

# FAN

## Faculty Association Newsletter

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MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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<http://www.monroecc.edu/go/FA> or [www.monroeccfa.org](http://www.monroeccfa.org)



## President's Corner

Charlie Clarke, FA President

As President of the FA, I am a member of NYSUT's Higher Education Committee. At our early October meeting we received a bleak assessment of the State's budget. There is a \$3 billion plus midyear budget deficit. The State University of New York budget has been cut by \$90 million which means that SUNY is taking the biggest percentage hit. Given the contingencies of the federal stimulus funds, community colleges appear to be safe from midyear cuts. However, the budget outlook for 2010–2011 is bleak. The deficit appears to be structural and may last until we negotiate our next contract.

The State fiscal crisis adds extra urgency to our advocacy that the County Legislature "stop the drop" in their percentage contribution to MCC—which is the lowest in the state. Even this year's significant County increase (\$1 million) is diminished by current pressure by the County Executive to increase student parking fees, possibly by \$35-\$40. Since 80% of the fees go back to the County General Fund, this could generate upwards of \$300,000 to \$500,000 on the backs of the students. We believe this is a clandestine and regressive form of taxation on the students and the affected towns.

This is just one of the reasons why we are interviewing and endorsing County Legislative

candidates for the first time this year. We've endorsed based on the candidates willingness to commit to:

- Increasing the County percentage contribution to MCC. Unless funding of MCC is brought back into the County's operating budget this means increasing the "chargeback" fee to County taxpayers. **MCC is part of the mandated portion of the county operating budget. However, two years ago the County removed their funding of the College from the tax rate. The County bills a "chargeback" fee, based on the number of town or city students attending MCC, to the towns and Rochester. This line is called 'county services to localities'.** This allowed the County to argue that they were keeping the tax rate low, while passing the cost of MCC on as a fee that is separately charged to each taxed household.
- Distributing the MCC "charge back" fee equally, rather than proportionately to attendance, among all County taxpayers. Since the County Legislative and executive leadership implemented the chargeback system they also made a decision to bill based on the proportion of students who attend MCC. This punishes the towns that send proportionately more students to MCC with a larger fee and correspondingly higher tax bill. The County could have argued that all County members benefit equally from the availability of MCC and therefore the chargeback fee should be equally distributed across the County. This is

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**Charlie Clarke, President; Taine Vinci, Vice President; Patricia Kress, Secretary; Renee Rigoni, Treasurer; Mike Goho, Teaching Director; John Wadach, Teaching Director; Anne Perry, Professional Staff Director; Paul Wheeler, Professional Staff Director; Thomas Clark, Adjunct Director; Bethany Gizzi, Grievance Chair; Jeffrey Kiggins, Contract Chair; Ellen Mancuso, Legislative Chair; Cheryl Mahoney, Benefits Chair; Christy Fogal, Institutional Chair; Regina Fabbro, Membership Chair; Dale Doty, Damon/Site Director**

what they presently do with the fee for the County airport. This would be fairer and would reinforce the idea that MCC is a "public good" that benefits all taxpayers equally.

- Appointments to County Boards or agencies (e.g., MCC Board of Trustees) that are deliberative, publicly transparent, and not normally treated as "matters of urgency." Candidates for appointment should be vetted by the appropriate Legislative Committee with a report to the Legislature, as a whole, explaining their recommendation.

All candidates for the County Legislature races were invited to interview. The FA Endorsement Committee did not endorse any candidate that did not attend an interview or failed to give satisfactory answers to the above themes. It is Faculty Council's hope that our members will actively support endorsed candidates in their Legislative District with both their vote and, where possible, their public advocacy.

Since the FA is becoming more involved in political action, Faculty Council has decided to communicate with members about politically sensitive issues

utilizing a new Faculty Association email address that does not use monroecc.edu (mcc\_FacultyAssociation@rochester.rr.com). We would like to know what email address and phone number that you would prefer us to communicate with you. Please see the tear-off in this FAN requesting your information (the tear-off has an email option). It would be tremendously helpful if you would return it to the FA office ASAP. We will keep your personal email address and phone number private and will not share it with others. It is time for the faculty of MCC to participate in the education of our County leaders about why expanded support of MCC as a public good and economic engine is in everybody's interest.

It is our hope that as many FA members as possible will participate in supporting the FA endorsed County legislative candidates. A more supportive County sponsor will allow MCC to more completely focus on supporting student access and excellence and fair salaries in our attempt to become a college of choice for all citizens and in all programs.



**The FA is seeking to keep members informed on political action issues related to MCC and the upcoming County Legislative races. You may complete this form or email your responses to Sonja Lenhard at [Sonja\\_Lenhard@rochester.rr.com](mailto:Sonja_Lenhard@rochester.rr.com).**

## ***Political Action! Become Involved!***

To: MCC FACULTY ASSOCIATION

From \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Please add my personal email to the FA Email distribution list. I understand I will be kept informed on issues regarding the County Legislature races and their impact upon MCC.*

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# ETS Instructional Technologies Printing Services Announces New Online Request for Services Forms

Bill Gruhn, Director

At one time or another, we have all faced the inconvenience of not being able to access the walk-up copiers. At the most critical time, when we really need to use them, the copier is either jamming, inoperable, waiting for service, or the waiting line is just too long. The frequency of this problem is intensified at the beginning of each semester, because of the increase in demand. This problem is as frustrating for the Printing Services staff as it is for the user.

MCC faculty and staff now have an alternative: Choose to submit your copying or business card request and attach files online, from anywhere, 24/7! Files are received electronically by a Printing Services representative and submitted directly for processing. Upon completion, you may pick up your completed request at the Bldg. 5 or Bldg. 8 Copy Centers, or the main copy center located in Bldg. 3.

To access the online forms, go to the MCC Web site ([www.monroecc.edu](http://www.monroecc.edu)), click on "Employees," use the drop down box and click "Technical Services" and then click "Print Shop Requests."

Because the forms can be accessed from the Internet, this service is particularly convenient for users at satellite campus locations and those working from home. The forms also provide groups such as adjunct faculty with easy access to submit requests.

There are two forms available for use, the standard request form, for all copying and duplicating requests as well as a form to request business cards. The standard form looks the same as the traditional hard copy request form and can be completed online in much the same fashion. All information should be completed on the form (i.e., department name, user name, number of copies, stock, collate, staple, etc.)

The form enables you to attach files for copying—enabling the Print Shop to complete your request faster and in a more secure manner than before. In most cases, requests will be sent digitally to the

copiers directly from the files, therefore, saving paper and time. Copies will also have higher resolution because they do not have to be rescanned. This will be particularly noticeable in files containing graphics or photos.

To attach files to the form go the box that says "Attach Files" then follow the simple instructions. Acceptable file formats are PDF, post script and any Microsoft Office file; for any other file formats please check with Printing Services. ***You should note that if your information is not in electronic format, upon request, Printing Services will scan your hard copy originals and convert them to a PDF.***

Most files can be easily attachable; however, large files (over 2 MB in memory) will need to be placed on the M-Drive for retrieval. The business card request form can also be completed online. Faculty and staff will have the option of receiving an e-mail proof that can be approved digitally for faster turnaround.

***For more information, please contact Printing Services at extension 2520.***

**SAVE THE DATE**

*FA Holiday  
Party*

**Friday, December 4  
Locust Hill Country Club**

*Ticket Sales Begin in November*

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# Are you listening?

*Ellen Mancuso, FA Legislative Chair*

As Election Day rolls near, I become increasingly angered at the state of Monroe County and a County Legislature which either chooses to disregard or is unable to find a solution to a rising tide of fiscal troubles. It is estimated by some that Monroe County will have a \$100 million dollar deficit by fiscal year 2010-2011 because structural defects in the County budget continue to go unaddressed. In recent years, the County has been kept afloat through one-shot funding sources such as the tobacco securitization, the sale of tax liens and the Fair Plan. (See Helpful Notes below)

According to Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, there are 64 governmental agencies in Monroe County and over 10,000 across New York State. If the County and State governments do not address our budgetary crises by working toward consolidation of services, I fear our state and county will fall into the quagmire that California is now experiencing. From my observations and in my discussions with people who serve in the County Legislature, Monroe County is expected to be under a control board\* within 6 years, as Erie County already has. Although unfunded mandates are a part of the reason our County faces this financial crisis, I am convinced there are many ways to save money that have not been investigated. How many of us have looked at the County budget? How many of us have attended a meeting of the County Legislature? As citizens of Monroe County and employees of Monroe Community College, we have a duty to be informed and to influence the decisions the County Legislature and the County Executive make.

For example, I recently learned at a County Legislature meeting that the County pays \$400,000 in rent for a building that houses nine employees but never more than two employees at a time! \$400,000? With the recent creation of a Local Development Corporation (LDC), the County has agreed to spend \$11.2 million dollars/ per year over the next 20 years. This reflects a 20 year total of \$220 million dollars with no county governmental oversight. Do you not wonder where that money is going and who benefits from a 20-year deal? As a citizen, I resent being told that our tax rate is

not going up while at the same time, the County's funding of MCC has been moved to a fee for service line, which not only increases my county tax bill but also has the effect of shifting the tax burden to the City of Rochester where the poorest population of Monroe County live.

I believe that we have abdicated our power as citizens of Monroe County by being uninformed and not keeping a watchful eye on our elected officials. As educators, we must be engaged in our civic responsibility and serve as role models for our students. My goal, as Legislative Chair of the FA Faculty Council, would be to have teams of educators at every town council and County Legislature meeting. Now is the time for NYSUT members (and retirees) to step up and commit to a couple of hours every month to attend a meeting and report to the membership or to pitch in at phone banks or work on behalf of one of our endorsed candidates. If we don't get involved, we risk what just happened in New Hartford, New York where the town administration has proposed a 54% property tax hike. If we don't change our ways, they may be changed for us.

We live in a country that was founded on the principle that its citizens have a right and a responsibility to participate in government. We are letting it slip away. We must ensure that the people whom we elect act in our interests. I have sat at County Legislature meetings and never heard a committee report. Business is being conducted behind closed doors. Block voting on both sides of the aisle seems to be the norm at these meetings. Can there be no issues resolved by a bipartisan consensus? I want my government to be run by ethical leaders who are open and informative with a transparent governmental structure. I know we will not agree on all issues, but we must be involved in shaping how our governmental entities run.

I hope you will get involved by contacting the FA office to make yourself available to work on a phone bank or to participate in a program to monitor town/county meetings. At the very least, please send us your personal email address so that we can inform

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you on issues of importance to MCC and your home front. Your involvement can make a difference.

**Helpful Notes:**

**One-shot funding:**

One shot funding works a little bit like the federal stimulus funds which provides an insurgence of money but does not address budget overspending.

Jill Terreri. "Monroe's finances level despite tax loss." *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* 7 September 2009 *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, ProQuest. Web. 13 Oct. 2009.

**Tobacco Securitization:**

Joseph Spector. "Monroe oversight debated." *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* 11 August 2007 *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, ProQuest. Web. 13 Oct. 2009. A.1

**Tax liens:**

Jill Terreri. "Monroe's finances level despite tax loss." *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* 7 September 2009 *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, ProQuest. Web. 13 Oct. 2009.

My notes to FA Members on the tax liens:

Mancuso, Ellen. "Monroe County Legislature Report." E-mail to MCC Faculty. 14 Jan. 2009.

Legislature meeting on December 10, the county sold \$365,000 in tax liens, but it remains unanswered if this amount was calculated into the 2009 projected tax lien sales.

**Local Development Corporation**

Jill Terreri. "Safety upgrades advance in county." *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* 30 September 2009 *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, ProQuest. Web. 13 Oct. 2009.

**Control Board:**

The New York State Financial Control Board (Act) was created by the State legislature in September 1975. An appointed Control Board can provide review, oversight, or management/control of, for example, a County's finances. In Erie County, NY, a Control Board recently returned to "advisory status" from "control status" over Erie County's finances.

**IMPORTANT NEWS FOR ALL MEMBERS**

Employees are entitled to take up to four hours of paid leave annually for breast cancer screening. Breast cancer screening includes physical exams and mammograms for the detection of breast cancer. Leave is only for those whose exams are scheduled during work time. Anything beyond 4 hours must be recorded as time off. Additionally, employees are entitled to take up to four hours of paid leave annually for prostate cancer screening. Prostate cancer screening includes physical exams and blood work. Leave is only for those whose exams are scheduled during work time. Anything beyond 4 hours must be recorded as time off. You must provide a copy from the doctor's office noting the date, time, and location where the screening was done. Documentation must be sent to HR. Regarding Web Time Entry: Do not record time away. Under "comments," indicate the purpose and the number of hours taken.

*Information was provided by MCC Human Resources/NYS Dept. of Civil Service.*

**Attention All Unit Members**

**Open Enrollment Period is Approaching  
October 28-November 30**

Changes and applications for the following contractual benefits can be made during open enrollment:

Health Care Insurance • Flexible Spending Accounts • Supplemental Retirement Accounts

Watch for information from Human Resources in the *MCC Tribune*, information in your College mail and information from the Faculty Association.

***The deadline for changes/applications is December 1, 2009.***