



MEA NEWSLETTER - March 2008

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Open Enrollment:

It is again that time of year when you can make changes in your Medical, Dental and “Management Cafeteria” Benefit Plans. This years “open enrollment” period runs from April 1-April 30. All participants in the Management Cafeteria Plan are ***required*** to schedule an enrollment appointment to allocate your available benefit credits for the 2008-2009 plan year. ***Virtually everyone must make and go to an appointment – EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT CHANGING ANYTHING – in order to allocate the available credits of \$300.10/semi-monthly (Note: In FY 08-09, employee premium co-payments will be deducted twice monthly, for a total of 24 deductions per year).***

The medical choices will be unchanged this year: Kaiser, Blue Shield, Pacific Care, and PPO City Health Plan. Every year a few MEA members lose their non-medical coverage choices because they don’t make and keep an appointment to renew those choices. Please don’t inadvertently lose a benefit that you are entitled to. **Call Employee Benefit Specialists (EBS) at 800 229-7683 for an appointment today.**

Open Enrollment Site: 1145 Market Street, 2nd Floor, 8am-4:30pm with Health Plan Vendors on site April 14th-25th. On-site enrollment will also be available at SFO on April 9, 2008, 9am-4pm in Terminal 1 Conference Room A. No onsite enrollment will be offered at City Hall due to space availability.

Court Employees – EBS will not be able to process your enrollments until the dollar value of available credits for 2008-2009 is determined in bargaining. Accommodations will be made as needed.

BENEFIT PLAN UPDATES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

MEDICAL PLANS

City Health Plan PPO:	No Plan Changes for Plan Year 2008-2009
Blue Shield HMO:	No Plan Changes for Plan Year 2008-2009
Kaiser HMO:	No Plan Changes for Plan Year 2008-2009
PacifiCare HMO:	No Plan Changes for Plan Year 2008-2009

DENTAL PLANS

Delta Dental:	No Plan Changes for Plan Year 2008-2009
Pacific Union Dental:	No Plan Changes for Plan Year 2008-2009
DeltaCare USA:	No Plan Changes for Plan Year 2008-2009

VISION PLAN

The network frame allowance under the Vision Service Plan (VSP) will increase from \$130 to \$150. As a reminder, all HSS members enrolled in a medical plan receive vision benefits through VSP. Refer to your Benefits Guide for details.

Equipment Program Continued:

At its' regular monthly meeting in March, the MEA Board of Directors voted to extend the MEA Equipment Program through the end of the fiscal year – June 30, 2008. To date, more than \$200,000 has been reimbursed or allocated from the MEA Management Training Fund surplus for equipment purchases. The Board has determined that there is additional funding available to warrant the programs' continuation. **Effective June 30, 2008 the program will be suspended and any outstanding "OK to buy" letters or emails from MEA that have not resulted in purchases prior to June 30 will be deemed void.** Applications are available on-line at www.sfmea.com or through the MEA office.

Note on Management Training:

Article IV: Training, Career Development and Incentives specifically states in Section D: "The City shall reimburse members for the cost of required professional licenses, certificates and memberships." Please submit those requests for reimbursement directly to your department rather than to the MEA Management Training Fund.

Staff Changes at MEA:

MEA is pleased to announce that Raquel Silva has agreed to accept the vacant staff position of Union Administrator and will be starting in April. Raquel brings years of experience with professional unions, most recently as Executive Director of CASE. Please welcome Raquel next time you contact the office. We are extremely lucky to have someone of her caliber and expertise join us at MEA.

Of Note:

- Laguna Honda's Chief Nursing Officer, Mivic Hirose, has been named "Administrator of the Year," an award given by AANAC (American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordinators) conference that took place in Baltimore, Maryland last month.
- Laguna Honda itself will be receiving a Business Leadership Award from Jewish Vocational Services, on April 9, because of its achievement in creating a "Healthcare Career Ladder Initiative" to hire and retrain employees to fill needed healthcare jobs.
- Clare M. Murphy, Executive Director of the SF Employees' Retirement System will be honored by the San Francisco Forum at their 30th Annual San Franciscan of the Year Dinner on Thursday, May 29, 2008. For more information contact Daniel Mattracce at 415-364-2005.

Please email other notable news about MEA managers to staff@sfmea.com subject: Of Note

Leadership San Francisco Application Deadline:

Applications for Leadership San Francisco's SIGNATURE PROGRAM Class of 2009 are due on April 11. They are currently available by mail or online. For more information please visit www.leadershipsf.org or contact Dianne Easton. MEA scholarships for LSF will be considered by the Board in early April. Tuition reimbursement of up to \$2,000 under the MEA Management Training Program is also available for 2009. 2008 MEA scholarship recipients were Delvecchio Finley and Emily Murase.