



CSMCE

# Coalition of Santa Monica City Employees

## Newsletter— Summer 2009

Administrative Team Associates\* Executive Pay Plan \*Municipal Employees Association \* Public Attorneys Legal Support  
Staff Union \*Public Attorneys Union \*Management Team Associates \*Rent Control  
\*Supervisory Team Associates \*United Transportation Union

### Coalition Members Participate in Community Event

The Coalition continues its efforts to show how Santa Monica City Employees are a vital part of the community and supportive of community services and needs. Public fund-raising activities provide us with opportunities for the community to see that our members commitment extends beyond the workplace.

Sixteen Coalition members, including two board members and 14 general members selected in a coalition-wide drawing, spent a day playing golf and attending a banquet as part of a fundraiser for the Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL). PAL supports and operates community youth programs benefiting Santa Monica children from 6-17 years old.

The Coalition was represented at the event by:

Greg Mullen, Dan Suzewitz, Rathnaker Reddy  
Binh Le, Ralph Merced, Bob Trimborn  
Eric Bailey, Joseph Moore, Steve Simeon, Art Lopez  
Carlton Palmer, Vickie Reece, Paul Farhadian, Al Dave

### **Visit the Coalition website**

For the latest information, Board Meeting Minutes, other Coalition documents and for helpful links:

**[www.csmce.org](http://www.csmce.org)**

For retirement information go to the  
CalPERS website

**<http://www.calpers.ca.gov>**

### **AETNA Medical Information Phone Numbers**

AETNA HMO Member Services 877-402-8742  
AETNA Open Access Plan 877-204-9186

### **Other Benefit Numbers**

KAISER Member Service 800-464.4000  
VSP (Vision) 800-877-7195  
Delta Dental DPO Plan 888-335-8227  
Delta Dental Delta Care Plan 800-422-4234  
Value Options/Employee Assistance 800-638 2769

### **Coalition E-mail Address**

**[CoalitionSMCE@verizon.net](mailto:CoalitionSMCE@verizon.net)**

### **Medical Trust News**

In May the Medical Trust Board of Trustees held its annual benefit level setting meeting. This is when the Board meets with its actuaries (outside financial consultants) to determine how much the Trust can pay to its beneficiaries per month for the following year. A computer spread sheet program is used to determine the benefit based upon different variables like interest on investments, number of current retirees, number of future retirees, and most significantly, future contributions to the fund.

After careful consideration and weighing of all these different factors, the benefit level was set again at \$250 per month or \$3,000 per year. This is the same rate as was approved last year.

The actuarial report was positive, but due to the impossibility to accurately project City contributions beyond the term of the City's Umbrella Agreement with the Coalition (3 years) the Trustees voted to maintain the current benefit level but noted the need to address future City contributions. It is a priority among the trustees of the Medical Retirement Trust that the City's contribution to the trust be tied to a COLA of some sort in order to provide the trustees with the assurance that we can set future benefit levels that will be meaningful and still insure the integrity of the Medical Trust

If you are planning on retiring or need any information regarding this benefit please get in touch with the Trust's administrator Cindi Forbes ([cindiforbes@delapro.com](mailto:cindiforbes@delapro.com)) or one of the Trustees.

If you change your address, marry, divorce or add family members be sure to let Cindi know. It's important that you update your personal information in the Trust's records. You don't want to miss out on this important benefit which the Coalition has worked so hard to provide for you.

## Medical Insurance Committee

Coalition and Medical Trust Board Member, Claudia Brick, will be the new chair of the Coalition's Medical Insurance Sub-Committee. As a trustee for the Retirement Medical Trust, she recently attended a three-day training seminar for trustees. In the course of the formal sessions she came across ideas and strategies that will prove useful in the Coalition's 2010 negotiations with the City over Medical and Retirement benefits. The Committee will review medical benefit programs and consider present and future medical insurance needs, services and issues of coalition members—particularly in terms of future agreements with the City and the operations of providers.

The current three-year agreement between the Coalition and the City for medical benefits runs through June 30, 2010. Negotiations are expected to begin next spring .

With hard work and some fresh ideas, the Coalition is committed to continue coverage at the same level. We are hopeful this can be accomplished without an out-of-pocket contribution.

If you feel you have some information or suggestions which would help the committee achieve these goals please forward your remarks to:

**coalitionsmce@verizon.net**

or via U.S. mail:

Coalition of Santa Monica City Employees

P.O. Box 3007

Santa Monica, CA 90408-3007

Attn: Medical Insurance Committee

### Coalition Board of Directors

#### **ATA**

Frank Ching  
Benjamin Steers

#### **EPP**

Greg Mullen

#### **MEA**

Lauralee Asch—*President*  
Mike Cveyich  
Orvilette Echols  
Sylvia Jimenez  
Martha Santana

#### **MTA**

Carole Curtin  
Ralph Merced

#### **PAU**

Tony Serritella

#### **PALSSU**

Claudia Brick

#### **Rent Control**

Keith Kresge-*Vice President*

#### **STA**

Rick Sikes

#### **UTU**

Jabryan Donald  
Adhi Reddy

#### **Treasurer**

Neela Patel

#### **Secretary**

Rod Merl

### Coalition Accomplishments

- ◆ Health Benefits Agreement with built-in cost of living increases
- ◆ Established a Medical Insurance Trust for Retirement
- ◆ Collaboration with City to avoid layoffs
- ◆ Collaborated with the City in the implementation of a flexible 125-plan to permit employees to set aside pretax earnings to pay for out of pocket medical costs
- ◆ Revised evaluation forms
- ◆ Enhanced PERS Death Benefits
- ◆ Renegotiated the umbrella agreement between the Coalition and the City for its continuing monthly contributions to the medical insurance trust and for the composite cap for health insurance premium costs that will address the needs of the employees.
- ◆ Enhancement of PERS Retirement formula to 2.7% @ 55 last year. Initially was 2% at 60 than secured enhancement to 2% at 55 six years ago.

### **Reasons To Be Active In YOUR Coalition**

**Our collective futures** — There are potential ballot-initiative petitions and other organized movements to change PERS retirement that could directly affect all of us.

**Strength in numbers** — The strength of our Coalition rests within our membership. Active members are a crucial resource that can impact issues which are important to us.

**Community Outreach**—through participation and financial support in community sponsored activities we show our commitment to keeping Santa Monica a great place to live and work.

