

State of the Union

Volume 2, Issue 4

May 2005

MCCC Delegate Assembly held May 7

*BY: Marilyn Martin
QCC/MCCC Union President*

This past Saturday I attended the most recent Delegate Assembly for the MCCC. Among the powers and duties of the delegates attending the Assembly are two important responsibilities: 1. determine the dues to be paid by the membership and 2. adopt the annual budget. Before we got to those actions, we had several reports.

First, we established that we did indeed have a quorum. There was a review of the Standing Rules and we adopted the order of business.

President Rick Doud then gave his report, both orally and in writing. He discussed activities related to the unfunded contract extension (points). He pointed out the extension was delivered to the Governor's office on April 26. The Governor has 45 days to act on the funding request. Additionally, efforts are ongoing to amend chapter 150e which governs collective bargaining. The amendment would allow the employer (BHE) to submit legislation to fund future contracts directly to the Legislature, rather than having the Governor submit (or not submit) such legislation. He discussed the Day Bargaining progress and the new protocol for future faculty and professional staff salary appeals. He reminded us that the DCE contract was ratified by a vote of 912 yes and 85 no.

At this point in the day's agenda, I was proud to be the recipient of the Jon Butler Memorial Award. Margaret Wong said some very kind words regarding my service to the chapter, and I now have a lovely plaque on my office wall.

Cathy Boudreau, MTA President, then spoke to us about concerns such as returning employee contributions for health insurance to 85% employer to 15% employee. She said that new employees would have to pay 20% of the cost. It was unclear to me why the distinction was made between new and longer-term employees.

Day and DCE Bargaining teams gave updates and the Strategic Action Committee also gave its report. I have hard copies of these reports; contact me if you wish to see them. Before we broke for lunch, we reviewed the proposed budget for the next fiscal year. Budget "highlights" included:

- \$5.00 dues increase.
- Cut 19 release time sections paid for by the MCCC.
- Restore 9 release time sections.
- Salary freeze for MCCC officers.

We were also informed of the following dues breakdown: NEA 20%, MTA 39% and MCCC 41%.

After lunch, much debate ensued. Discussion centered on whether people should get release time and meals for performing union work and if the cost for those things could come out of the union's reserve monies. Eventually, the budget passed and we will be paying an additional \$5.00 in dues.

New business items included a proposed by-law amendment to give all active members a full vote in all matters. After much discussion, the motion failed. The Assembly turned down a motion to earmark an additional \$20.00 dues increase to support Political Action.

After a long day, the work of your dedicated Delegates was finally over. As tiring as this meeting is, its importance cannot be overstated. This is the meeting where the rules by which the MCCC is run as well as the budget and over reaching policy are established. Every member who cares how the MCCC is run and how much money you pay in dues should attend this very important yearly meeting. ❖

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Marilyn Martin recipient of Jon G. Butler Award

*BY Margaret Wong
Macer/BOD*

At the MCCC Delegate Assembly held in Marlborough, Massachusetts on May 7, 2005 Marilyn Martin was presented with the Jon G. Butler Memorial Award. Jon G. Butler, formerly of North Shore Community College, was an outspoken and active proponent of unit members' rights. The purpose of the award established in his honor is to recognize a current chapter president who has made a significant impact on MCCC unit members.

Marilyn Martin was named this year's winner of the award at the March 25, 2005 meeting of the MCCC Board of Directors by unanimous acclaim of the members on the strength of a nomination packet that included substantial support materials contributed by numerous QCC unit members.

In the words of one veteran professional staff member at QCC, Marilyn "has facilitated and empowered the membership to take ownership and pride in themselves, their professionalism and their common causes. She has chosen to conduct chapter business in an open, democratic and participatory fashion that has merged the old with the new and formed a dynamic and working group of colleagues. Her constant availability and accountability to the membership has made her an outstanding president and union leader."

The official nomination form states that "Marilyn Martin has pushed forward an aggressive pro-union agenda, putting in countless hours in meetings with the college president and vice-presidents to improve conditions for unit members. She has worked tirelessly to challenge membership apathy. And she has forcefully pursued membership involvement to engender an environment that has encouraged members to speak up. Under her leadership have come bold, cohesive actions that have unified the member into what truly deserves the name 'union.'" ❖

**1048 Days
Without a Raise
and counting**

Union votes on further WTR action

The Work to Rule Committee tackled the issue of graduation and made its recommendations at the April 14 Union Meeting. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The recommendation reads: We respect the principle that Commencement is above all a student celebration, and the inside of the tent is student space. Outside the tent, however, the Work to Rule Committee suggests that faculty wear regalia, but that we also wear armbands with the number of days without a raise. Additionally, flyers will be placed on chairs in the tent that will explain what the number on the armband means. Coordinators will not read the names of their graduates, and the faculty greeter perhaps addresses the contributions that the faculty and professional staff make in public higher education. ❖

QCC/MCCC Union Meetings fall 05

- **September 8**
- **October 13**
- **November 10**
- **December 8**

All meetings will be held in 107A at 2:00 pm.



*Enjoy
the
summer!*