AFT Michigan MPSERS Lawsuit

In response to the Legislature enacting a 3% premium surcharge for MPSERS healthcare, AFT-Michigan has filed suit to enjoin payment of the 3% surcharge and to have it declared unconstitutional.

The AFT lawsuit argues that the action of the Legislature has violated the “substantive due process” protections of the 14th Amendment, in that 3% of wages are being involuntarily taken with no guarantee of anything in return, since the Legislature can diminish or can terminate MPSERS health care coverage at its discretion.

AFT-Michigan legal counsel Marc Cousens expects a summary disposition ruling within ten weeks.

1650 Political Action Fund

Thus far, 59% of the membership had responded to the Local’s request for PAF contributions, donating a total of $14,385 to Local 1650's Political Action Fund. Local 1650's Executive Board has recommended that each teacher contribute $120 to the HFCC-FT PAF.

Below is a record of contributions received so far.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th># Contr./ # in Area</th>
<th>% of Faculty Who Have Contributed</th>
<th>Area Representative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coun, Lib, PI Off, SOS, Assisted Learning</td>
<td>13/13</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Maureen Webster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>26/40</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>Jim Wanless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical, STAE</td>
<td>5/32</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>Todd Browning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business, Math</td>
<td>20/29</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>Sam Bazzi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Careers &amp; Nursing</td>
<td>15/31</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>Susan Shunkwiler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>10/22</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>Linda Brandt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>18/22</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>Maggie Thornburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts &amp; Fitness</td>
<td>13/15</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>Randy Knight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>120/204</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Political Action Fund (page 1)

How will your contributions be used? Local 1650 operates two PAF funds. The first, a “restricted” fund, is used only for local millage/bond elections, Board of Trustees’ campaigns, and the campaigns of municipal and/or State legislative candidates within the College District whose decisions impact directly on HFCC revenues.

The Local uses the “unrestricted” fund to engage in political activity and to support 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. Gubernatorial, out-state legislative races, State Supreme Court, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and State ballot referenda fall into this category.

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

The Executive Board thanks those who have already contributed and thus supported 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 compensate its employees. Additional checks should be made out to HFCC-FT PAF and forwarded to your Area Representative as soon as possible.

1650 Facebook Page

Local 1650 has entered the social networking age with its own Facebook page! 1650 members can access it at: http://tinyurl.com/24hv7x.

An easy way to find our group is by simply typing “Local 1650” in the Facebook search box. The first result is our Union.

This is a closed group, meaning that any Facebook member who wants to access the page will have to be approved by the administrator. The only requirement for membership is that a person be a member or friend of Local 1650.

The 1650 Facebook group will be a great way to share news on our contract, highlight important topics in higher education, discuss critical issues facing HFCC and the wider community, and share updates on political developments that affect our livelihoods.

We can also post important personal announcements and share social invitations to foster greater solidarity among our members.

Since we all have very busy and varied schedules, the Federation hopes this page can help members stay better connected with one another and continue to foster the professional and personal ties that make Local 1650 such a strong union and HFCC a great place to work.

Eric W. Rader

Faculty Evaluation Survey

Local 1650 will distribute Student Evaluation of Instruction Surveys to all full-time faculty during the tenth week of the semester. They must be returned by November 19, 2010. All Fall and Winter classes – both contractual and extra-contractual – are surveyed. Surveys for adjunct faculty are distributed by the Human Resources Office.

Instructions for distribution and return of the surveys are included with the survey packets. It is a contractual obligation to participate in this process. Forms must be returned by November 19, 2010. Failure to do so delays processing the forms for an entire Division, and in some cases late submissions have delayed processing for months.

John McDonald
Local 1650 Elections

This fall, the offices of Local 1650 President, the Vice-President for External Affairs, and Area Representatives for even numbered Areas are up for election. Nominations for these offices will close at the October meeting, and elections will be held in November. Members interested in running should inform B. Cohn or H. Friedman in writing, by either hard copy or email.

Ford X-Plan

Two years ago, as a result of an inquiry from Local 1650 member Randy Knight; the efforts of Local 1650 President John McDonald's daughter Mary Gollan, who sponsored HFCC's request at Ford Motor; and HFCC's longstanding relationship with Ford Motor, Ford's Partner Recognition Program was made available to all HFCC employees.

Partner Recognition offers all of the employees of Henry Ford Community College the ability to purchase or lease eligible vehicles at Ford Motor Company's X-Plan pricing. To participate in the Ford X-Plan, contact the Office of Human Resources for a PIN number.