

# MCEA NEWS *Extra*

July 2004

Maryland Classified Employees Association

## **DJS begins reclassifications, upgrades**

The General Assembly approved \$4 million to reclassify about 1,200 Department of Juvenile Services direct care positions effective July 1, and employees had a lot of questions about the process. To obtain information, MCEA met with Office of Personnel Services and Benefits and DJS representatives. The reclassifications are not automatic; employees who meet newly established criteria will receive an increase of approximately 6 percent. About 800 employees have been reclassified effective July 1, and others will be processed as they meet the eligibility criteria. MCEA has asked for a more effective process where DJS communicates to employees how the reclassifications will work, and notifies them of the eligibility criteria, their new titles and duties, and salary grades and steps.

## **MCEA wins termination case for Officer, travel pay for Auditors**

A Correctional Officer with the Maryland House of Correction Annex had his termination overturned, thanks to MCEA. The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and MCEA were scheduled to participate in a settlement conference, but the DPSCS representative did not appear. As a result, the Department of Budget and Management entered a default, and the case was forwarded to the Office of Administrative Hearings. OAH ruled that management was properly notified of the hearing date and did not show good cause for why it was not available for the settlement conference, and ordered the Officer returned to work with back pay and benefits. Because MCEA attorneys represent members for disciplinary terminations, Lisa O'Mara, Esq. represented the Officer before OAH.

MCEA won another case, which involves a group of Auditors who were denied pay for the commute from their homes to work sites other than their assigned locations. OAH ruled that the travel policy the Comptroller's office was using was wrong. Management must pay the employees from the time they leave their homes to the time they arrive at their alternate work site. Philip Deitchman, Labor Relations Specialist, represented the Auditors.

## **Workplace training set for July 14**

If you have not signed up for the Workplace Coordinator training program, do it today. The three-hour training will help build our union by empowering members to be grassroots leaders and recruiters. The Areas I and II session is scheduled for July 14, 6 to 9 p.m. at MCEA Headquarters. RSVP by July 9 to Phil Deitchman, 410-298-8800 ext. 218. Training for Areas III, IV, and V are scheduled for Aug. 7, 9, and 23, respectively.

## **Memorial plaque nominations sought**

The Building Committee is soliciting nominations for the Memorial Plaque, located in the Headquarters lobby. If you know of a deceased member whom you believe should be honored with an engraved name plate on the plaque, please submit his/her name, chapter, chapter and statewide office, and committee positions held to MCEA, Building Committee, 7127 Rutherford Road, Baltimore, MD 21244. Contact Barbara Mitchell at 410-298-8800 ext. 204 with any questions you have.

## **Notary service also available in Annapolis**

MCEA's newest member benefit, a free notary service, is available at Headquarters and the Annapolis office. For an appointment, contact Mary Herndon, 410-269-6993 or 1-888-613-MCEA or 613-MCEA or Philip Deitchman, 410-298-8800 or 1-888-611-MCEA, ext. 218.

## **New MCEA staffer hired**

Gail Tate-Buntin has joined the MCEA staff as Executive Assistant. Ms. Buntin will assume the duties of Field Services Secretary for Areas I and II, as well as the assistant to the President, Board of Directors, and Interim Executive Director. Ms. Buntin will work out of the Headquarters office and can be reached on ext. 227.

## **Tawes crab feast 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.

7127 Rutherford Road • Baltimore, MD 21244 • 410-298-8800 or 1-888-611-MCEA • www.mcea.org

**MCEA ... Our Most Important Job Is Yours!**