IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ACTIVATE! RESTART YOUR DUES NOW IF THEY'VE LAPSED

Did you miss the October reauthorization deadline? Your dues have stopped, but you can restart them at any time.

The Oct. 3 reauthorization deadline was to make sure your dues continued without interruption. If you did not reauthorize by Oct. 3, your dues have stopped, and you are no longer a member in good standing. But you can restart your dues at any time.

Log in to the HR Self-Service Online Portal to restart your dues now (select deduction code EC01). Please note, the online portal is closed Sunday through Wednesday of the first week of each pay period. Or you can contact the MI HR Service Center and ask them to start dues deduction EC01. The MI HR Service Center can be reached at 1-877-766-6447 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding state holidays.

If you did reauthorize before Oct. 3, thank you! You are now able to reauthorize for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

More info on reauthorizing or starting your dues is at mco-seiu.org/reauthorize.

FORENSIC CENTER STAFF HAVE DANGEROUS JOBS, TOO, AND FACE ASSAULTS

There have been a few assaults on Forensic Center staff by patients over the last few months.

In one incident Nov. 7, staff were assaulted while trying to break up an argument that started over a video game. One of them was bitten. Another was scratched and a third was spit on.

In a different incident Oct. 20, a Forensic Security Assistant (FSA) was punched in the eye and suffered a concussion. Four FSAs, a doctor, and a Forensic Security Supervisor were with a patient near a wing command center in an intake unit. The patient was upset about a change in his medication. He was facing another staff member, then turned and punched the FSA.

These stories illustrate that, like COs, FSAs have dangerous jobs. Thank you to all FSAs for their dedication.

BENEFITS OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021 GOING ON NOW

Benefits Open Enrollment (BOE) Part 2 is taking place now through November 24, 2020. Benefit elections made during BOE Part 2 will have a coverage period effective from Jan, 1, 2021 through Dec. 31, 2021.

Important reminders for BOE Part 2: Effective Jan. 1, 2021, all benefit plans are moving to a single, consolidated, calendar-based plan year. Additionally, Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Open Enrollment will now be combined with enrollment in state insurance benefits. This has created one comprehensive open enrollment for state insurance and FSA benefits in the fall each year moving forward, with all benefit elections effective the following Jan. 1. If you wish to enroll in either a Health Care or Dependent Care FSA for the 2021 plan year, you must enroll during BOE Part 2; FSA enrollments do not roll over from year to year.

During BOE Part 2, a new health insurance option will be offered: The State High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) with Health Savings Account (HSA). An HDHP is a type of health insurance plan with lower biweekly premiums and a higher deductible. Automatically included with the State HDHP is an HSA with an annual employer contribution in the amount of $750 for an individual employee or $1,500 for employees who enroll with one or more dependents, effective Jan. 1. An HSA is a tax-advantaged account for individuals covered under an HDHP to save on eligible health, pre-scription, dental, and vision-related expenses not covered by insurance (e.g., deductibles, copays, and coinsurance). See a list of eligible HSA expenses.

The Employee Benefits Division's website, www.mi.gov/BOE, provides all the usual open enrollment information you have come to expect, as well as all of the information on the changes happening in 2020 and beyond!

Visit www.mi.gov/selfserv to enroll online through HR Self-Service or call the MI HR Service Center at 877-766-6447, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to walk through the enrollment process with a MI HR Representative.

This story was edited for space. Read the full version on our website.

- Article provided by OSE