

MCEA NEWS *Extra*

August 2005

Maryland Classified Employees Association

Time for action on prescription plan

The more than quadrupling of prescription drug co-pays is placing an extreme hardship on State employees and retirees. It's time to stop complaining and swing into action. We must all work together to ensure that future health care premiums and co-pays are reduced to affordable levels.

To address the exorbitant prescription drug increases, MCEA has organized a coalition of employees, retirees, and other supporters. The Coalition for Affordable Health Care Costs (CAHCC) is being chaired by Linda Day, a member of the Board of Directors.

A town hall meeting has been set for **Thursday, Sept. 8, 5:30 p.m., in the auditorium of the state office building at 300 W. Preston St. in Baltimore.** Legislators and other elected officials are being invited.

To find out what you can do now and to download a flyer with more details, go to www.mcea.org. For more information call Alice Nelson, Labor Relations Specialist and coalition advisor, at 410-298-8800 or 1-888-611-MCEA ext. 231, or Linda Day, coalition chair, at 410-585-2592.

MCEA wins upgrade for Case Managers

MCEA says, "Way to go!" to a group of Case Managers, led by Larry Kump and Tom Nittingher, who worked long and hard to win their colleagues a pay upgrade.

According to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the Governor just approved a two-pay grade increase for Case Management Specialist IIs, Supervisors, and Managers, and one-grade increase for Case Management Specialist Is. This is retroactive to July 1.

Have you registered for the MCEA Convention?

The annual Convention is quickly approaching. This year's session will be held Sept. 19-21 at the Ocean City Convention Center.

If you want a voice and vote in electing the President, other Officers, and Board of Directors members to lead the union for the next two years, plan to attend and participate in this most important Convention.

Among the speakers is Andrea Fulton, Executive Director of Personnel Services and Benefits, who will give the latest on personnel issues.

If you haven't registered, do so today. Mail in your completed registration form with the fees of \$40 per delegate and \$35 per non-delegate. After Aug. 31, the fees increase by \$5.

Convention packets are being mailed to registered delegates on Aug. 19. Please review the information, and come prepared for business and socializing. The packets include the following:

- MCEA News Extra
- Letter to Conventioneers
- Delegate Badge, Dinner Dance Ticket, and telephone numbers to hotels (Princess Bayside (headquarters hotel and Ramada Limited) -
- Lyrics - National Anthem, America the Beautiful, Battle Hymn of the Republic
- List of MCEA Chapters by Areas
- Flyers: Social Events, MCEA Conventioneers "Ride Free"
- Release time letter
- MCEA Board of Directors 2005 Roll Call Votes
- Chapter Roll Call Votes as of March 31, 2005
- Request for Committee Appointments
- Convention Survey

The Budget, Legislative, Resolutions, and Bylaws Committee reports will be published in the August/September *MCEA News* and on the Web site.

Crab feast and baseball night a fun time

More than 150 members and friends enjoyed the annual crab blast and fish fry held July 30 in MCEA Headquarters. In addition to a great menu, the event, organized by the Membership Committee (Marilyn Miller, Chair) featured door prizes, children's activities, and a money wheel.

MCEA also hosted a fabulous get-together at Camden Yards on Aug. 12. Although the Orioles lost, members and friends were winners with the fun-in-the-sun bullpen party, or should we say, feast.

Watch for photos on these events on www.mcea.org.

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

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