Valuable Benefits that Union Members Can Use
by Eddie Tubbs

We, as a Union, fall under the umbrella of CFT (California Federation of Teachers) and AFT (American Federation of Teachers). When I was asked to write an article about one of the benefits that Union Members could receive, I started doing some research. Upon visiting the AFT website, I was surprised to see that so many benefits were available to Union members. I personally visited the website for magazine subscriptions and was very happy to see the discount that I could get. As a Union member you too can take advantage of these valuable benefits. Look below and see how you can save money the next time you need a particular service. I’ve personally used several of these and the discounts do work.

Visit [http://www.aft.org/aftplus](http://www.aft.org/aftplus) to learn more.

**National Member Benefits**

- AFT Plus discount services
- MasterCard: no annual fee, skip-payment privileges during a strike
- Low-cost group insurance plans: term life, hospital income, disability income (short and long term), accidental death, catastrophe, Care Plus (retirees)
- Home mortgage: competitive rates, low down payments
- Education loans: affordable education loans from Sallie Mae
- Prescription drugs: discounts and free delivery
- Legal: free 30-minute consultation with a union-friendly attorney, reduced rate personal legal service
- Loans: low-interest personal loans ($2,500 to $15,000)
- Dental and Vision: average of 20% - 50% savings
- Magazines: the very lowest prices on magazine subscriptions
- Theme Parks: discount packages available online
- Flowers: 15% discount for orders of $30 or more
- Educational tours: international travel for educators and students
- Subscriptions to AFT union publications
  - American Teacher
  - On Campus
  - American Educator
  - PSRP Reporter (Paraprofessional and School-Related Personnel)
- Plus many more benefits for AFT members

**Calendar of Events**

- **Sept. 22nd** - General Classified Staff Meeting 2:00 pm in the Governing Board Room
- **Sept. 23rd** - Political Action Committee Meeting Noon in LL-112
- **October 11th** - Governing Board Meeting 6:00 pm
California Legislation Affecting Classified Employees
by Ernie Carson

The table below lists bills that are currently making their way through the California Legislature, as well as the position that the CFT has taken on them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>CFT Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AB49</td>
<td>Benoit</td>
<td>Repeals Senate Bill 1419 (Chapter 894, Statutes of 2002) that provides protections against contracting out and would, instead, authorizes K-14 districts, CSU and UC to contract for any non-instructional services.</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB844</td>
<td>Negrete Mcleod</td>
<td>Increases from $2,000 to $5,000 the death benefit for classified school employees, among other PERS members, who retire on or before July 1, 2006.</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB1468</td>
<td>McCarthy</td>
<td>Repeals Senate Bill 1419 (Chapter 849, Statutes of 2002) that provides protections against outsourcing of classified school employee positions.</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABX11</td>
<td>McCarthy</td>
<td>Repeals Senate Bill 1419 (Chapter 849, Statutes of 2002) that provides protections against outsourcing of classified school employee positions.</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AC5</td>
<td>Richman</td>
<td>Amends the California Constitution to replace the current defined benefit plan with a defined contribution plan for all public employees hired on or after July 1, 2007. Additionally, the bill allows current public employees to transfer money from their existing defined benefit plans to the defined contribution plans offered to new employees.</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB882</td>
<td>Ashburn</td>
<td>Reduces the retirement allowances of PERS school and state members who are hired on or after January 1, 2006 by limiting the calculation of final compensation from an average of 12 consecutive months to the highest annual compensation during the consecutive 36-month period immediately preceding retirement.</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact info for your respective state legislators:
Senate:  [www.sen.ca.gov/~newsen/senators/senators.html](http://www.sen.ca.gov/~newsen/senators/senators.html)
Assembly:  [www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset7text.html](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset7text.html)
How to Keep Informed: A Short Guide for Classified Employees
by Elaine Armstrong

Did you also know that shared governance meetings are open to the public? In addition to representation afforded to individuals through constituencies, other individuals and groups may be heard in any governance meeting by requesting and receiving permission from the chair to participate and/or have items added to the agenda. Written minutes will be prepared for all governance meetings. Agendas, minutes, reports, and other work products of all shared governance committees and other groups involved in governance should be made readily accessible to all interested parties. Many of the shared governance committee meeting minutes are available online at [http://www.palomar.edu/committees.htm](http://www.palomar.edu/committees.htm).

An overview of the entire governance and administrative structure for Palomar College is located on the Strategic Planning website at [http://www.palomar.edu/strategicplanning/](http://www.palomar.edu/strategicplanning/).

Did you know that CCE members are welcome to attend open sessions of the CCE Executive Council? The meetings are held on Thursdays from 1:00 – 2:00pm in SSC-2. Members may also see the Executive Council minutes and financial records. Contact Chris Norcross for Executive Council minutes and Dolores Silva to view CCE financial records.

**Contributor(s) Box**

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**Request for Comments**

The CCE Local 4522 Communications Committee looks forward to hearing from our Classified Currents readers. Please send any comments, complaints, or questions via campus mail to Chris Norcross or via email to cnorcross@palomar.edu. All submissions must include your full name; anonymous letters will not be reprinted.