

MCEA NEWS *Extra*

May 2005

Maryland Classified Employees Association

Health benefits open enrollment in progress

Open enrollment will take place May 25 through June 15 and cover the period of July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. Participants will receive a benefits statement and booklet. Current benefits will carry over unless you make a change.

Other Highlights:

- Prescription drug co-pays are \$5/\$15/\$25 with a \$700 out-of-pocket cap per family per benefit year. Once you reach that limit, you will not have to pay any additional co-pays. Caremark, the provider, will keep track and ensure that.
- For prescription quantities of 1 to 45 days, you will pay one co-pay. For quantities of 46 to 90 days will be two co-pays.
- Premiums for prescription drugs have decreased up to around \$4 bi-weekly. Medical premiums appear to have risen by about 10 percent to 11 percent.
- Premium changes in the dental premiums are nominal.

A Q-and-A on the prescription drug program, the rate charts, and various forms are accessible from the Department of Budget and Management's Web site at www.dbm.state.md.us.

Governor signs MCEA grievance settlement bill

On May 26, Governor Ehrlich signed House Bill 922, legislation that will require the Secretary of Budget and Management to determine whether an agency that employs a grievant will accept a grievance settlement. The employee will retain his/her right to appeal to the Office of Administrative Hearing. The bill is effective Oct. 1, 2005.

Ratke the new 2nd Vice President

Sandy Ratke, a University System of Maryland employee and longtime MCEA member, is MCEA's new 2nd Vice President. She will complete a two-year term that expires Sine Die of this year's Convention. Sandy is chair of the Convention Committee, USM Steering Committee, WAGE Committee, and a member of the Bylaws, Legislative, and Internal Audit Committees.

Vote Joseph Bryce for Pension Board of Trustees

The MCEA Board of Directors endorsed Joseph Bryce for the State Retirement and Pension System Board of Trustees. Members and retirees will receive election voting information the first week or June. MCEA urges participants to cast their vote for Mr. Bryce, who has experience in fiscal and pension matters.

Get your Convention registrations in

The Convention will be held Sept. 19-20-21 at the Roland E.

Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, with the election of a President, other Officers, and Board members topping the agenda. You may make your reservations at Princess Royale Bayside, the headquarters hotel, by calling 410-723-2900 or 1-800-854-9785. The alternate hotel is Ramada Limited, which may be contacted at 410-289-6488 or 1-800-288-6488. Don't forget, the earlier you send in your paid registrations, the lower the fee. Delegates are \$35 and non-delegates \$30 through June 30; delegates \$40, non-delegates \$35 July 1 through Aug. 31; and delegates \$45 and non-delegates \$40 ; after Aug. 31. Contact Barbara Mitchell at MCEA Headquarters, 410-298-8800 or 1-888-611-6232, ext. 204.

Take note of these upcoming deadlines

* Bylaws proposals - June 3

* Petitions for the Officer and Board of Directors - July 1.

For more information, contact Barbara Mitchell at MCEA.

Mark your calendar for these activities

Moonlight Bowl, June 11, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Annapolis Bowl, 2057 Generals Highway, Annapolis. Bowlers \$20, non-bowlers \$10. For tickets, contact Mary Herndon at 410-269-6993 or 1-888-613-MCEA, 204.

Hagerstown Suns vs. Lake County Captains baseball game, Saturday, July 23, Municipal Stadium in Hagerstown. Picnic 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Game 7:05 p.m. For tickets, call Lonnie Sleaster at 301-766-9319. This event is sponsored by Area IV.

Crab feast tickets discounted for early birds

MCEA's "We Are Family" Crab Feast and Fish Fry will be held Saturday, July 30, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Headquarters. There will be a \$5 discount on adult tickets (\$35 for ages 13 and up) purchased prior to June. Or, you may purchase a family four-pack of 2 adult tickets and 2 junior tickets for \$100. The \$5 children's tickets will remain at that price. Call Barbara Mitchell.

Workplace training sessions scheduled

Empower yourself with knowledge on workplace issues, key personnel regulations, and recruitment. The Membership Committee has scheduled training sessions, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., for members interested in building MCEA. They are as follows: Areas I and II, June 13, MCEA Headquarters; Area III, MCEA Annapolis office, June 27; Area IV, MCEA Cumberland office, July 15, and Hagerstown Library, July 18; Area V, date and location tbd. Call Phil Deitchman at 1-888-611-MCEA.

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