



## MEA NEWSLETTER

October 2011

### In this issue:

- **Hold the Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. MEA Meeting Monday, November 14**
- **Volunteers Needed Now for the Yes on C/No on D Campaign**
- **CCSF Miscellaneous Bargaining to Commence in Late 2011**
- **Equipment Program Currently Maxed Out for 11-12**
- **Financial Reprieve for Courts and SFHA**
- **Updated Website at [www.sfmea.com](http://www.sfmea.com) Set to Launch Oct 17<sup>th</sup>**

### Hold the Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. MEA Meeting Monday, November 14

MEA will hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Membership Meeting on Monday, November 14 from 6-8pm at the SF Public Library. The agenda will include a discussion of the election results, and a presentation on upcoming citywide negotiations – including a tentative timeline and process as well as a review of potential proposals.

### **Volunteers Needed Now for the Yes on C/No on D Campaign**

**Opportunities exist up to and including Election Day to help pass Proposition C and defeat Proposition D. The consensus reform measure – Prop C - was developed over many months based upon a factual analysis of the situation and input from the employees who will have to sacrifice. That process - honoring the basic principles of collective bargaining – stands in stark contrast to the development of Prop D - written by one man and put on the ballot by two billionaires for \$5 per signature. It is important to show the people of San Francisco that difficult issues can and should be tackled collaboratively, and that public employees are their partners and share their commitment to good public policy that protects public services and programs. You can sign up for the MEA phone bank (every Monday night) or for upcoming literature drops (October 22 and November 2) by contacting us at [staff@sfmea.com](mailto:staff@sfmea.com) Subject: Yes on C/No on D Campaign. Detailed information is available at [www.yesoncnood.com](http://www.yesoncnood.com).**

### CCSF Miscellaneous Bargaining to Commence in Late 2011

It appears that MEA will soon be bargaining its largest contract covering approximately 850 managers working for the City and County of San Francisco. The MEA Board of Directors will begin to identify and name the bargaining committee members within the next 30 days while the staff compiles a list of issues and proposals based upon experience under the MOU during its current term. That information will then be presented to the membership at the November 14 meeting. If you are interested in serving on the bargaining committee or have proposals you would like to submit for consideration, please contact the MEA office at [staff@sfmea.com](mailto:staff@sfmea.com) Subject: Misc. Bargaining 2011. Because of recent Charter changes, the timeline for bargaining is tighter than in the past so, as a result, the process will move quickly. If we do not have your home email address you may not get timely notification of issues and decisions so make sure we have a current personal email on file.

### Equipment Program Currently Maxed Out for 11-12

In FY 11-12, the MEA Board allocated \$125,000 of MEA Management Training Funds towards the equipment program and for the first time MEA accepted applications for both the purchase of iPads and the replacement of equipment purchased during the programs' first two years – FY 07-08 and 08-09. As a result of these changes, the equipment program has been inundated and **as of October 7 we have approved applications up to the maximum allocation.**

We are now in the turn-around period of sixty days from the date of approval during which proof of purchase must be submitted. If there are funds remaining after all of those who received approval to buy submit their proof of purchase, we will process additional applications that are currently in the queue. These will be processed according to existing protocol, with first-time requests from MEA members processed first. You may still submit an equipment application, however there is no guarantee – and in fact it appears unlikely - that your request will be approved in this fiscal year. As a reminder, only the equipment, Bluetooth, and or mouse are reimbursable. All other extras are your responsibility. There are still funds available for management training.

#### Financial Reprieve for Courts and SFHA

Courts: As reported in our June 2011 Newsletter, the San Francisco Court was informed by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), that they would be receiving \$5.25 million less than had been anticipated because of a reduction in statewide funding to the trial courts from the state legislature. This cut was in addition to the anticipated \$6.88 million budget deficit for FY 11-12. This left the SF Court with a \$13.75 million deficit, which, the Court notified the unions, could only be managed by taking drastic measures - laying-off forty percent (40%) of the workforce and closing down twenty- five (25) courtrooms, the majority of which would be civil.

On August 31<sup>st</sup>, the Court announced that an agreement had been reached with the AOC that would significantly reduce the number of staff layoffs from 177 to 75 and allow the Court to keep eleven (11) civil courtrooms open. The Judicial Council subsequently approved the agreement, which includes a \$2.5 million emergency, no-interest loan to use as bridge funding to help reduce staff layoffs and courtroom closures. The Judicial Council is also permitting the Court to reduce its fund balance below the amount they would otherwise be required to maintain under the council-adopted Fund Balance Policy.

Unfortunately even with the loan and use of reserves there is still not enough funding to support the recall of 102 employees and to keep 11 additional courtrooms open. The unions have already been informed that the Court will be looking for employees to agree to permanent salary reductions in bargaining in order to bridge the gap. The MEA-Court MOU expires on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Bargaining dates will be set in the near future.

SFHA: On September 19, MEA participated in a budget briefing with various unions and SFHA management staff. At that time we were informed that the U.S. Housing & Urban Development (HUD) budget had been reduced and as a result there would be a \$5.1 million reduction to the SFHA FY 11-12 budget. The SFHA was able to identify savings of \$3 million in non-personnel costs. However a deficit of \$2.1 million remained which the SFHA was proposing to address by eliminating thirty-two (32) temporary positions and eleven (11) permanent positions - unless the unions could come up with alternative suggestions on how to address the shortfall.

The SFHA proposed budget was presented to their Commission on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, at which time the Commission deferred action and requested a meeting with labor representatives. A subsequent meeting was scheduled and then cancelled when the SFHA received information from HUD that the SFHA apparently would get a higher proration of operating funds from the federal government than was originally reported. This additional funding eliminated the need to layoff any permanent workers from MEA's bargaining unit. MEA will be monitoring the situation throughout the year.

#### Updated Website at [www.sfmea.com](http://www.sfmea.com) Set to Launch

Take a few minutes to check out the updated MEA website when it launches on October 17. It is a work in progress and we're looking for feedback on both the content and the interactive features. Special thanks to MEA members Michael Brown (retired SFO), Jay Nath (DTIS) and Raquel Silva (MEA staff) for their tireless work on this ongoing project.

#### **MEA Board:**

Eileen Hirst, President  
David German, VP  
Vacant, Secretary

Mary Fitzpatrick, Treasurer  
Rafael Centeno  
Florence Cheng  
Mark Culkins

Martha Knutzen  
Sharyn Saslafsky  
Matt Smyth  
Bob Thomas

#### **Staff:**

Rebecca Rhine  
Raquel Silva