

MEA NEWSLETTER

March 2007

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President Eileen Hirst's Report:

Rebecca Rhine Steps In as Ed Lieberman Retires – After more than four years as Executive Director, Ed Lieberman has retired, and the Board – after a lengthy process – has hired veteran labor rep Rebecca Rhine as the new Executive Director. Rebecca comes to MEA with years of experience representing and bargaining for broadcasters, actors and sound recording artists at AFTRA and SAG in San Francisco, lecturers and librarians at UC-AFT and, most recently, a broad range of State of California employees at SEIU Local 1000. In addition, Rebecca headed up AFTRA's National Communications, Public Policy and Strategic Planning Departments.

In addition to Rebecca, **Bob Boileau** has agreed to stay on in an expanded role as Deputy Director of MEA, which will include administering the MEA Tuition Reimbursement Program and other representation duties.

As the Board continues to evolve and refine its oversight of the Association's operations, strategic planning and vision, members should begin to see increased outreach and enhanced programs. Please join the Board in welcoming Rebecca to MEA.

Other News:

Housing Authority – As reported in January, an agreement was reached on this contract, which was subsequently ratified by the Housing Authority members. It will be posted on the website in the very near future.

Fire and Police – Both of these agreements are scheduled to expire in July and discussions are now underway.

Open Enrollment – It is again that time of year when you can make changes in your “cafeteria” benefit plans. This year's “open enrollment” period runs from April 2-22.

Virtually everyone must make and go to an appointment – EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT CHANGING ANYTHING.

There will be non-appointment walk-in opportunities on April 10 at the Airport - Terminal One, Conference Room A, 9-4, and on April 11, 18, 25 at City Hall, Room 34, 9-4.

HealthNet will no longer be offered after July. The medical choices will be Kaiser, Blue Shield, Pacific Care, and PPO City Health Plan.

Every year we have a few members who lose their non-medical coverage choices because they don't make and keep an appointment to renew their choices. Please don't throw away your hard bargained money. **Call 800 229-7683 for an appointment today.**

Tuition Reimbursement for Training Travel and Accommodation– As part of the last contract settlement, MEA secured travel reimbursement of 50% for travel and accommodation expenses related to training covered under the MEA Tuition Reimbursement Program. Many MEA members are now taking advantage of this added benefit intended to facilitate their professional development. Contact Bob for further information.

B&C Adjustments Extension – As implementation of the Management Classification and Compensation Plan (MCCP) continues, year 1 of the range B & C adjustments is almost over. Many departments have utilized all of the funds allocated to them to recognize their employees, but as of this date, a few – most notably PUC, GSA and Human Services – have not yet made any requests for adjustments. The deadline for getting those requests into DHR was Friday, March 17, although it is possible to submit a few days late. You should encourage your departments to take full advantage of this funding while it is still available.

Membership Meeting– Look for notice of a membership meeting to be held in mid-May.

MEA Board – Monthly Board Meetings are open to any MEA member who wishes to attend. They are typically scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm. Please let the office know if you will be attending.

A Contest Next month – April – is an interesting month. April Fools’ Day, Buddha’s birthday, Income Tax Filing Day, National Sense of Smell Day, Earth Day, Arbor Day, Take our Daughters & Sons to Work Day, First day of Summer (Iceland), Egg Salad Week, Turn Off the TV Week, Nat’l Library Week, Be Kind to Animals Week, and the anniversaries of the assassinations of Abraham Lincoln and Dr. Martin Luther King. The one this contest is focused on is National Publicity Stunt Week.

Here’s the deal – You conjure up an idea for a Publicity Stunt that would bring positive public attention to your department, the City of SF, or to MEA members in general. Write it up as concisely as possible including the projected benefits, and send it to us. Tell us if we can use your name & department if your idea is chosen. Our crew of geniuses will make up its criteria as it goes along and will pick one entry. The originator will get a \$50 gift certificate at the SF restaurant of your choice and the admiration of all MEA members when the idea is published in our next Newsletter. Maintain professional standards, and get it to us by Friday April 20, 2007.

IMS Trainings April 4, 2007 Dr. Carol Kinsey Goman: “Achieving Your Full Leadership Potential: The Power of Collaboration” This interactive seminar shows how you can make shared knowledge – collaboration - work with your staff to increase productivity.

April 18, 2007 Dr. Rick Brandon: “Organizational Savvy: How To Leverage Your Influence and Your Impact” Successful leaders know how to manage organizational politics and use them to their benefit. This seminar shows how.

These seminars, which normally cost \$195.00, are free to MEA members. Make your reservation by calling us with your name, department, phone #, and the seminar you want to attend.

Municipal Executives’ Association 890 Market Street Suite 460 San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 989-7244 Fax: (415) 989-7077 Email: staff@sfmea.com