



MEA NEWSLETTER

August 2009

MEA General Membership Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2009, San Francisco Main Library
Refreshments at 5:00 pm, Meeting 6:00 to 8:00 pm

Special Guests at 6:30 p.m.
Aaron Peskin in Conversation
with Chronicle Reporter Rachel Gordon
Politics, People...and Q & A

Location: Latino/Hispanic Rooms A&B at the SF Main Library, 100 Larkin Street at Grove. The Library is closed on Monday nights, so please plan to arrive before 6:00 p.m. If you arrive after 6:00 p.m., you can enter at the far right door of the Grove Street entrance by calling the security office at 415-557-4357. Refreshments available at 5pm.

RSVP to staff@sfmea.com

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Retirement Board Election Underway – Nominations Due September 18

A Retirement Board seat will become vacant in February 2010. The election of a replacement will be held during the period from Monday January 18, 2010 to Monday, February 1, 2010. You are eligible to run if you are an active or retired member of the San Francisco Retirement System. All active and retired members of the San Francisco Retirement System are eligible to vote. Nomination forms are available through the MEA office.

Court Closure Agreement Reached – Ratification Pending

As a result of the State Budget mandating ten (10) court closure days statewide, MEA, IFPTE Local 21 and SEIU 1021 held a joint meet and confer session with the Courts to discuss implementation of the closures. They key elements of the tentative agreement reached, and scheduled for a ratification vote on September 24 are:

- No work on the ten (10) court closure days
- Blanket job protection through the end of 2009 (No layoffs)
- Conditional job protection January 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010 linked to payroll performance and no further cuts from the AOC
- Vacation and sick leave accrual rates unchanged
- No adverse impact on retirement
- Payouts upon separation at higher wage rates
- Agreement Sunsets on June 30, 2010 with all rates restored
- A reduction in the hourly rate that smoothes the impact of the ten (10) court closure days over the September 1, 2009-June 30, 2010 time period

Leadership Development Program Starts in September at SFSU

The Leadership Development Program offered by the Willie L. Brown, Jr. Leadership Center at San Francisco State University is one of the elements designed to carry out the Brown Center's mission of connecting the University and local public service opportunities in the three county area of San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin. The specific goal of the leadership program is to assist local governments in the education and training of their executive workforce for the 21st century. This goal is in sync with MEA's mission and MEA Management Training Funds are available for participation in this program which has three phases:

- Pre-workshop consultation - Both participant and nominating party will jointly complete a questionnaire focusing on expected learning and development objectives. Participants will also have a short telephone interview with the program facilitator.
- Workshop – This 3-day program will combine workshops on communication, conflict management, emotional intelligence, change readiness/risk taking, and career development with presentations from regional political and public affairs officials. Both individual and panel presentations will focus on the political and public policy context affecting a successful career as a public executive. At the end of the workshop, participants will receive a certificate of completion from the Brown Center.
- Follow-up and Reinforcement – Participants will meet together at least quarterly over the course of one year after completion of the workshop. They will also be paired with a fellow participant over the course of that year to offer mutual support and encouragement in reaching the goals developed in the workshop.

Application Process: Applicants must be nominated by their immediate supervisor or manager. Participants will be notified of their acceptance at least two weeks prior to the start of the formal program. The program costs \$850.00 and is held September 28–October 1, 2009 at the San Francisco State University Downtown Center. Nomination forms are due by **September 11, 2009 and are available through the MEA Office.** For questions about the program or the nomination process, please contact Ms. Carmen Clark at 415-242-0302. Participants will be notified by email of their acceptance no later than September 15, 2009.

MEA Management Training – Changes Come October 2009

Starting in October of 2009 you will no longer submit your completed reimbursement packets to DHR but rather to a designated labor relations rep in your department. MEA will be working with DHR on departmental training in mid-September and the specific individuals to whom submissions must be made will be available prior to the October conversion. For more information on this or any other element of the MEA Management Training Program please contact Raquel@sfmea.com.

2nd Notice: Firm Deadline for Flexible Spending Account (FSA) and Miscellaneous Reimbursement Account Claims:

Any and all claims for your 2008-2009 FSA must be postmarked no later than September 30, 2009. **You will forfeit any money left in your FSA after the end of the claim filing period. There are no exceptions to this rule.** Claims under the 2008-2009 Miscellaneous Reimbursement Account must be made by the same deadline. Forms for FSA and Miscellaneous Reimbursement Account claims are available online at www.myhss.org by clicking on the Management Cafeteria Plan link. Key Cafeteria Plan phone numbers include: EBS Plan Administrator: 800-229-7683, Fringe Benefits Management Company (FBMC) Customer Service: 800-342-8017, FBMC Automated Interactive 24 Hour Line: 800-865-3262. FBMC handles Healthcare and Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts. EBS handles Miscellaneous Reimbursement Accounts.