

CHAPTER NEWS

A Message From President:

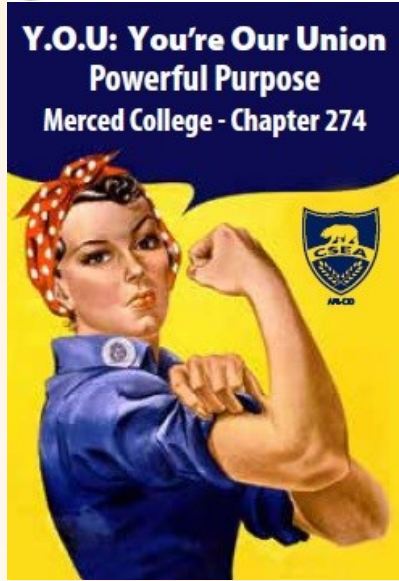
Welcome Back! Summer is over and Fall is upon us. I don't know about you, but I'm enjoying this cooler weather. So much is going on within our CSEA Unit right now. Below is a breakdown of the key items I want to touch on this month:

CSEA E-BOARD ELECTIONS: We will be accepting nominations for E-Board officers at the October and November Chapter meetings. An email will be sent out just prior to the October Chapter meeting with the list of officer positions open for nomination along with a nomination form and rules. Please consider running for any of the positions you feel you would like to serve in. I can tell you that this last three years (Vice President in 2014 and President 2015-2016) have been years of personal growth due to the positions I've held, as well as a great learning experience, learning about the union. It also helped me to decide to become a Union Steward, which otherwise I would never have done. So, I want to encourage you to nominate yourself or, if someone you think would be a good fit for a position, approach them and ask if you could nominate them. It's a great experience!

Union Steward Levels 1 & 2 Training – Local: Speaking of becoming a Union Steward, there is a training for both Levels 1 and 2 next month here in Merced at MCOE. An announcement was emailed to you. Please consider at least attending Level 1 as you learn the very basics of Union Stewardship. You'll learn about your Rights as a CSEA member, which is a big eye-opener for many. You'll also learn about the role of the Union Steward and a breakdown of what Stewards do for the Chapter members. It's definitely a good learning experience, so I encourage you to sign up.

EMS Classification Study: We are in the middle of the EMS Classification Study. The focus groups have met and EMS is working to get the data reviewed and working on job descriptions. EMS will also begin the market analysis. I want to thank those who attended the September Chapter Meeting and provided feedback regarding their experience with the focus groups. I shared with HR some of the concerns that were expressed, as well as the positive feedback. HR was very grateful for this feedback.

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Member Benefits Highlights

Going to School? CSEA can help!

Member Career Grant applications are due October 31st

\$1,000 CSEA Member Career Grants—Member Career Grants are awarded to CSEA Members each year who are in school on a part or full time basis. Applications are due October 31, 2016.

Up to \$250 CSEA Member Reimbursement Subsidy Grants—Subsidy grants are awarded to members who are pursuing an opportunity that connects them to the union, the community, and/or students. Applications are accepted year round.

\$500 CSEA Member Student Loan Reducer Grants—Grants to help members reduce their student loan debt. Applications are due February 1, 2017.

\$500-\$4,000 Union Plus Scholarship—Because CSEA is affiliated with the AFL-CIO, CSEA members and their dependents, including spouses, are eligible to apply for Union Plus scholarships. Go online to apply today at www.unionplus.org/scholarships. Applications are due January 31, 2017.

For eligibility requirements and to download applications, go to www.csea.com/education or call CSEA Members Benefits at (866) 487-2732 to request an application or brochure.



Learn **NOW** how
CalPERS pays you later
CSEA sponsored Pre-retirement Seminar
for CalPERS members of all ages!

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016

LOCATION: Patterson Joint USD—Professional Development Center
510 Keystone Blvd., Patterson, CA 95363

REGISTRATION
8:30—9:00 a.m.

SEMINAR
9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

CalPERS presenter will provide booklets. Additional materials including Social Security and Retiree Unit Information will be distributed by CSEA. Please Note: Attendance at this seminar allows you to request an individual appointment with CalPERS 90 days in advance of your retirement date.

- ◆ Pre-registration is encouraged. Call **(800) 632-2128, ext. 1005**
Please listen carefully to the message—all you need to do is leave your name to register in advance.
- ◆ If you have any questions, contact your Pre-Retirement Resource Committee Members as follows:
Arlene Saucedo, Area E Representative at arlene5561@gmail.com

A Message From the President:

For information: Last year, a task force developed a Tobacco Policy for Merced College, which was then tabled due to a similar policy on the Governor's desk. This policy is expected to be signed by the Governor very soon. The Tobacco Policy the Merced College task force developed was then placed back on the September Board of Trustees agenda and discussed. This is due to the grant MC received in order to assist with signage, cessation methods, education, etc. This policy is to make MC completely smoke- and tobacco-free (same as the bill on the Governor's desk). The Board will vote on this at the October meeting, whether or not the Governor signs the bill. If approved, the move to become a smoke- and tobacco-free campus will begin in January.

Hiring Committees / Pool: I am in the process of collecting names of people willing to be placed in a pool to be called upon for hiring committees. As you may know, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) states that we MUST have a diverse pool of committee members for EVERY hiring committee. This is the LAW. Hence the gathering of interested people willing to be in the pool, to be called upon to serve. We will be gathering names on a semester-by-semester basis. If you are interested in being placed in the pool, please let me know right away.

Kristi Wolf

Area Secretary

PRESIDENT CSEA Chapter 274

Important November 2016 Election Dates

October 24: Deadline to register to vote

November 1: Deadline to request mail ballot

November 8: Election Day!
(Polls open at 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.)



Register to vote at: <http://registertovote.ca.gov/>



For up-to-date info and reminders!
@: <https://www.facebook.com/mercedcollegeCSEA>

Check out our revamped Merced College Chapter 274 CSEA Web Page!
<http://www.mccd.edu/about/committees/csea/index.html>

Union Steward Training

CSEA ensures that its Union Stewards get as much training as they need through the Union Steward Training Program. Participants get comprehensive training through the various levels of the program. When there is a workplace problem, the CSEA Union Steward is the first line of defense for most classified employees. Completion of this program will give you the confidence to deal with situations before a problem happens. Per CSEA Policy 911, participants must be an active (or active retired) member in good standing in their chapter in order to participate. This training also includes the Know Your Rights Training.

Level #1

Saturday, October 8, 2016
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Location: Merced County Office of Education-Clark/Newbold Room
623 West 13th Street, Merced, CA.*



The deadline to reserve a seat for this training is October 5, 2016. Preference is given to members who have not attended this training, as seating is limited.

Level #2

Saturday, October 29, 2016
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Location: Merced County Office of Education-Clark/Newbold Room
623 West 13th Street, Merced, CA.*

***Please note you must attend Level #1 and complete its Skill/Knowledge Reinforcement Activity prior to registering/attending Level 2. Any questions, please contact your Labor Rep. directly.**

Sign up and reserve your seat today for the Union Steward Training by calling (209) 472-6100 or toll free (800)757-4229 or email to RDFORSVP@csea.com or visit www.csea.com for other training opportunities or online registration.



Welcome New Classified Employees

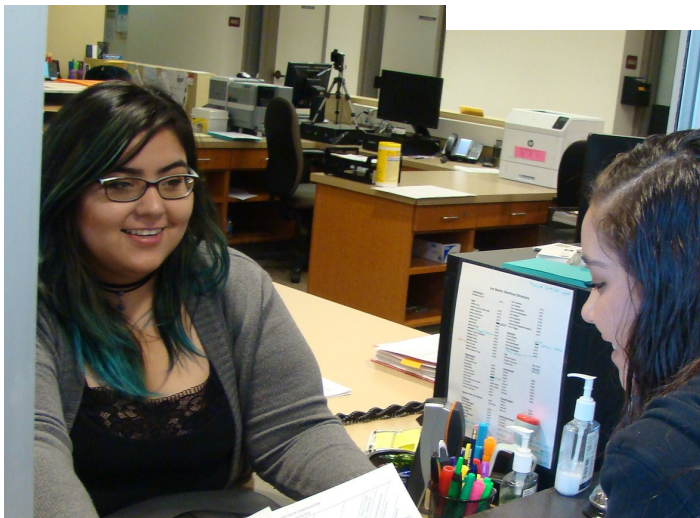


Angellee Soriano (left) is a Student Services Assistant with CalWORKs. She started in July and is very excited to be with us. Her and her five-year-old daughter have been with the college for the past two years. Angellee is a Merced College Alumni and is currently attending CSU Stanislaus full-time majoring in Sociology.



Cesar Ochoa (right) started in July as an Assessment Technician with the Office of Relations with Schools. He came to us from a local non-profit community health center. He was a high school teacher for six years and currently he is in the CSU Stanislaus masters program for counseling.

Hey!
WELCOME
We're very
GLAD
you're here!



Ann Meraz-Carenas (left) started in April as a part-time Student Services Assistant with EOPS. She was a student worker with the area for two years. Ann is a Merced College Alumni and is currently attending CSU Stanislaus majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in marketing.

President

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Negotiations Updates:

Hello,

The district and the CSEA Negotiating Committee met on Sept. 14 and continued negotiations for Article 33: Pay and Allowances under our 2015-16 contract. At this point, discussions and gathering data continue.

We voted some changes to the job classification for the Instructional Support Technician II CDC position on Friday, Sept. 23, but it did not pass. We are also working on a new job classification in ITS and we expect to bring this one to the chapter for ratification soon.

The EMS benchmarking study is in full swing. The focus groups have met with EMS and discussed their job classifications and duties. The next step will be for EMS to send the gathered data and information to supervisors for their input, some additional editing may then be made, and then the info will be sent back to the classified professionals for further review.

Christine Grimaldi Clarkson
CSEA Chief Negotiator
Chapter 274
Merced College

Next Chapter Meeting: Wednesday, October 12 @ Noon!

<http://www.mccd.edu/about/committees/csea/meetings.html>

**California School
Employees Association**



AFL-CIO