

September 16, 2008

Dear MSUFT Local 1904 Member:

During our first MSUFT Local 1904 General Meeting, I presented a State of the Union Address that listed our accomplishments in AY 07-08 and established our objectives for AY 08-09.

In the event that you were unable to attend, you should still have the opportunity to familiarize yourself with our successes over the past year as well as the future directions in which the Union is poised to go.

Thank you,
Dierdre

**MSUFT Local 1904
List of Accomplishments for AY 07-08**

- CNJSCL FT/PT Unit successfully completed contract talks and ratified our agreement on July 23, 2007.
- MSUFT Local 1904 held *Contract Information Sessions* for the purpose of informing our members about contract highlights and bargaining unit gains on September 17, 2007.
- We enhanced the Union's presence at the New Faculty Program. This year, we received an hour during which we'd address new faculty rather than the five (5) minutes that had been allotted for our introduction previously.
- The Local successfully addressed deficits in the MSUFT Local 1904 budget and netted a surplus.
- We held one of the most well attended Professional Staff luncheons in the Local's history.
- MSUFT Local 1904 granted 6 MSUFT scholarships to deserving students, including the Ellen Kerns Nunn Scholarship to a deserving single parent.

- The Local elected one of the most diverse officers groups (with respect to gender, race, and ethnicity) in the history of the MSUFT Local 1904.
- MSUFT Local 1904 totally revamped its webpage, making it easier for our members to find pertinent information on contracts, policies, benefits, and Union-related news.
- We have now initiated a private cell phone line for grievance-related matters. This initiation is listed as an accomplishment because it emphasizes the Union's understanding of the membership's need for privacy when discussing contractual and other employment-related matters.
- We held two MSUFT Local 1904 retreats and our first new Officers orientation session.
- The Officers Group requested an audit of local finances by the National American Federation of Teachers (our parent organization) because the Local was transitioning. Auditor Peter Gibson was quite laudatory regarding the work of former Treasurer Gil Klajman, Office Administrator Linda Turano, and new Treasurer Rich Wolfson.
- We successfully negotiated the MSU pilot Teaching Fellows Program; Friday After Thanksgiving; Sabbatical Leave; Transition to Retirement; Summer Departmental Administration; Flextime Policy, Procedures, and Applications Form; Professional Staff Review Board Memorandum of Agreement; Winter Holiday Break and Four Day Summer Work Week; and Tuition Waiver Form and Requirements.
- The Local had an increase in COPE funding and made a concerted effort to recruit more COPE members.
- We advanced major initiatives to address issues of campus safety and diversity (as they pertain to both our bargaining unit members and the MSU student body).
- We submitted and fought for our first Local resolution to the National AFT on the political endorsement process in national races.
- We continued to lobby NJ State legislators on higher education issues including access and affordability.

MSUFT Local 1904
List of Objectives for AY 08-09

MSUFT Local 1904 is committed to:

- Crafting our own strategic plan for the purpose of determining current areas of strength and deficit, in addition to ways in which we'll position ourselves in the next 1-5 years.
- Increasing our full dues paying membership for the purpose of gaining more local and CNJSCL strength, as well as securing another CNJSCL delegate.
- Composing a membership recruitment plan with carefully defined objectives.
- Completing the revision of the MSUFT Local 1904 Bylaws.
- Increasing our COPE membership and funding.
- Establishing a more significant presence with the National AFT.
- Enhancing our visibility and influence in the MSU academic community with our web presence and continued service.
- Continuing our efforts to further advance major initiatives to address issues of campus safety and diversity (as they pertain to both our bargaining unit members and the MSU student body).
- Composing and submitting a campus safety resolution to the National AFT.
- Continuing to forge alliances with New Jersey legislators who are committed to our issues, that includes higher education issues including access and affordability.