



Yosemite  
Faculty  
Association



# BUZZ

October 2008

Welcome to YFA's news and notes. In an effort to communicate timely, folksy, and/or informative news to members, we are launching this quick info format to better serve you.

## **MJC FACULTY EVALUATION TRAINING**

**OCTOBER 6,**

**3:00 PM Faculty Lounge**

**Refreshments will be served**

**BRING YOUR CONTRACTS!**

This training is important for all faculty who are being evaluated this semester and for those faculty who are serving as peer evaluators. All faculty, adjuncts and full-timers alike, are welcome.

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!**

**KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES!**

## **ADJUNCTS ANSWER THE CALL**

YFA conducted a survey of adjunct concerns at the end of Spring 08. Ninety adjunct professors responded to the survey which was administered using SurveyMonkey.

Not surprisingly, most adjuncts would like to feel more a part of their divisions rather than being isolated.

Detailed results are being used by Rep Council and Exec Board to begin a dialogue on how the Association can better represent the needs and interests of our adjunct faculty.

John Carter, MJC Adjunct Representative to YFA, is spearheading the project.

## **HEALTH BENEFITS ADVISORY GROUP CONVENES**

**by Paul Berger**

The Benefits Advisory Committee has met twice this year. Keenan and Assoc. (our broker) has been heading these meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to stress the **ADVISORY** capacity of this workgroup. *We do not negotiate ANYTHING.* The purpose of the group is to learn how our benefits are packaged, how the rates are decided upon, and possible ways in which we, as subscribers, can stay healthy and keep renewal costs down.

Keenan indicated one way subscribers could contain costs is choosing a generic drug if it is available. Keenan specifically suggested a mandatory generic policy where the user would pay the difference if they stayed with a name brand.

Every 1% increase in generic drug use equals a 1% discount in drug costs. As of December 2007, Blue Cross paid 1.95 million dollars for YCCD prescription drugs. Currently, we use 59.6% generics. Maximum industry utilization is 87% (based on generic availability).

The average amount paid for a generic script in our district was \$13.81. The average amount paid for a brand name script was \$106.46.

Obviously not everything has a generic alternative. Fortunately, each year more drugs come off patent- Is a generic drug for you? As always, consult your Doctor.

YFA Representatives to the Joint Benefits Committee are Paul Berger, MJC ext. 6732, and Laurie Sylwester, Columbia ext. 5341. Call with your concerns and suggestions.

## **YFA OFFICE HOURS**

**Got an Issue? Got a Question?**

**Stop by, or call, and talk with the YFA Pres  
Wednesdays 1:00-2:00pm, Faculty Lounge**