



Philip Mahler
Board of Directors
District 44H
978-405-2531
Treasurer@mccc-union.org

Tom Parsons
Board of Directors
District 44H
781-235-9736
wombatsin@yahoo.com

Report to MCCC Chapter Leaders

From Phil Mahler, Tom Parsons
MCCC Representatives to the MTA Board of Directors

MTA Board Meeting – April 1,2, 2005

On Friday the Board considered recommendations of the Bylaws and Rules Committee regarding proposed rules and bylaws changes. These will come before the Delegate Assembly with the Board's recommendations.

The Board recommended rejection of a motion to amend the standing rules to start the Friday business meeting at the annual delegate assembly at 10 am instead of 12:30 pm. This would eliminate the popular exposition of vendors, and would make things more difficult for many to get there on time, and would adversely affect those who get only 1/2 day off to attend.

The Board recommended rejection of proposed bylaw changes to

- decrease MTA dues by 10% per month for new members, depending on starting date, each month starting on October 15. This was viewed as difficult to implement, and the motion itself was not clear. It would not greatly affect the amount of dues but is intended to more closely pro-rate dues by date of hire. (It slightly raises dues, actually, for most of the time.)
- eliminate or restrict the ability of a member to obtain signatures at the delegate assembly to run for president at that delegate assembly.
- change the appointment duration for members of the CRC (Candidate Recommendation Committee).

The Board narrowly recommended a proposed bylaw change to change the quorum for the delegate assembly from one-fifth of the delegate entitlement to one-fifth of the delegates registered at the meeting. The intent of the change is to avoid losing a quorum at the end of the delegate assembly due to the leaving of delegates. The practical effect would let the meeting continue to run with about 225 members instead of at least 500 or so as required now. Phil pointed out that this would allow the meeting to be an official one no matter how many delegates showed up, which he believes would be irresponsible.

The Board discussed personnel matters, including anticipated negotiations with MTA employees, in executive session.

The status of MCCC's day contract was mentioned several times throughout the meeting, under negotiations' status reports, the budget, and the report of the Executive Director Ed Sullivan. The Board and MTA leadership is acutely aware of our situation, and, with MCCC leadership of course, is working on it too. MTA has met with the House Speaker, and members in the Executive Branch, over this and other issues.

It was reported that MSCA (state colleges) ratified their contract 875 to 85. It offers 3% per year for 3 years, but still has to get by the governor. We wish them luck!

Saturday saw an excellent presentation on charter schools. These schools benefit from the same per student local subsidy as the local public schools; in fact the subsidy comes from the local school budget. However, they do not share the public school burden of dealing with the most problematic (and expensive) students. They pay poorly and are not subject to the same fiscal and academic regulation as public schools. It was noted they amount to a voucher system, which can only weaken our public schools and make their job more difficult.

The Higher Education Leadership Council (HELIC) asked the Board to support legislation proposed initially by the MFT to amend the higher ed collective bargaining law, Chapter 150 E. The MTA has filed and supported such legislation in the past. One of the Board members from the K-12 system spoke about being informed about the problem at a regional TASC meeting in the Bristol area, by MCCC members! The Board unanimously endorsed the proposal.

The Board added a resolution for the Delegate Assembly's consideration on the right to civil marriage. This had been proposed last year but was not considered when the meeting was adjourned on Saturday for lack of a quorum.


Kathy Conway, Director of Finance and Accounting, presented the financial report. Membership is well above that set by the budget, and this increased income, as well as some cost savings, is producing a positive net income, as opposed to a budget-predicted negative balance.

The Board voted to increase the MTA stipend to the NEA-RA for local delegates (the category for MCCC delegates) from \$300 to \$400, and for regional delegates (elected statewide) from \$1,100 to \$1,200. Note that the MCCC also reimburses up to \$800 for up to 15 MCCC local delegates to the NEA-RA. This year the RA is in Los Angeles.

Proposed Budget

The Board adopted a budget recommendation for the Delegate Assembly. It recommends an \$8 dues increase, and continues the \$30 special assessment for publicity and organizing. The Board feels the ABC (Advisory Budget Committee) did an outstanding job of cost cutting and cost containment while maintaining MTA priorities and major programs.

Interesting Tidbit from the Publicity Campaign

An interesting item of note. The director, Joel Schumacher, of an MTA television ad, waived his fee because of the public service/student related nature of the project! Joel Schumacher is well known – he did *The Phantom of the Opera* in 2004 – just  his name for lots more. ☺