



MEA NEWSLETTER

November 2011

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MEA 2nd Quarter 11-12 General Membership Meeting and Holiday Gathering
Monday, November 14, 2011 at 6pm
PLEASE RSVP

Agenda Includes
Presentation on Upcoming CCSF and MTA Negotiations
November Election Results Debrief
Update on Court Negotiations and MEA Strategic Plan

The meeting will be held at San Francisco Main Library Latino/Hispanic Rooms A&B, 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. Please remember to RSVP by emailing staff@sfmea.com or calling 415-989-7244. Refreshments are available starting at 5:30pm.

Yes on C/No on D Campaign in Home Stretch

We are getting close to the November 8th Election and the culmination of our campaign to pass Proposition C and defeat Proposition D. Recent polls show we are making steady progress, but more than a third of voters – enough to tip the election – remain undecided. That means if we continue working hard up until the end, we will likely win.

In the final days of the campaign, you may be asked why we are supporting Proposition C when it will cost City employees, including MEA members, \$1.3 billion over the next ten years. We would like to remind you of the answer.

In the 2008 economic downturn, the San Francisco Employee Retirement System lost over \$3.5 billion dollars. While some of the retirement fund value has returned, it will take years to fully recover. Unfortunately, actuarial rules require that losses be recognized and made up over a very short period of time. If the market doesn't dramatically rebound, the City will have to pick up the difference. This means that your colleagues, and perhaps even you, could face layoffs and residents and visitors could lose valuable services and programs they depend upon.

Most of us know that financial recklessness on Wall Street caused the economic meltdown. Even so, while we continue to push for accountability and reform, the immediate burden of making sure our benefits are sustainable will fall on the City and middle-class workers like us.

The 280 pages of Proposition C reflect over five months of work and of the expertise of legal and actuarial analysts to craft a fair solution that will maintain retirement security for current, future and retired employees. It will also take a modest step towards pre-funding retiree health care as part of a comprehensive benefit sustainability plan. It is supported by every major San Francisco public employee union, the SF Labor Council, the entire Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, SPUR, the Human Services Network and the Chamber of Commerce. It has received the endorsement of every major newspaper and political leader in San Francisco.

We hope that the passage of Prop. C will put the retirement issue to rest but we are not going to engage in magical thinking. Those who have longer-term career goals with San Francisco also have an interest in the financial health of the City, our employer. We want taxes to be fair and produce revenues that match the program needs of San Franciscans. We want City funds to be spent intelligently and the services we provide to be top quality, efficient and helpful to the people we serve. It is in this spirit that we stepped up and developed Proposition C and are now working hard to get it passed.

It is imperative that we do two things on November 8:

- **Pass Prop C** – the comprehensive, consensus measure that strengthens our health and retirement systems
- **Defeat Prop D** – the mean-spirited attack on public employees funded by two anti-union billionaires who don't have to worry about their retirement security

Between now and Election Day next Tuesday, please stop by the MEA office to pick up a window sign. If you have a couple of hours, please contact us at staff@sfmea.com or go to www.yesoncnoond.com and sign up to phone bank or participate in literature drops during the last days before the election. There are activities Saturday-Tuesday and everyone is needed. As we learned with Proposition B last year, if we engage in a dialogue with the voters that highlights our common interest in and commitment to the City's success, we can prevail.

MEA Board of Directors Names Newest Member

The MEA Board of Directors welcomes new member Crispin Hollings (PUC). Crispin was named by the Board to replace longtime MEA Board Member Sharyn Saslafsky (PUC). MEA would like to offer its deepest appreciation to Sharyn for her many years of valued service to MEA and its members citywide.

CCSF Equipment Program Currently Maxed Out for 11-12

As of October 7, the CCSF Equipment Program has allocated all of the funding available for the purchase of laptops, PDAs and iPads. Requests received but not processed will be held. They may be processed if additional funding becomes available as a result of approved purchases not being made.

MEA Board:

Eileen Hirst, President
David German, VP
Vacant, Secretary

Mary Fitzpatrick, Treasurer

Rafael Centeno
Florence Cheng
Mark Culkins

Crispin Hollings

Martha Knutzen
Matt Smyth
Bob Thomas

Staff:

Rebecca Rhine
Raquel Silva