



## Administrator's Report



Greetings, MCEA! First, let's all express our warmest congratulations to those newly elected MCEA officers, from the statewide level to the council level, who have accepted the challenge of union leadership. This includes our new Supervisors Council—Supervisors United for Collective Bargaining. I am moved by all the new faces in leadership. That's a sign of growth and progress for MCEA.

Additionally, I want to make our membership aware of the upcoming Professional Issues Conference, held by AFT Nurses and Health Professionals and AFT Public Employees. We have a rare opportunity in that it will be held here in Baltimore on November 16-18, 2023.

These conferences are far more than a series of talking heads—they are skill-building workshops, enabling our members to learn more about such topics as recruitment and retention, artificial intelligence, and how to fight back against union attacks.

We are hoping to send a representative delegation of MCEA members, with at least two members from each council and each sector of work. If you are interested, please email our Executive Director, Wanda Bailey, at [wbailey@mcea.org](mailto:wbailey@mcea.org).

On another topic, I want to remind our council leaders that our Constitution and Bylaws provide you with a way to apply for funds for your council. These funds can be used for organizing, member appreciation functions, council events, among many other ways to strengthen your council. The deadline to apply for funds has been extended to October 12, 2023. The grant application is available by visiting our website and accessing "Key Documents" under our Membership tab.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office with any questions or concerns. And please read on! There are important announcements and information regarding your union. Onward and upward! —Solidarity and unity, Leonard Lee, Administrator

### The Buzz MCEA's Bimonthly Newsletter August/September 2023

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Full newsletter published on  
[MCEA.org](http://MCEA.org)

## IMPORTANT: Fall 2023 Representative Assembly

**Saturday, October 14, 2023, 10am**  
**Visit [MCEA.org](http://MCEA.org) to register**  
for either Zoom or In Person  
@ MCEA Headquarters

Our Constitution and Bylaws allow us to hold two Representative Assemblies per year—one in the spring, one in the fall. For those who have been with MCEA for a while, the Representative Assemblies replace our Statewide meetings and Conventions. While Council Delegates, who will carry the votes allotted to their councils, have already been elected, the Representative Assembly is still open to observers—all are encouraged to log in and check it out! We look forward to a productive Assembly. See you then.



**AFT's "Summer" program** is an online resource that harnesses the expertise of public policy experts to optimize borrower options, and it uses technology to make the process easy and secure. Your MCEA membership allows you FREE access to this valuable resource.

Visit <https://www.aft.org/benefits/summer> to learn more.

# BARGAINING!



Salisbury University



MTA Sergeants

We have exchanged proposals and counter-proposals, and MCEA members at Salisbury University have stepped up to give their feedback and suggestions on further proposals. Although the MCEA bargaining team has broken through the adjustment period with the new university president and negotiations are starting to flow, members are standing by in case we need to increase pressure on the administration.

Our bargaining team has presented the entirety of our contract proposals, but management continues to make it slow going. We are starting to see a light at the end of the tunnel, as both sides are eager to finish negotiations and start working under the new MOU. We plan on pushing through, and finishing soon with a comprehensive collective bargaining agreement.

These members may need your support to put pressure on management.  
Email [info@mcea.org](mailto:info@mcea.org) if we can count on your solidarity!

## Retirees Council Updates

There are a number of updates regarding the Fitch vs. State of Maryland lawsuit that will have major effects on retirees' prescription plans. The following are available in full on the Retirees section of our website.

### FITCH V. STATE OF MARYLAND

Included on our websites are filings between the plaintiffs and defendants in the Fitch v. State of Maryland case. The short version is this: the struggle continues. The plaintiffs, on the side of the retirees, have made cogent, logical arguments about the nature of the retirees' prescription plan, while the State denies its responsibilities every step of the way.

**REMINDER: FREE ACCIDENTAL DEATH & DISMEMBERMENT INSURANCE** via AFT. Scan this QR code for access.



### WSJ News Exclusive: GENERIC DRUGS SHOULD BE CHEAP, BUT INSURERS ARE CHARGING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FOR THEM

In a Wall Street Journal News Exclusive, journalist Joseph Walker writes: "Once the patent on an expensive medicine runs out, lower-priced copies go on sale, promising significant savings. But certain generic drugs—for cancer, multiple sclerosis and other complicated diseases—are still costing thousands of dollars monthly...."

"The reason, health researchers and industry officials say, is the very companies that are supposed to keep a lid on drug spending can maximize their profits by marking up the prices. Other companies in the drug-supply chain won't stop them, because consolidation has swept many of the businesses under the same parent."

**MCEA Executive Board 2023-2025**  
Congratulations to MCEA's newly elected Executive Board!

- President:** Marilyn Miller
- Vice President:** Ray Crosby
- Secretary:** Sherry Anderson
- Treasurer:** Dawn Rowe

For more information, check out our posts on **MCEA.org**.  
**Twitter:** @MCEA\_AFT  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/MarylandClassifiedEmployeesAssociation

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