

Membership Matters

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Identity Crime: TAKE CHARGE

During the March CTA State Council, the Civil Rights in Education committee had a presentation on Identity Crime. Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in L.A. County. Following is a list of the most common ways identity theft occurs.

1. Stealing records from your job site.
 2. Bribing an employee who has access to these records.
 3. Computer hacking
 4. Conning information out of the person.
- The thief may steal your mail, including bank and credit card statements, offers, checks, or tax information.

This is done by rummaging through your trash, the trash of your work site or at a public dump. "Dumpster Diving" allows these individuals access to your personal information. Once they have this information, they may open credit card accounts in your name, establish cell phone service in your name or open a bank account in your name. In some cases the thieves have even had ID's issued with their picture and your name. What can you do about this? How do you protect your identity from these "Dumpster Divers?" Some simple suggestions are listed in the next column.

Identity Theft Victims: Immediate Steps

1. Place a fraud alert on your credit reports and review your credit reports.
 2. Close any accounts you know, or believe, have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.
 3. FILE A POLICE REPORT
 4. File a complaint with the federal trade commission.
- Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act you have the right to correct fraudulent information on your credit report. Not only you, but the credit companies are responsible for correcting fraudulent information in your report. Your letter should include a copy of the identity theft report. The companies may also ask for you to provide proof of your identity such as your SSN, Name, Address, and other personal information that helps them to establish that the report is genuine and not an attempt to steal your identity.
- Protect your identity, SHRED Documents that could be used to steal your identity. Be careful about answering questions online. Don't give your information out on the telephone.

Did you elect YOUR site rep for next year?

Please remember to ELECT your site reps for next year. Holding an election makes sure that you can have representation at the Rep Council. You may have one representative for every 15 members or greater portion there of. Make sure your site is represented and YOUR voice is heard. Consider running to be your site rep.