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Adray Tournament Ends

After 25 years, the Adray family has decided to retire the Adray Memorial Golf Tournament.

The Tournament honored the memory of Michael Adray and his lifelong commitment to public education, Henry Ford Community College, and youth athletics. Over 25 years, the Adray Tournament generated over \$1.2 million in scholarships for HFCC students and enhanced the lives of thousands of students in need.

In recent years, the proceeds from the Tournament have declined. Unfortunately, vendor sponsorship support of the Tournament has diminished over the last few years. Steps recommended by the Adray Committee to reverse it have not

materialized due to Dr. Jensen's objections.

The Adray family has asked that its deep appreciation be conveyed to all HFCC employees who volunteered their time to the Tournament – and to all sponsors and golfers who supported the Tournament fundraising efforts. The Adray family and its Foundation will continue to support students in need as opportunities present themselves.

Sadly, the Adray Tournament, a great HFCC tradition and source of wonderful relationships, has concluded.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the Adray family for adding 25 years to Mike Adray's lifelong dedication to HFCC and its students.

John McDonald

AFT Convention

The AFT Convention convened in Minneapolis on July 17, with John McDonald, Jeff Morford, and Eric Rader as Local 1650 delegates.

John McDonald was re-elected as Vice-president of the 1.6 million member AFT. Eric Rader was elected as officer-at-large of the Progressive Caucus, AFT President Randi Weingarten's political caucus.

The delegates endorsed former New

York Senator and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for President of the United States. Secretary Clinton, who met with AFT officers and spoke at the Convention, emphasized her longstanding support of public education and its proper funding, free college tuition for families making up to \$125,000 and debt free college education for those with incomes exceeding \$125,000, health care coverage for all Americans, responsible appointments to the Supreme Court, and her commitment to combat terrorism.

1650 Resolution Endorsed by AFT Delegates

Among the resolutions passed at the AFT Convention was one originating with Local 1650 – the first a resolution calling for humane treatment of immigrants and opposing Islamophobia. The Resolution cites the wrongful discrimination and vilification faced by every wave of our immigrant ancestors to our shores, the contributions of all immigrant groups to our nation, and the un-American discrimination based upon religion and ethnicity rampant in current political discourse.

A second HFCC-FT resolution, forwarded through AFT Michigan, calls for an AFT effort to curtail the overreach of accrediting agencies into policies that are rightly the purview of college governance and local Trustee authority. The resolution also calls for equal representation of faculty on all accreditation visiting teams and assigning faculty the primary role of assessing student success and accountability standards on Visiting Teams. In addition, the resolution calls for transparency regarding accrediting agencies' revenues and expenditures. This resolution has been forwarded to the AFT Executive Council for action.

A third resolution addressed the Flint Water Crisis and the culpability of the State therein. Dr. Laura McIntyre, adjunct professor at U of M Flint, AFT member, and resident of Flint, spoke movingly to what it has been like to rely totally on bottled water for over three years and the damage done to children from lead exposure. Please see the article on President McDonald's participation in canvassing Flint neighborhoods.

President McDonald spoke in support of the first two resolutions from the floor of the Convention, and on the Flint Water Crisis at Progressive Caucus sessions or in the AFT Resolutions Committees. McDonald's convention comments and the resolutions are on the 1650 website: www.hfcc1650.org

Walking Flint Neighborhoods

Last May, I canvassed Flint neighborhoods along with Tony White, an officer of the Miami Dade Teacher Union, who flew to Flint to participate.

We joined the efforts of Flint Rising, a volunteer community organization assisting Flint residents in securing bottled water, water filters, transportation, and health services.

Tony and I, members of the AFT local at U of M Flint, and individual volunteers and families met in a local church and spoke to what led us to volunteer. I will never forget the young girl who said she saw her mother crying one day and asked her why she was so sad. Her mother, and this family did not reside in Flint, said she was crying over the poor babies in Flint who had been poisoned by lead. The little girl said "I am here to help, so my mother will not cry anymore over the babies."

The neighborhoods we walked were the poorest of the poor. Many homes had been abandoned by those able to flee Flint. The residents we spoke to were at first apprehensive. They had been lied to by State officials for three years. When they understood we were there to help, they were most appreciative, particularly the elderly and single mothers with small children who had struggled to and from bottle water locations with cases of water on public transportation. Flint Rising has a 24 hour turn-around time for providing water, filters, and transportation – all staffed by volunteers.

Walking Flint Neighborhoods (page 2)

The other memory I will never forget is of beautiful young toddlers and children coming out on the porches. One young toddler hugged my leg. As I looked at these children, I struggled with the thought that some of their lives will be devastated by the effects of prolonged lead poisoning.

Recently, Dr. Mona Hannah Attisha was honored by ACCESS as its “Hero of the Year.” A pediatrician of Arabic descent residing and practicing in Flint, Dr. Hannah Attisha’s early warnings of lead poisoning in Flint were dismissed and her professional reputation questioned by State officials and right wing commentators.

In her remarks, Dr. Hanna Attisha emphasized that she was not a “hero.” She said that the real “heroes” were the residents of Flint, organizations like Flint Rising, and individual volunteers who devoted so much effort to the remedy the callous and “minor cost saving” disaster that never should have happened. In my mind Laura McIntyre; the AFT faculty at U of M Flint; and Bonnie Halloran, President of the U of M adjunct union, are the real heroes as well.

Walking Flint was a revelation and an opportunity commit to something beyond self.

John McDonald

Political Action Vital to Faculty

In the near future, your Local 1650 Area Representative will contact you seeking a contribution of \$120 to the Local 1650 Political Action Fund (HFCC-FT PAF).

Three College Trustee seats will be on the November ballot. As faculty at Henry Ford College, the fate of our College and the fate our careers are in the hands of elected officials. We are employed by the HFC Board of Trustees. This elected Board ultimately sets educational and fiscal policy at HFC – and it is party to our collective bargaining agreement. **It is imperative that we support Trustee candidates who are fair-minded with respect to employees and broad-minded with respect faculty views on education policy.**

The State House of Representatives will also be on the November ballot. Some of the HFCC-FT PAF is also used to support candidates for the office of Governor, as well as State House, State Senator, and State Supreme Court seats. The State Legislature provides 18% of HFC’s revenue – and thus 18% of the HFC budget for salaries, benefits, and instructional programs. The State once provided 50% of College revenue!

The Republican controlled State Legislature has passed a raft of proposals that have undermined and diminished Local 1650’s health insurance coverages through cost shifts to our members. It has done likewise to the pensions and health care of MPSERS’ retirees. In addition, the Legislature imposed the State income tax on private and public pensions and cut education financing in order to finance a \$1.8 billion corporate tax break.

Political Action Vital to Faculty (page 3)

Local 1650 PAF monies support candidates for State office who are committed to funding all levels of education properly, who respect the right of public employees to negotiate their contracts at the local level, and who support the MPSERS' pension system.

Traditionally 80-90% of HFC teachers have responded to the Federation's PAF request with the requested contribution. So too have a number of 1650 retirees! HFC teachers have done so because they see the strong connection between their careers at this College and the decisions of elected officials at the local and State levels.

Contributions to Local 1650's PAF may be designated as "restricted" or "unrestricted." "Restricted" PAF contributions are used in support of operational millage and capital improvement ballot proposals, candidates for HFC Board of Trustees, State House and Senate candidates within the College District, and candidates for municipal office.

"Unrestricted" PAF contributions may be used to support the above purposes but also to support candidates for State-wide office, State House and Senate candidates outside the College District, and State Supreme Court candidates, whose decisions impact the College and faculty.

Local 1650 PAF monies are not used to support candidates for federal office or national political parties.

Thank you for your consideration. Thank you as well for your support of your Union's political efforts to secure the future of this College, its programs and curricula, its students, and its faculty.

John McDonald

MPSERS Ruling on 3% Case

The Michigan Court of Appeals found unconstitutional a 2010 law requiring public school employees to pay 3 percent of their wages for retiree health care without being guaranteed they would receive that benefit. The ruling means educators who paid this 3 percent into the retirement fund from 2010 to 2013 will see the money returned to them with interest if the ruling stands.

The decision adopts arguments presented by AFT Michigan that the Michigan Legislature overreached when it required these payments since no employee is guaranteed health care when they retire.

Background to the Case

In July, 2010, the Michigan Legislature required every public school employee to pay 3% of their compensation to the School Employees Retirement Fund to pay for the post employment retiree health care of persons then retired. While employees were required to pay to fund this benefit for others, they, themselves, had no assurance that they would, in turn be entitled to health care when they retire.

MPSERS Ruling on 3% Case (page 4)

AFT Michigan sued the State of Michigan challenging this involuntary extraction from wages to pay for health care of others without any promise of a similar benefit to those now paying. The Federation won in the Court of Claims and the Court of Appeals and the case moved to the Supreme Court.

While the case was pending, in 2012 the Legislature — anticipating that the 2010 law would be invalidated — adopted a new statute. The new law made contributions to retiree health care voluntary. Other provisions of the law imposed new economic burdens on public school employees but not directly related to retiree health care. The Federation challenged this law, too, but did not prevail.

After the adverse decision on the 2012 statute, the Supreme Court directed the Court of Appeals to reconsider its decision on the 2010 statute. That Court issued its decision today. The decision applies to the forced contributions between July 1, 2010 and January 9, 2013.

Julie Rowe
Legislative Mobilization Coordinator
AFT-Michigan

Local 1650 General Membership Meeting
Monday, September 12*
3:15 in K-311
Walter Reuther Liberal Arts Building

***Note: The General Membership Meeting
will be on the second, rather than third,
Monday of the month in September**