



Chapter News

APRIL/MAY

Chapter#274

Know your rights ...Report unsafe conditions

Safety is a priority for classified school employees. Maintenance workers and custodians make sure that schools are kept safe for the students and staff, bus drivers keep students safe on their way to school, and cafeteria workers are trained in safety procedures to prevent food-born illnesses in children.

Classified school employees should also place high priority on their own safety. Employers have an obligation to provide a safe work place. If you notice any unsafe working condition, make sure you bring it to the attention of your CSEA site representative, job steward, or other chapter leader.

On campus we have a Safety Committee. The committee focuses attention on specific problems, monitor employer actions and assist employees in pursuing health and safety complaints. It also can assist the chapter negotiating team in coming up with contract language that addresses health and safety issues.

For more information, contact a chapter officer or your CSEA labor relations representative.

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NEW CSEA CHAPTER 274 WEBSITE!

We here at Merced College are truly blessed with some talented people. Juan Eduardo Alvear was kind enough to lend his talents to build a website specifically for *our* chapter. This website is very user-friendly and contains some invaluable information. On the site you can find information about upcoming activities, our Constitution, our current Contract, and much, much more!! Please take some time to become familiar with this website. The information on it can very well save your job one day. More importantly you can use the tools and information to connect to your fellow members.

<http://chapter274.csea.com/>

A huge Thank you to Eduardo!

Unless otherwise indicated, all articles contained in this newsletter are courtesy of CSEA.com.

WWW.FREEMEDICINE.COM

Member Benefits would like to pass on information to you on how to receive prescriptions for Free or Low Cost on an ONGOING BASIS with Incomes up to \$80,000.00 .

- If you do not have insurance or a government program that pays for your outpatient prescription medicines...
- If the high cost of your Medicine causes you a financial hardship...
- You may qualify to enroll in a privately sponsored program which provides your MEDICINE for FREE!

Free Medicine Foundation's staff and volunteers facilitate access to programs that have been available for the last 50 years helping people to save or eliminate their prescription medicine costs. And it's not just poor people who qualify for assistance. You will need a list of all your medicine. Apply for as many medications as you need, there is no limit. If you have questions please contact the Bureau of Prescription Help at: www.FreeMedicine.com or call toll-free 1-888-812-5152, a trained specialist will answer your questions and help you apply.



What is the Employee Free Choice Act?

The Employee Free Choice Act, supported by a bipartisan coalition in Congress, would enable working people to bargain for better benefits, wages and working conditions by restoring workers' freedom to choose for themselves whether to join a union. It would:

- ⇒ Remove current obstacles to employees who want collective bargaining.
- ⇒ Guarantee that workers who can choose collective bargaining are able to achieve a contract.
- ⇒ Allow employees to form unions by signing cards authorizing union representation.

Find Out More. Go to:

<http://www.aflcio.org/joinaunion/voiceatwork/efca/whatis.cfm>



Union SAFE

Benefits for members facing financial hardship

Union SAFE—which stands for “security, assistance and financial education”—is a new collection of benefits designed to meet the urgent needs of CSEA and other union members facing economic hardship. The \$1 million assistance program includes:

Credit counseling services, budgeting advice and no-fee debt management and bankruptcy counseling benefits.

Save My Home Hotline to help avoid mortgage foreclosure.

Hospital Care Grants of \$1,000 to help members who have been hit with large, unreimbursed hospital expenses who participate in the Union Plus Credit Card, Mortgage or UnionSecure Insurance programs.

Job Loss Grants of \$250 for Union Plus Credit Card holders who have been recently laid off for more than 90 days.

Disability Grants of \$1,000 to \$2,000 for qualified Union Plus Credit Card holders who have significant income loss due to a recent long-term illness or disability

Mortgage Assistance to help Union Plus Mortgage holders, who become unemployed, disabled or go on strike, make their mortgage payments.

College Savings Grants of \$500 to members who open new 529 tax-free college savings accounts or pre-paid tuition accounts of at least \$1,000 by June 30, 2009. Learn more about CSEA's scholarship program at www.csea.com/scholarships.

Union Privilege, founded by the AFL-CIO in 1986, develops and manages the Union Plus benefits program, which uses the combined buying power of America’s union members to obtain top quality goods and services at competitive prices. In addition to a money-saving credit card, the Union Plus programs include free and discounted legal services, education services, discounted health services, a home buying program, travel and recreation discounts, and much more. For more information, visit www.UnionPlus.org.

Humanitarian Assistance Program

When a member incurs significant financial hardship due to circumstances beyond their control (such as a layoff or death in the immediate family), that member can apply for up to \$750 of financial relief through the Humanitarian Assistance Program. Applications and corroborating documentation must be submitted to CSEA Member Benefits within 30 days of the financial emergency. If approved, payments will be made directly to appropriate vendors (utility company, landlord, mortgage lender, etc.).

For details: [Read CSEA policy 1010.5](#)

For assistance: [Contact CSEA Member Benefits](#)



May 17 - 23, 2009

Monday 18th is the Continental Breakfast Event
Thursday 21st is the Lunch Event

There will be a *FREE* continental breakfast on Monday near the front amphitheatre from 8:45 - 10:15 am for all CSEA employees.

There will also be a *FREE* BBQ lunch for all CSEA members on Thursday near the front amphitheatre from 11:00 am -1:00 pm.

Both of these events are run by your classified co-workers who have volunteered their time to make this event successful.

This year the BBQ will be decorated in a "Safari" theme; you are encouraged to dress up for the event.

Please plan to take a break from your work during these times to join your fellow CSEA members for some great food and fun!

HELP US CELEBRATE YOU!!

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR 2009

Congratulations!
MELODY ORTEGA!!!



FUN, LAUGHTER, FRIENDSHIP

What picture do those colorful words paint for you?

For many,
Classified Staff Development Day!

“A Day at the Casino”

April 16, 2009



A special Thank You goes to our Committee!!
They worked really hard and put together a fun-filled day
for all!!



Not pictured: Marie Bryan-Thomas and Autumn Gardia

We had a very special treat this year!

Dr. Michael Pritchard has an impressive resume and an
even more impressive spirit. Our guest speaker was not only
funny, but extremely inspirational.



For more information:
www.michaelpritchard.com

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Upcoming Chapter Meetings

May 27
June 24
July 22
August 26
September 23
October 28
November 25
December 9

The C.S.E.A. has several important objectives, including the following:

- ◆ To promote the good and welfare of the members under the available labor relations system
- ◆ To promote legislation in the best interest of its members and public education.
- ◆ To represent the members in bargaining
- ◆ To establish a spirit of friendly cooperation, mutual trust, and respect with the Merced College Board of Trustees and Administrators.

HELP WANTED

CSEA is in need of volunteers for placement on campus hiring committees. If you are interested in serving on a hiring committee in the future, please contact Angelica Campos (campos.a@mccd.edu or ext. 6293) to have your name placed on our contact list.

When a position opens at Merced College, CSEA forwards our list of to Human Resources and a representative from CSEA is chosen from our list.

In the event that you are asked to represent CSEA on a hiring committee for a classified position, please be sure to inform the interviewee that you represent the union they would be a member of as a classified employee of Merced College.



MERCED COLLEGE CLASSIFIEDS

Interested in buying or selling any items or services? Have some news to share?

What better place to advertise than amongst your colleagues?

If you are interested in posting your ad here (free of cost), please contact your Chapter Public Relations Officer,

Angelica Campos @ 384-6293 or
campos.a@mccd.edu.

Advertisements do not constitute any endorsements by CSEA or entitle any advertiser to special consideration from CSEA members or staff.

Sign up for CSEA's statewide e-newsletter

Get the latest from csea.com delivered straight to your e-mail with our monthly e-newsletter, *Newslink*.

Each issue is customized, so you get the information that matters most. Sign up at www.csea.com/newslink

Need your CSEA Member Number to log-in to the CSEA web site?

Call the River Delta Field Office (209) 472-2170 or 800-757-4229.