Who Represents you? Your Executive Council at a glance……

**President, Becky McCluskey**
Accounting Technician, Escondido Center
Becky has dedicated her life to Palomar College for over 20 years. Starting as an hourly in the Child Development Center, becoming a 65% contract employee, then 75% contact employee in the Book Store, and finally taking a 100% contract position at the Escondido Center. It has been such a rewarding experience for Becky to be one of the employees to help open a center and help make it a success. Jim Clayton was the director and he was great to work for. The staff was incredible. Her time here, at Palomar, has been wonderful. The best part has been working with an extremely high quality of individuals. Becky is proud to be a part of the classified staff. The council is proud to have Becky as their leader. She displays so many great qualities needed to lead a large group of people, who have such diverse ideas and opinions. Becky is aware of the many challenges she will face over the next year and a half. She faces them willingly and with much support from the entire E-Council.

**Senior Vice President, Tricia Frady**
Accountant, Fiscal Services
Tricia left CSU San Marcos in September 2001, after almost seven years, to work for Palomar. Tricia spent over ten years working on the "front-line" to serve students. Starting as a cashier, moving to the disbursement office, and ultimately working in the accounts receivable office. Working at Palomar has allowed Tricia to switch gears, and work primarily with staff. She is a people person by nature, and enjoys meeting new people and making new friends. Tricia ran for office last April because she wanted to become a more active member in the Union. Tricia’s top goal is to build Union membership. She feels that people will join if they see that the Union makes a difference, and that they stand for something they can believe in.

**Sr. Grievance Officer, Chris Wick**
Staff Assistant, Business Services
Chris has worked for Business Services for almost eight years. Chris enjoys her job because she has a lot of interaction with staff on campus, and works for a great department. Chris is a passionate person with a great sense of humor. The council finds her to be very knowledgeable, not to mention very organized!! Chris is the first one to jump in and say, “how can I help?” Chris ran for office because she feels it is important to be there to help protect the rights of the classified staff.

**Treasurer, Dolores Silva**
Academic Department Assistant, Child Development / Multicultural Studies
Dolores’ journey at Palomar began over twelve years ago. She came on board as a Secretary for ETV, transferred to the Communications department as an ADA, and then to CHDV/MCS. Dolores is the quiet one of the group, but when she speaks they listen!! The council is so fortunate to work with someone so thoughtful and selfless. Dolores continues to serve as Treasurer because she enjoys doing her part for the Classified staff.

Our next newsletter will feature your Stewards

**Junior Vice President, Buddy Springer**
Financial Aid Specialist, Financial Aid Office
Buddy began working as an office specialist for the Mailroom almost six years ago. He moved over to the Cashiers Office as a senior accounting assistant before he moved to the Financial Aid Office. Buddy finds that serving students is the best part of his job. He feels he consistently finds himself working with an excellent group of individuals. Buddy is serving his second term as Vice President for the Union. His knowledge and experience are an asset to those who joined the Council last July. His fellow council members find Buddy to be a very caring and compassionate individual. They consider themselves lucky to have him on their team! Buddy continues to serve on the council and be involved because he feels he can make a difference for the classified staff.

**Secretary, Carmen Eckman**
Academic Department Assistant, Life Sciences
Carmen has worked in the Life Sciences department since 1998. Prior to this she had worked in various Student Services areas since being hired in 1987. Carmen received her degree in 1997. She has been a member of the union since 1987. In July she completed 4 years as the Senior Grievance Officer, and before that was the Treasurer for 4 years. Carmen serves as a member of the Human Resource Services Planning Council, Revenue Allocation Council, Negotiations team, and the Classified Staff Development Day committee. She was just elected to serve on the Presidential Search Committee. Carmen is a sweet spirit who embraces challenge. The Council is grateful for her knowledge and experience.

**Political Corner**
CQE—Go to our website to learn more about CQE
Are you interested in PAC? Political Action Committee Contact any council member or steward for more information.

**Did you know that…..????**
We would like to feature a section in each newsletter that would give everyone some fun information. Here are some examples:
* Jane Doe had a baby on January 20th
* James Smith got engaged this month
* Susan Adams is a notary
* John Brown is an expert landscaper

We would require the permission of each individual to feature any information bout them in our newsletter. Please submit information to cosea@palomar.edu This is a great way to share information and to get to know your coworkers.
We’ve all heard about identity theft and have been warned to protect our credit cards and social security number. I was shredding everything and was so careful. I knew I would never be a victim. (Never say Never). When my fence needed replacing, I looked in the Pennysaver to find a handyman to do the job. He put up the fence and I paid him with a check. I wanted a record of paying him and of course would have never used a credit card even if he had been able to process it. Here is my story of what happened next.

As I was enjoying my new fence, he was out spending my money as fast as he could. In two days he had spent enough to clean out my checking account and all of one savings account at my credit union. When my checking account had been emptied, the credit union very graciously began pulling money from my savings account to cover the checks. I might have appreciated this if I was the one going on the spending spree, but I wasn’t. By the time the credit union had mailed me a notice that my savings account was empty and they could not cover all the checks “I” was writing, he had cleaned me out.

When I got to the bank to find out what was going on, I discovered that he had taken the check I wrote him (which had never cleared the bank), whitewashed it and then proceeded to write 15 more. He must have been very good at it as no one questioned the checks he was passing off as mine.

While my accounts were insured and after some time, I was reimbursed, the time it took to clean this mess up was a big inconvenience. This was the checking account which had all my electronic transfers and automatic bill payments set up and where my payroll check was deposited. I had to close that account and open a new one which meant I had to go around to all the utility companies and businesses and fill out new paperwork to get the transfers changed. In most instances, this takes at least a month to go into effect so there were some mix ups in payments until everything was straightened out. This was very time consuming as well as a big nuisance.

In addition to the above, the credit union also requested that I file a police report. I went to my city’s police department and was beleaguered again because they were annoyed having to take a report on such a minor crime. Even when I was able to tell them the criminals name and address, they weren’t much interested. They filed the report and it is my belief that they didn’t even pursue investigating. I admit it isn’t a major crime but for me, while in the midst of fixing it, it had a very large impact on my life.

Then thinking everything was cleared up and fixed, a week later I began to see erroneous charges on one of my credit cards. These were for large amounts and when the charges were investigated, they were for things being shipped to foreign countries. Panic is not the word for what I then felt. I didn’t know how he could have gotten a credit card number from a check but apparently, either it was coincidental or he was very good at what he did. I then added closing credit card accounts to my agenda.

So, while you must be vigilant in protecting your credit cards and social security number, think twice before writing a check in the future. I would have never thought that giving a check to someone could have resulted in such a significant event. Another side note of lessons learned. I will only now hire someone who is a contractor because I would have some recourse and be able to find them if they did something illegal. I hope this adds some awareness to your thoughts on identity theft.

- The victim has chosen to be anonymous, but felt it was important for others to learn from their experience.

Would you like us to publish something in one of our newsletters? If you have an article, some information, or even suggestions please contact us at cceaf@palomar.edu

Identity Theft—Don’t let This Happen To You!!

Over the past few months the Union has made donations to:

* Zeda Barnett Memorial Fund
* Fire Victims Fund

Six members were able to attend the CCE Conference in Manhattan Beach last October.

We are currently working on a Scholarship Program.

More information to follow. If you have any comments/ideas/concerns please email any E-Council Member or send email to cceaf@palomar.edu

Update from the Treasury

Where does your money go?
Each month the CCE pays mandatory dues to the AFT. Our current costs is $18.84 per person, per month. These fees allow the AFT to provide us with additional benefits for those who are members. Some benefits are:

* 5,000 accidental death insurance
* Travel Discounts
* Mortgage and Real Estate Programs

Over the past few months the Union has made donations to:

* Zeda Barnett Memorial Fund
* Fire Victims Fund

General Classified Staff Meetings
Will be held from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm in ES-21

February 19th  April 22nd
March 18th  May 20th