside, located on 48th Street, is the alternate hotel. The discounted rate is $55 for a bayside room and $45 for a standard room. The rate includes the safe and tax, and is good for Oct. 24 – Oct. 26. Call 1-800-854-9785 for reservations.

Registration is $40 for delegates and $35 for non-delegates. A $10 late fee will be charged for any registrations received after Aug. 16. Registration packets are being mailed to Chapter Presidents. For more information, contact Barbara Mitchell at 410-298-8800 or -1-888-611-MCEA, ext. 204.

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