

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **HFCC Millage**
- **HFCC Trustees**
- **New Faculty**
- **Federal Health Care Reform**
- **President Obama's Community College Initiative**

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CRITICAL MILLAGE & TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

On November 3, Dearborn voters will decide the fate of the College's one-half mill renewal and two HFCC Trustee seats.

The one-half mill generates about \$2 million in revenues for College operations. With State aid at 1999 levels in actual dollars and likely to decrease next year and with the College's local property tax revenue declining as property values drop, this one-half mill renewal is critical to the College.

As has been the case for over 30 years, Local 1650 will lead the Advocacy Campaign for the College. This entails developing all advocacy literature; coordinating mailings, advertising, and poll work; and financing the advocacy campaign. Such campaigns have cost nearly \$50,000 in the past.

Local 1650 members are asked to contribute \$120 to support the millage campaign and the Federation's other 2009-10 political efforts, including the support of two candidates for the HFCC

Board of Trustees. The seats of Trustees Pam Adams and Darrel Donelson will be up for election. The Local has supported these Trustees in the past. In supporting candidates for Trustee, Local 1650 seeks those who possess a good understanding of the College's mission, HFCC's culture of shared governance, and a fair minded approach to the concerns of faculty and staff.

Historically over 90% of Local 1650 members have annually contributed the amount requested by the Local in support of political action, typically \$100 to \$120. Local 1650 political action funds are used in local and State races. No 1650 PAF monies go to candidates for federal office.

In addition, the Local will need many volunteers to work three hour shifts at the polls on Election Day in support of the College millage and HFCC Trustees. We need to remind voters coming to the polls for the Mayoral and Council races of the very important College issues at the end of the ballot.

John McDonald

1650 WELCOMES NEW TEACHERS

In a meeting prior to the start of the semester, the Local 1650 Executive Board welcomed recently hired full-time faculty to the College and the Federation: Chad Austin, Placement Officer; Jeffery Click, Hospitality; Brenda Hildreth, SOS; Gregory

Karapetian, Science; Peggy Kearney, Nursing; Douglas Langs, Business/Economics; Jennifer LaRose, Math; Jacqueline Lawson, Business/Economics; Debra Louisell, Social Science; Molly McCord, English; Susan McGraw, Fine Arts and Fitness; Lathika Moragoda,

New Teachers (page 1)

Science; Deanna Presnell, Health Careers; Karen Wilmering, Fine Arts and Fitness; and Kristopher Young, Technology.

All HFCC full-time faculty, new to the College or not, are urged to attend the Local's monthly membership meetings and join one or more of the Local 1650 standing committees:

1. Insurance/TSA Committee, Jennifer Roderique, Chair

2. Legislative/Political Action Committee, Jim Wanless, Eric Rader, Co-chairs
3. Technology Committee, Betsy Cohn, David Maier, Co-chairs
4. Solidarity Committee, Maureen Webster, Chair

Local 1650's General Membership Meetings are held on the third Monday of the months September through April, at 3:15 p.m., in L-311, of the Walter Ruether Liberal Arts Building.

POLITICAL ACTION 2009

With higher education becoming an increasingly significant focus of local, state, and national legislators and policy-makers, the importance of our involvement in political action cannot be overstated.

Two major local political events face HFCC in the election of two College Trustees and the renewal of one-half mill, essential to support College operations. In 2009, Local 1650 must also work to support local and State officials and candidates who are supportive of higher education and the funding it requires.

Local 1650 members will be asked for a variety of support this year, including letter writing, help with mailings, poll work, and contributions to Local 1650's Political Action Fund.

Local 1650 operates two PAF funds. The first, a "restricted" fund, is used only for HFCC millage/bond elections, Board of Trustees' campaigns, and the campaigns of local and State officials whose decisions impact directly on HFCC revenues.

The Local uses the "unrestricted" fund to engage in political activity and to support local, County and State candidates not so directly involved with the revenues of HFCC but whose decisions definitely affect Local 1650's ability to represent the interests of its members.

No Local 1650 PAF monies go to national political parties or candidates for federal office.

Because of a Michigan Supreme Court decision, the Local can no longer collect PAF monies through payroll deduction. Contributions must be made by check, made out to HFCC-FT PAF. Please designate on the check whether it should be applied to the Restricted or Unrestricted Political Action Fund.

The Executive Board is grateful for the membership's historically strong support of Local 1650's political efforts to protect their bargaining rights and secure the local and State funding necessary to operate HFCC, maintain instructional quality, and provide equitable compensation.

FEDERAL HEALTH CARE REFORM AND HFCC

The passage of federal comprehensive health care reform should be of concern to HFCC faculty for many reasons, among them: (1) the need of 47 million of our uninsured fellow citizens to have access to health care coverage and (2) the increasing number of insured employees and retirees who are losing health insurance coverage, a prospect from which no employee or retiree – including HFCC employees, HFCC retirees, and their children/grandchildren – is immune.

While Local 1650 has been able to shield HFCC faculty from the cuts in and loss of health care coverage common across the nation, there is no guarantee that it can do so indefinitely. Moreover, the Michigan Supreme Court has ruled that health coverage for retirees in the State Retirement System (MPSERS) is not guaranteed by the State

Constitution and therefore exists at the discretion of the Legislature.

How long will elected local and State politicians provide public sector employees insurance coverage that is disappearing in the private sector? While there has been considerable heat and misrepresentation generated by opponents to health care reform, many of whom profit handsomely under the status quo, whatever shortcomings a federal health care voluntary optional program may or may not have, it will prove vastly superior to having no insurance program – an increasingly likely prospect for those of us now insured and for our children and grandchildren.

Securing Federal Health Care Reform, which preserves employer provided insurance options, is all the more critical given the efforts of State Representative Dillon

to put all active and retired Michigan public employees, including HFCC active and retired employees, into a common pool with “uniform coverage” (read reduced coverage) comparable to that typical in the private sector.

Sample letters to members of the U.S. Congress and Senator regarding Health Care Reform are available through the AFT website: www.aft.org. Click on the Legislative Action Center link in the left hand margin and then the Health Care Reform link. These sample letters can be forwarded to your Representative and Senators or you can edit the letters as you see fit on the website.

Thank you for supporting Local 1650's efforts to protect your wages, insurance benefits, and pensions.

John McDonald

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE INITIATIVE

The 10 year, \$12 billion program to support community colleges that President Obama announced on July 14 will help boost the number of high school graduates who would be able to receive a college education, and will fill a tremendous need to fund improved courses and facilities at the two-year institutions, according to AFT President Randi Weingarten.

"For many students, community college offers an important pathway to attain higher education, to launch careers or to retool for new work opportunities," Weingarten says. AFT member John McDonald, President of the Henry Ford Community College Federation of Teachers in Michigan, met with President Obama to offer support for the proposal, the American Graduation Initiative.

Inside AFT

AFT AWARD TO LOCAL 1650

Local 1650 was one of eleven “President’s Level” recipients nationwide of the first AFT Higher Education Political Action Awards. Presented at the AFT’s National Higher Education Issues Conference in Miami, the award recognizes comprehensive, innovative, and effective local political action programs that address the concerns of higher education at the local, state, and federal levels.

Appreciation for the Local’s successful political action program is due the following:

1. The Local 1650 Political/Legislative Committee, which monitors and develops responses to State and federal legislation and coordinates campaign efforts in support of endorsed candidates for office; Committee Co-chairs Jim Wanless and Eric Rader; and Committee members: Linda Brandt, Hal Friedman, Joyce Fisher, Mike Garms, Geraldine Grunow, Angela Hathikhanavala, Adam Hazlett, Matthew Johnson, Peter Kim, John McDonald, Jeff Morford, Tony Perry, Pam Sayre, Bill Secrest, Cynthia Stiller, and Kevin Trovini.
2. Local 1650’s Area Representatives, who are responsible for collecting contributions to the Federation’s Political Action Fund: Maureen Webster, Area 1; Jim Wanless, Area 2; Todd Browning, Area 3; Jeannine Dawson, Area 4; Susan Shunkwiler, Area 5; Jim Knack, Area 6; Linda Brandt, Area 7; Maggie Thornburg, Area 8; and Randy Knight, Area 9.
3. The many Local 1650 members who send letters/e-mails, make phone calls, work the polls, and contribute financially to the Local’s political efforts. These 1650 members recognize that our contract and careers at HFCC faculty are determined by the decisions of elected and appointed officials in the political arena.

John McDonald

FOCUS HOPE RECOGNIZES LOCAL 1650

In light of the Federation’s longstanding annual holiday drive and the contributions of faculty and staff to the Focus Hope Gift of Reading Program, now totaling over \$10,000, Focus Hope has recognized Local 1650 as a member of its Circles of Hope Leadership Giving Program.

The Federation appreciates the work of Focus Hope and its gracious acknowledgment of the support of HFCC faculty and staff. In early December, the Federation will once again solicit new children’s books and financial contributions to provide, through Focus Hope, the Gift of Reading to needy children throughout our community.