

college union VOICE

COOK COUNTY COLLEGE TEACHERS UNION, LOCAL 1600, AFT, AFL-CIO

WINTER 2008

VOTE
ON
FEBRUARY
5TH!

Local 1600 Endorsements for the February 5th Primaries

The Cook County College Teachers Union, Local 1600, normally does not endorse candidates during the primary election. However, the candidates listed below are facing competition and need YOUR support. Local 1600 will have a complete list of endorsements for the General Election in November. For more on politics, see pages 3 - 5.

BARACK OBAMA (D)

President of the United States

Local 1600 was the first union in the United States of America to endorse Senator Obama before he announced that he was a candidate.

RICHARD T. BRADLEY (D)

20th District - Senate

Currently the Representative for the 40th House District, Bradley is challenging incumbent Illinois Senator Iris Martinez for her seat in the 20th Senate District.

DEBORAH GRAHAM (D)

78th District - House of Representatives

Graham is the incumbent facing a challenger, Phyllis Logan. Local 1600 endorses Graham.

ESTHER GOLAR (D)

6th District - House of Representatives

TOM ALLEN (D)

Cook County States Attorney

Local 1600 strongly endorses 38th Ward Alderman Tom Allen in his campaign for State's Attorney. Allen has been a strong leader in the City Council and has long been a champion for organized labor. Additionally, he has earned the support of the Chicago Firefighter's Union and the Fraternal Order of Police.

Every two years three seats on the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) are up for election. Local 1600 has endorsed two candidates.

KATHLEEN THERESE MEANY (D)

DEAN T. MARAGOS (D)

To find out who your legislators are, visit: <http://www.ilga.gov/>

For more endorsements, visit:

- Local 1600:
www.ccctu.com
- Chicago Federation of Labor:
<http://www.chicagolabor.org/>
- Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT):
<http://www.ift-aft.org/>

COPE: An Investment in Your Future

By Bill Naegele, Legislative Chair

Local 1600 has had a busy year with its COPE fund and related activities. The Committee on Political Education (COPE) is the lobbying arm of the CCCTU, Local 1600. COPE is funded exclusively by voluntary member contributions. No CCCTU members' dues money is used for political purposes. COPE primarily endorses candidates for the Illinois State Legislature and College Boards of Trustees.

At the request of the City Colleges Solidarity Committee, CCCTU also became quite active in the recent Chicago aldermanic elections. "The City Colleges district is the only one in the state with an appointed Board," said President Perry Buckley. "Since we have no voice in their appointment it made sense to become involved in electing the aldermen who must approve their appointment." Four out of five Local 1600 endorsed aldermanic candidates were elected to office, the most notable being Brendan Reilly (42nd) who defeated long time incumbent, Burton Natarus.



Prairie State Security Chapter Chair Julius Neveles (center) and Asst. Chapter Chair LaGene Carter were so fired up about COPE that they tried to get their non-union boss, Al Thompson, to sign up during the first-ever PSC Security COPE Drive on November 16.

Other successful candidates included Bob Fioretti (2nd), Pat Dowell, (3rd), and incumbent Virginia Rugai (19th). "There is no doubt that our political influence plays a big part in our success at the negotiations tables not only in the suburbs but now also in Chicago," Buckley said.

continued on page 6

Visit the CCCTU website: www.ccctu.com

College Union Voice

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Perry J. Buckley

“Why Barack Obama?”

As a general rule Local 1600 adheres to the adage “all politics are local.” Roughly 80% of all our COPE funds, and political action efforts, go to Illinois representatives and senators who serve in the districts where our 14 colleges and 10 satellite campuses are located. Our contributions and volunteer efforts also go to our college district board elections, and occasionally state-wide officers such as our good friend Attorney General **Lisa Madigan**. Last year, for the first time ever, we joined with the CFL in working Chicago aldermanic elections. Still, all local, all directly linked to our colleges.

This time we broke with tradition. We broke not only early, but first. We broke with fervor and commitment. We broke with our history to make history.

A year ago, at our January 2007 House of Representatives meeting Local 1600 endorsed Senator **Barack Obama** for president of the United States. The endorsement passed unanimously 163 – 0. In making our endorsement we became the first labor union in the nation to endorse Senator Obama, even before he formally announced his candidacy.

Why? I believe the reasons obvious and unmistakable.

First, by negation, **George Bush** has left us an America which is morally and financially bankrupt. Over two million Americans lost their jobs in his first year of office alone and that trend has continued for eight years. He has attacked unions and the working man and woman while protecting his friends at Enron and Halliburton and making them even richer. He has eliminated funds for education and students thus shutting the doors to college for millions of young people. He orchestrated the war in Iraq which currently costs America over one billion dollars a week to say nothing of the devastating loss of lives this war has produced. We have lost the respect and support of our friends around the world who look in wonder as to what we have become. Succinctly, he is the worst president in the history of the United States.

Then there is Senator Obama. We at Local 1600 have watched his career from the Illinois State Senate to the Capitol in Washington. He offers America, the workers of our country, and our schools and students genuine hope for a change. He is honest and has the courage to tell us the truth, even when we do not want to hear it.

Last May, at the AFT Program and Policy meetings in Washington, six Democratic presidential candidates came before the 100 or so of us who were attending.

We asked the “standard” questions concerning education, schools, and educational policies and funding.

To be honest, all six candidates did well. I walked away from that meeting, as I did the debate in Soldier Field some 12 weeks later, with the belief that any one of them would make an excellent president. However, there was one defining moment for me which made clear why Senator Obama is our best hope for genuine change.

CTU President **Marilyn Stewart** had asked each candidate their opinion of charter schools. This, of course, is a hot button issue not only in the Chicago Public Schools, but in school districts and unions across the country. We don’t like them. They are non-union. They are the privatization of public schools. They weaken the very school districts they are purported to improve.

Each candidate, to one degree or another, told us what we wanted to hear: “Charter schools bad; public schools good. Non-union bad; union good.” Until Obama.

He looked right in our eyes and said the following: “I know what you want me to say, but I can’t say it. Too many of our urban schools are still in crisis. Students are still dropping out and failing, graduating without basic skills. It would be irresponsible of me to not look closely at every possible means to fix these wrongs. I cannot tell you that I will oppose charter schools while the jury is still out.”

It was amazing stuff. Senator Obama was in a room full of nothing but union teachers from all over the country, and yet he told us a truth not one of us wanted to hear: He didn’t lie, didn’t waffle, didn’t sidestep. That is not just honesty; it is integrity and courage as well. That is the president I want. One who will tell me the truth even when it is not politically prudent.

Much has been said recently about “hope” and “change” and “dreams” in this election. We are always looking for this in our presidents, and perhaps that is unfair. But we look for a person who can make this great country greater, who can make our lives better, who can bring us together where we are apart. We look for someone who can cure all our ills and ease all our pain. Deep down we know that one person can never do this. But still we hope, still we look. Barack Obama gives us that best chance for change. But even if this is asking too much, at least we will know he will never lie to us and never betray us. After the nightmare of the past eight years, if that is all we got out of an Obama presidency it would be enough for me.

COOK COUNTY COLLEGE TEACHERS UNION, LOCAL 1600, AFL-CIO



- President.....Perry Buckley
- Vice President, City Colleges Division.....Sonia Powell
- Vice President, Suburban Faculty.....Jim O’Malley
- Vice President, Suburban Classified.....Gail Wiot
- Secretary.....Patricia Wenthold
- Treasurer.....Donald Radtke
- Legislative Representative.....Bill Naegele
- Grievance Chairman.....Tom Kodogeorgiou
- Special Assistant to the President.....Randy Barnette
- Editorial Chair.....Todd Lakin
- Publicity Chair.....Bill O’Connell
- Special Contributor.....Dr. Bob Blackwood

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P O L I T I C S

Cook County College Teachers Union Local 1600, AFT, IFT, AFL-CIO

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Who: All local-wide officers including president, vice-president (city colleges), vice-president (suburban colleges), vice-president (suburban classified/support staff), secretary, treasurer, grievance chair and legislative representative; delegates and alternates to the 2008 AFT Convention in Chicago, IL; delegates and alternates to the IFT Convention in 2010.

Eligibility: To run for local-wide office, a person must be a member in good standing for two years and have had experience as a member of the House of Representatives or a standing committee. To run for delegate or alternate to the AFT and IFT Conventions, a person must be a member in good standing.

Procedure: Local-wide officers may be nominated by any member of the House of Representatives at the January 25, 2008 House of Representatives meeting, or by a majority of members from a chapter or by a petition containing 50 signatures of union members received at the Union office by February 15, 2008.

Delegates and alternates to the AFT and IFT conventions may be nominated by a member of the House of Representatives at the January 25, 2008 meeting.

Voting: Will be held on each campus Monday, March 3 - Wednesday, March 5, 2008, using a locked ballot box. Ballots will be counted at the Union office on Thursday, March 6 and Friday, March 7. The Retiree Chapter will vote by mail. Ballots must be received at the Union office by Thursday, March 6.

Election Results: Will be announced and certified at the House of Representatives meeting, Friday, March 14, 2008.

Kathleen Therese Meany: Our Member at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

A member of the Cook County College Teachers Union is running for county-wide office in the Cook County Democratic Primary Election on Tuesday, Feb. 5 (early voting begins on January 14 at various spots throughout the county). **Kathleen Therese Meany** is up for re-election to the office of commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD). Meany is both a commissioner and vice president of the MWRD.

The District is the "best kept secret in Illinois government," according to a newspaper correspondent in the 1990s. The secret is that it is run so efficiently. Meany has served with distinction, which is not surprising.

First, she holds a Masters of Public Administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Secondly, she is an assistant professor in Harold Washington College's Social Science Department. Finally, she married longtime union activist **Salvatore Attinello** from Harold Washington, a man who walked many Local 1600 picket lines and helped many students. (They met when she brought her class into the HW library, and Sal, the librarian, showed them around.)



MWRD Commissioner **Gloria Alitto Majewski**, Illinois Senator and Democratic Candidate for President **Barack Obama** and MWRD Vice President and Commissioner **Kathleen Therese Meany** posed for a photo at a recent get-together.

If you have read about the Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day programs throughout Chicago and the Cook County suburbs, you have read about one of Meany's highlighted projects. Currently, she has taken a year off from HW to support this project and other good causes at the MWRD. As she said, "JFK set an example for public service. He inspired a generation; I'm always involved." Meany is one of those political figures who doesn't make headlines or Sneed's column, but Kathleen Therese Meany does make a difference.

For a longer bio, please visit the website: www.ccctu.com. Also visit <http://www.mwrd.org>

Buckley and Naegele Visit State Rep. David Miller and Meet New Candidates

On Nov. 13, President **Perry Buckley** and Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** greeted a longtime ally of Local 1600, State Representative **David Miller** (D, 29th), the chairman of the House Higher Education Committee, at his fundraiser in the Chicago Firehouse Restaurant, 1401 S. Michigan Avenue. Miller had attended Local 1600's "Breakfast for Legislators" last spring in Springfield. Discussion soon ensued among the participants about the conclusion of this legislative year and what next year might bring.

Among the people attending the event were IFT Legislative Director **Nick Yelverton**, Commissioner **Larry Rogers, Jr.** of the Cook County Board of Review, former CTU Springfield lobbyist **Karen Williams**, Assistant to the President **Randy Barnette** and Field Director **Brenda Pryor**.



State Representative **David Miller** (D, 29th) welcomes President **Perry Buckley** and Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** to his fundraiser at The Chicago Firehouse Restaurant.



At the close of the party, Naegele's presentation of politics in Springfield had (l-r) **Ken Sawyer, Jr.**, candidate for state rep. (D, 5th), **Ken Johnson, Jr.**, candidate for state rep. (D, 26th), and Cook County Board of Review Commissioner **Larry Rogers, Jr.** in stitches.

VOTE ON FEBRUARY 5TH!

State Rep. Deborah Graham Endorsed by Local 1600

On Nov. 13, President **Perry Buckley** and Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** led members of the union to a party for State Representative **Deborah Graham** (D, 78th) at the prestigious law firm of Barnes and Thornburg on the 44th floor of the 1 North Wacker Building.



Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele**, State Senator **Kwame Raoul** (D, 13th), President **Perry Buckley** and State Senator **Don Harmon** (D, 39th) share a laugh at State Representative **Deborah Graham's** (D, 78th) fundraiser.



President **Perry Buckley** and Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** discuss an issue with State Representative **Deborah Graham** (D, 78th) at her fundraiser.

State Rep. Lisa Hernandez, a Friend of Organized Labor

On Nov. 13, Local 1600's Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele**, Assistant to the President **Randy Barnette** and Field Representative **Brenda Pryor** were joined by Illinois Federation of Teachers Legislative Director **Nick Yelverton** at State Rep. **Lisa Hernandez's** (D, 24th) fundraiser at Maggiano's on Grand Ave. in Chicago.

Hernandez serves on many committees in which public service unions have interests, including Labor and Appropriations—Elementary and Secondary Education.



State Representative **Lisa Hernandez** (D, 24th) comments on Springfield's political life with IFT Legislative Director **Nick Yelverton** and Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** at her fundraiser. Naegele commented, "Lisa really cares about her constituents. We [Local 1600] were right to back her candidacy in 2006 and we're glad to do so again. She has had a great freshman year in the Illinois House."

Richmond and Murphy to Be Clinton Delegates

Wright College's **Linda Murphy** (5th Congressional District) and Harper College's **David Richmond** (8th Congressional District) will be candidates for delegates to the Democratic National Convention in Denver this year. Both are pledged to **Hillary Clinton** on the first ballot, but, after the first ballot, both candidates may vote their preferences.



State Senator **Mattie Hunter** (D, 3rd) and Legislative Director **Linda Murphy** catch up during Lobby Day, 2007.

Jillian Verstrate Attends Senator Jeff Schoenberg's Fundraiser

Oakton Classified Chapter Chair **Jillian Verstrate** attended State Senator **Jeff Schoenberg's** (D, 9th) fundraiser at the Koi Restaurant in Evanston on Nov. 27. The popular state senator, a former six-term state representative, is in his second term of office in Springfield. He represents Evanston, Northfield, Winnetka, Kenilworth and Wilmette as well as parts of Glenview, Northbrook, Glencoe, Morton Grove and Skokie.

Verstrate was one of the first to walk into the senator's event. Many of Oakton's students and the college staff live in the area represented by Senator Schoenberg. "He has a good sense of humor," Verstrate says. "He's easy to talk to and responds when you have an issue, like community college funding."



Oakton Classified Chapter Chair **Jillian Verstrate** was delighted to meet Senator **Jeff Schoenberg** (D, 9th) again at his Nov. 17 fundraiser. This year Schoenberg's stem cell expansion bill became law in Illinois.



Jillian Verstrate (right) laughs at the remarks of Senator Schoenberg (D, 9th) about this year in Springfield at his fundraiser. Chief Judge **Alan Greiman** of the Appellate Court introduced Schoenberg to the audience of friends, family and supporters at the fundraiser.

COPE ACTIVITIES

Prairie State Security Holds First-Ever COPE Drive

Prairie State Security Chapter Chair **Julius Neveles** has always donated to the COPE fund because he believes in the importance of Local 1600's political action in both Cook County and the state. Neveles also has known that, while his members are dedicated to the cause of unionism, they were uninformed about the importance of COPE. Frustrated by his chapter's low participation in donating to COPE, Neveles vowed to hold an awareness campaign at Prairie State which culminated in a pizza party COPE drive on November 16. It was so successful that Prairie State jumped from 24th to 14th. Congratulations, Julius!



Prairie State Security Chapter Chair **Julius Neveles** and Asst. Chapter Chair **LaGenne Carter** were pleased with the results of their COPE drive. "I knew we could jump a few places with this drive," said Neveles. "But I'm really proud that we jumped ten!"



President **Perry Buckley** welcomes **Kathleen Hazlett** as Field Representative **Brenda Pryor** (center) looks on.



Wanda Chatman upped her COPE contribution by \$5 per pay period and received a new CCCTU jacket. "I can't wait for it to get really cold out," Chatman said.

COPE (continued from front page)

At the state level, CCCTU has become a major force in the fight to raise community college funding to an acceptable level. Last year, in partnership with Women Employed, an advocacy group, the union was successful in securing \$3 million funding for the Student Success Grant, which provides prescriptive services for at-risk students. The union was also successful in obtaining \$7.2 million to reimburse Illinois community colleges for veterans scholarships. CCCTU is a member of several coalitions in Springfield seeking to improve community college funding. It is no secret that pensions for higher education employees have been under attack in recent years. Working with the IFT and other members of the Higher Education Legislative Funding Coalition, the union has been able to fight off most of the attacks and mitigate the "unintended circumstances" of legislation that did get passed over our opposition.

Many of our long time and largest COPE contributors have retired in recent years. In order to maintain our effectiveness it is critical that we get new members involved. COPE is offering a choice of very nice premiums for members who sign up for COPE payroll contributions or for current contributors who increase their contributions. Check the Local 1600 website or contact your Chapter Chair for details.



Oakton's newest COPE contributors don the new CCCTU wear. For \$1, members receive a t-shirt; for \$3, members get a collared short-sleeve shirt and, for \$5, a winter jacket with leather sleeves. All are union-made in the U.S.A. In the photo are (l-r) **Valerie Green**, **Krunal Patel**, **Rosann Scalise**, **Joan Henneman**, **Marilyn Clay**, Chapter Chair **Jillian Verstrate** and **Loretta Lavere**

Pictures now available on-line at local1600.smugmug.com/.
Or visit www.ccctu.com for the link.

EVENTS AROUND THE CCCTU

Naegele and Barnette Address Illinois Council of Community College Presidents

On Oct. 25-26 at the Allerton Conference Center in Monticello, Illinois, CCCTU Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** and Assistant to the President **Randy Barnette** each had a one hour session with the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents. "Five or 10 years ago, it would have been unheard of for two union representatives to address this organization of community college presidents," Naegele said. "We now realize we can achieve a lot more by working together to achieve our common goals—receiving adequate funding and improving our educational system for our students."

Barnette spoke on Thursday, Oct. 25. His topic was "Strategy for Community College Funding in Illinois." He touched on where the money is and how to get it. Barnette noted: "They appreciated my comments, and I appreciated theirs." Barnette went on to say that the entire budget is still in a state of flux. Questions such as the RTA bailout, the proposed Chicago casino and other casinos to fund capital projects, etc., are still unresolved.

Naegele addressed the gathering on Friday, Oct. 26, on "Building Coalitions." He noted that the community college



Local 1600 Asst. to the President **Randy Barnette** and Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** confer on their notes before addressing the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents.

presidents have to reach out not only to other community college presidents, college trustees, and labor unions but also to business people, chambers of commerce and the public. Naegele said: "It was both an honor and a pleasure to network with the community college presidents."

Naegele on Cable TV Dec. 21 and 23



Bill Naegele makes a point about Illinois politics as host **Bob Blackwood** readies himself for another question.

Bill Naegele had much to say about the conflicts between the governor, the House and the Senate in Illinois on "Illinois Politics and Community College Funding" that was cablecast in Chicago on Cable Channel 19 on Dec. 21 and 23. Naegele tells it like it is without playing favorites.

Naegele is not only the Legislative Chair of the CCCTU but also a member of the Illinois Community College Board. His observations on the turmoil in Springfield this year and the available options in 2008 made for intriguing viewing for all the political buffs of Chicago. **Dr. Bob Blackwood** hosted the show for the Senior Network with Producer **Martha Wilson** and Director **William Brown**.

Moraine Valley Faculty Association Holds Food Drive for Needy

Each year, the Moraine Valley Faculty Association holds a holiday food drive. **Scott Murdoch**, in the MV Biology Department, coordinated the effort. As always, the faculty and staff of Moraine Valley were very generous.



Scott Murdoch, standing in the back, is helped by (l-r) **Mark Ramsey**, **Rhett Wheeler**, **Katie Doranski** and **Linda Raftery**.

VOTE ON FEBRUARY 5TH!

Progress Made on Plight of Non-Employed Professors Emeritus and Adjunct Faculty in the CCC

Local 1600's CCC Vice President **Sonia Powell** and Grievance Chair **Tom Kodogeorgiou** have made progress on the plight of the professors emeritus who have not been hired back by the City Colleges of Chicago after Local 1600's 2004 strike. In addition, progress continues to be made on the situation of the part-time adjunct teachers who have not been hired back since the strike.

Using the information that Powell and Kodogeorgiou have provided, President **Perry Buckley** has been negotiating with the CCC administration to re-hire the professors emeritus. The four professors emeritus whom the Union has on record as applying for a teaching job in the Fall 2007 semester are: **Errol Magidson** of Daley, **Hosea Steele** of Kennedy-King (a Union House member from the Retirees Chapter) and **Fred Daniel** and **Gerald Ford** of Malcolm X. The only cause for not being re-hired has been that they were active in the strike and all have been promised employment in the Spring 2008 semester.



At the November Retirees' Chapter meeting, Local 1600 Grievance Chair **Tom Kodogeorgiou** and CCC VP **Sonia Powell** updated the members on their progress.

Powell said: "We contacted all the chapter chairs regarding Fall 2007 applications from professors emeritus and part-time adjunct faculty who had been banned from employment, though not every chapter got back to us in both categories." She noted that there were 19 part-time

adjunct teachers whose employment in Spring 2008 is still under negotiation with the administration. "Many of these teachers in both categories had wonderful student rapport," she said. For example, she praised Steele among the professors emeritus and **Yakub Dosumu** of Olive-Harvey among the part-time adjunct teachers. Powell had evaluated Dosumu's performance as part of her professional responsibilities as a faculty member at Olive-

Harvey.

Kodogeorgiou noted that Local 1600 had won approximately \$750,000 in a grievance for the part-time adjuncts, though it was anticipated that the CCC would appeal the payment of the award. "Our objective is to help the people who were wronged. They helped us when we were on strike by honoring our picket line. Now it is our turn to help them to return to their jobs," Kodogeorgiou says.

Buckley stated he would use the union website and other means to inform the professors emeritus and the part-time adjunct teachers about the specific details of any resolution reached with the City Colleges of Chicago regarding their employment.



Buckley states, "We have always urged our professors emeritus to keep applying for employment. Don't take 'no' for an answer!"

**Address change?
E-mail
tlakin@local1600.org**

SAVE THE DATE

- February 5 – Illinois primary election
- February 15 – Executive Board
- March 3-5 – Local 1600 election
- March 14 – House meeting
- April 18 – Executive Board
- April 19 – CCCTU Leadership Conference
- April 30 – Lobby Day
- May 2 – 42nd Annual CCCTU Banquet

Trying to Move CIP Forward for CCC Retirees



CCC Director of Risk Assessment **Ralph Passarelli** calls President **Perry Buckley's** attention to some data on the College Insurance Program. Over the years CIP costs have increased substantially as Buckley and Passarelli noted from their participation on the CIP Task Force.

On Dec. 5, President **Perry Buckley** met with the City Colleges of Chicago administration, led by Director of Risk Management **Ralph Passarelli**, Executive Director **Michael Monaghan** of the Illinois Community College Board of Trustees Association and other interested groups about the proposal to move CCC retirees into the College Insurance Program (CIP) after their 10-year subsidized insurance period.

After a great deal of discussion, it became apparent that Passarelli, Monaghan and Buckley had a grasp on what was possible in the Springfield legislative climate at this time. Currently, a bill that would enable the retirees to join CIP is sitting in a committee and has not been voted on by the Senate or House. The problem is that the bill does not provide for a means of funding the increased costs of CIP. In the end, all four recommendations have been found unacceptable to Governor **Rod Blagojevich's** staff.

Buckley suggested, "Instead of trying to get a bill out of committee that has no chance of passage, let us write a new bill that will have a chance of passage. We can suggest a method of funding it; we know approximately how much we will need. If we can get the bill out of committee and on the floor in the near future, we have a chance of getting it passed."

Everyone seemed to brighten at the thought of a new bill with some chance of passage, even though everyone was aware that funding is a major problem for every bill in Springfield this session. Buckley suggested that Monaghan, Passarelli and Assistant to the President **Randy Barnette** create a first draft of the bill to be presented in Springfield.

Following the meeting, Monaghan of the ICCTA met with Buckley, Barnette and Retirees Chapter Chair **Norm Swenson**, who raised the issue that the employees of the Illinois universities have almost all of their individual expenses paid directly by the State of Illinois. "We should try to get a better deal," Swenson said. Buckley also reminded his colleagues that the professors and staff of the Illinois community colleges are currently educating 60 percent of the students throughout Illinois.



Assistant to the President **Randy Barnette**, Executive Director **Mike Monaghan** of the ICC Trustees Association, Retirees Chapter Chair **Norm Swenson** and President **Perry Buckley** talk about trying to pass legislation in Springfield this session after the Dec. 5 CIP meeting at the CCC's headquarters.

"Instead of trying to get a bill out of committee that has no chance of passage, let us write a new bill that will have a chance of passage." – President Perry Buckley

Local 1600 Grieves Passing of Louise Winfrey

Louise Winfrey, who served in our union's office staff from 1975 to 2003, died of heart failure in the Progressive Care Center of West Suburban Hospital, Oak Park, Illinois, at 9:45 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 3, 2007. Louise had been very sick for several weeks.

Rev. Jan Powell of Pilgrim Congregational Church, 460 Lake Street, Oak Park, Illinois, held a memorial service for Louise on Sunday, Dec. 9, at 4:30 in the main sanctuary. A small dinner was served after the service next to the church.

Louise is survived by her daughter, Beauty, and her grandchildren: **Daisy**, **Marcus** and **Malick**. Rather than sending flowers, a fund was established for Marcus, who resides in an institute in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. Anyone who would care to contribute to the Marcus Winfrey Special Needs Trust, contact **Janie Morrison**: work number: 847-797-1192; home number: 708-453-1912.

November House Meets in Westmont

“Under Buckley, our union has become a larger player in Springfield as well as local politics.” – Legislative Chair Bill Naegele.



Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** talks about the many accomplishments of the union under the leadership of President **Perry Buckley** as Suburban Classified VP **Gail Wiot** looks on. “Under Buckley, our union has become a larger player in Springfield as well as local politics,” Naegele noted. “Our members’ political involvement has been a key in the excellent contracts that we’ve negotiated.”



The new Triton Mid-Management President, **John Cadero** (center), was introduced to the House membership by his colleague at Triton, Faculty Association President **Maggie Hahn-Wade** (left). President **Perry Buckley** (right) followed Hahn-Wade’s introduction by stating, “John will provide excellent leadership at Triton. He’s young, intelligent and very energetic. We’re glad he’s on board.”



Retiree Delegate **Wendall Wilson** stands in the middle of a packed meeting room looking for an available seat.

VOTE ON
FEBRUARY 5TH!

Local 1600 a Strong Presence at IFT Meeting



At the IFT Conference held at the Double Tree in Westmont on November 30th, Local 1600 President **Perry Buckley** (right) introduced the guest speaker, the former President of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, **Stan Ikenberry** (center). Ikenberry is a University of Illinois Regent Professor and President Emeritus as well as the past President of the American Council on Education. In this photo, the two men pose with UPI President **Sue Kaufman**.



Amongst other CCCTU attendees at the IFT Conference are, from left, Oakton Classified Chair **Jillian Verstrate**, Morton Faculty Assistant Chair **Jerry Neadley**, Malcolm X Chair **William Stewart**, Wright College Chair **Clyde Walker** and Moraine Valley Faculty Association President **Janice Hill-Matula**.

Barnette, Pryor and Verstrate Gain Valuable Insight into Collective Bargaining

Local 1600's **Randy Barnette**, **Brenda Pryor** and **Jillian Verstrate** attended the AFT Center for Collective Bargaining's annual conference in New Orleans in early December.

The conference was divided into three separate sessions: "Costing-Out Labor Contracts Using Excel," "Meeting Members' Needs Through Collective Bargaining" and "Certificate of Achievement in Public Plan Policy Program (CAPPP) Training," which dealt with health plan negotiations. Since Verstrate has been an active member of Oakton's Insurance Committee for many years, and Oakton's administration believed that the college would benefit from her attendance, Oakton shared in the expense and allowed her time off with pay to attend.



(Left to Right) Assistant to the President **Randy Barnette**, Oakton Classified Chapter Chair **Jillian Verstrate**, AFT Deputy Director of Research and Information Services **John Abraham** and Field Representative **Brenda Pryor** confer at the "Certification in Employee Health Plans for Health Plan Negotiators" seminar in New Orleans, LA.

The AFT's **John Abraham**, Certified Employee Benefit Specialist (CEBS) and Deputy Director for Research and Information Services, coordinated the CAPPP Training. Abraham is a friend of Local 1600 who presented at the March 2007 Leadership Conference and who spent a day at Oakton consulting with the Insurance Committee. Three experts from different regions of the country discussed "Emerging Trends in Health Care." When asked about the training for "Health Plan Negotiators," Verstrate said, "It was an enlightening conference and I'm looking forward to sharing some of the information I gained at our next insurance committee meeting."

Both Barnette and Pryor enjoyed the training. Barnette said, "The AFT brings in the experts to explain the data to us and now it is our responsibility to use this information to benefit our members." Pryor met many new colleagues and said, "There is always something new to learn." Pryor and Verstrate also participated in the tour of New Orleans that was offered by the AFT and saw the stark contrast in the outlying Parishes compared to the downtown revitalization of the city. Pryor said, "The tour was eye-opening. It is a reminder of what our brothers and sisters have gone through and the help they still need in this region to get on with their lives and re-enter their homes."

VOTE ON
FEBRUARY 5TH!

Oakton Classified Chapter Raises Funds to Help Members in Need

It was a festive celebration at Oakton Community College Classified Staff Association's December chapter meetings on Dec. 12. Holiday food and refreshments were served at each well-attended meeting and members had the opportunity to win many door prizes. A cash raffle drawing took place during the afternoon meeting with over 60 members in attendance. All three meetings were chaired by Vice President **Marilyn Davis** as President **Jillian Verstrate** was out of town attending a union conference.

For the first time, the chapter sponsored a cash raffle with the opportunity to win a percentage of the funds raised from the ticket sales. Over the past year and a half the Oakton Chapter has donated more than \$700 to members in need, due to fires in their homes or because of an extended leave due to illness. This year's raffle was successful in raising \$315 in funds for the chapter.



Raffle Winner **Krunal Patel** receives the \$209 cash prize from Loretta Lavere. "I can't believe I won," exclaimed Patel. "The money will come in handy, especially right before the holidays."

Morton's Visk Hosts COPE Meeting

Morton Classified Chapter Chair **Tim Visk** (standing, center) summarized the state of his chapter to his constituents on October 25 in the Board Room at Morton College. Standing next to him is Local 1600 President **Perry Buckley** who, along with Assistant to the President **Randy Barnette** (back row, left) and Field Representative **Brenda Pryor** (seated at right), discussed COPE's impact on political action. After the presentation, the members stepped up their COPE contributions in kind. Also attending was Suburban Classified VP **Gail Wiot** (seated, second from right).



Chapter Chair **Janice Hill-Matula** introduced Moraine's new faculty who posed with chapter and union leaders. Local 1600 President **Perry Buckley** and Suburban VP **Jim O'Malley** at left and Assistant Chapter Chair **Troy Swanson** at right bookend the new hires (l-r): **Sumeet Singh**, **Eric DeVillez**, **Ericka Hamilton**, **Nabil Kanja** (seated), **Michael O'Shea**, **Laura Lauzen-Collins** and **Kevin O'Connell**.

Hill-Matula Welcomes Buckley to Moraine Valley

Local 1600 President **Perry Buckley** addressed the faculty at Moraine Valley College on October 25th. Besides the state of the local, Buckley discussed the importance of urging our legislators to not call for a Constitutional Convention and how this could impact our futures.

Harold Washington Chapter Meeting Informative to Members

On November 6, the Harold Washington Chapter met to discuss current issues and to hear from the Local 1600 leadership about COPE. HW Chapter Chair **Phil Stucky** introduced President **Perry Buckley** who spoke on union-wide matters. Buckley noted that members who plan to retire at the end of this school year will be paid for their unused sick days. Buckley also praised Grievance Chair **Tom Kodogeorgiou**, who was present, for his efforts on behalf of the chapter and the local.

During the COPE discussion, Buckley commended the chapter for being the third highest contributor in the union. Later, at the conclusion of the meeting, Assistant to the President **Randy Barnette** collected members' requests for COPE premiums of shirts and jackets.

CCC Vice President **Sonia Powell** addressed the chapter on post-tenure review procedures. Powell stated that sometime in the Spring 2008 semester she would attempt to meet with all the newly hired CCC members to discuss the tenure process.



HW Chapter Chair **Phil Stucky** praised the IT people for their solidarity in insisting that the CCC pay them overtime for meetings that run past the closing time for their shift. As he noted, there is no virtue in "working for free" except when working for a charity.



Following the meeting, Local 1600 V. P. **Sonia Powell** stayed and talked with the newly hired faculty and professionals.

CAMPUS VISITS

CCC Part-Time Professionals Chapter Has First-Ever City-Wide Meeting

On Saturday, Nov. 17, a group of part-time professionals from Harold Washington, Truman, and Kennedy-King Colleges gathered at Harold Washington College for their first-ever city-wide meeting. Chapter Chair **Alan Booker** led the meeting. Other officers who attended include Secretary **Fred Beck**, Treasurer **Ann Dikcis** and Grievance Chair **Melissa Smith**.

- Booker noted that in June of 2008, the pay for chapter members with a bachelor's degree would go from \$ 9.00 an hour to \$13.45.
- Members asked about the possibility of health insurance. The current situation requires a payment of \$165 every two weeks, prohibitively expensive for part-time employees. President **Perry Buckley** noted that Oakton Classified Chapter Chair Jillian Verstrate was now meeting with potential insurers to find a more inexpensive insurance package that would provide some coverage.
- The question of treatment by the administration varied from college to college. Buckley and Booker both reminded the members to obey any specific directives and then to consult Booker at Harold Washington about the possibility of going to the grievance procedure to protect the chapter member. Buckley also noted that if Booker was not available, he could be reached through the union office. Members complained that some colleges have people working 25 hours, some 29 hours, some even 40 hours a week. Buckley noted that local administrations have different priorities. Consult Booker if there is a problem.



At the first meeting city-wide of the Part-Time Professionals Chapter at Harold Washington College on Nov. 17, Chapter Chair **Alan Booker** (left) thanked the members for taking time off at the beginning of the holiday season to attend the meeting. In the photo are (clockwise): **Reschone Lewis** (KK), **Richard Fair** (KK), **LaMont Mitchell** (KK), **Deborah White** (KK), **Esther Poon** (HW), **Jack Yuen** (HW), and **Eleanor Harrison** (KK).



President **Perry Buckley** responds to a comment made by Truman's **Clement Okoth** (right) as Chapter Chair **Alan Booker** looks on. Okoth noted that while job titles don't change, those same jobs being done by the member do. Buckley stated, "I have an assistant who checks to see what your job description should be. Sometimes, a different job pays better than your original job description. Contact the union office if you have any issues of this kind."

PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW

HW Chair Phil Stucky

The HW Chapter is led by **Phil Stucky**, who took over in 2006 from the outgoing chair, **Mike Ruggeri**. Stucky, who comes from Wichita, Kansas, has certainly paid his dues as a union member. With an educational background including an M.B.A. in Accounting and Finance and an A. M. in English from the University of Chicago, Stucky has been teaching first Business and then English in the City Colleges since 1978. At the old Chicago City-Wide College, he served as chapter chair from 1990-1992 where the administration attempted to treat employees differently from the traditional colleges. Stucky would have none of it.

For more on Stucky,
visit www.ccctu.com



Harold Washington Chapter Chair **Phil Stucky** says "It is the same contract whether we are at Harold Washington or City-Wide. We have to be treated just the same as everyone else in the City Colleges of Chicago."

HOLIDAY PARTIES

Oakton Classified's Annual Pizza Party Has Pizzazz



The Oakton Classified annual pizza party was held on Oct 30 at Riggio's Restaurant in Niles. Chapter Chair **Jillian Verstrate** presented an array of door prizes. No one went home empty-handed. In the photo CCCTU Treasurer **Don Radtke**, CCC VP **Sonia Powell** and Assistant to the President **Randy Barnette** share upcoming holiday plans.



Enjoying the pizza party are (sitting, l-r): Assistant Chapter **Marilyn Davis**, Membership Chair **Sue Moser** and **Terri Quam**. Standing (l-r) are Grievance Chair **Patty Lucas**, Parliamentarian **Loretta Lavere**, President **Perry Buckley**, Chapter Chair **Jillian Verstrate**, and Local 1600 officers Secretary **Pat Wenthold**, CCC VP **Sonia Jean Powell** and Treasurer **Don Radtke**.

Kennedy-King College Begins Holiday Season Early

The KKC Chapter has dealt with some bad weather the past few years during their holiday party. Hoping to avoid inclement weather, the chapter celebrated early this year on Nov. 30 at the House of Harambee at 11901 S. Loomis in Chicago.



KKC Retiree **Jeanette Williams** renews acquaintances with her former colleague and soon-to-be-retired **Dr. Audrey Turner**.



Long-time Social Committee Chair **Verna Anderson** (center) passes the proverbial baton to new Social Chair **Pamela Cannamore** (right) as **Meryl Junious** emcees the raffle.



KKC Chapter Chair **Articia Williams** welcomes retiree **Damell Sanford** to the party.



Singer **Antone** serenades the very surprised **Dr. Madie Cannamore** who is retiring in January.



How do you do that again? **Rell Burks-Murphy**, **Articia Williams** and **Jeanette Williams** do "The Macarena."

HOLIDAY PARTIES

Harper Pro-Tech Chapter Holiday Luncheon a Record Hit

The Dec. 6 Harper Pro-Tech Holiday Luncheon in the Harper faculty dining room had a record turnout – 90 percent of the 105 members. Secretary **Barbara Hardy**, Social Committee Chair **Barbara Singer** and her committee members, plus Treasurer **Sharon Martin** did a fine job. The catered cuisine was excellent.

Chapter Chair **Margie Sedano** thanked all those who had put in their time and efforts. She also thanked past chapter chair **Terry Engle**, Local 1600 Secretary **Pat Wenthold** and **Sharon Martin** for their help as mentors when she accepted the leadership of the chapter after **David Dwyer** accepted an administrative position. She and Field Representative **Brenda Pryor** urged members to contribute to the COPE fund.

Wenthold spoke of putting together a fundraiser for State Rep. **Fred Crespo** (D, 44th) in January or very early in February along with the Hoffman Estates firefighters union and others.



Harper Pro-Tech Chapter Chair **Margie Sedano** addresses her colleagues at their Holiday Luncheon.



Pro-Tech Treasurer **Sharon Martin** shows Local 1600 Secretary **Pat Wenthold** some of the raffle prizes.



Local 1600's Suburban Faculty Vice President **Jim O'Malley** has a chat with the Harper Pro-Tech Chapter during their Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 6.



Chapter Chair **Margie Sedano** and Field Representative **Brenda Pryor** discuss raising money for COPE..

Triton Rings in the Holiday Season at Villa Brunetti



The Triton Faculty get-together allowed some old friends **Lesa Hildebrand**, **Christine Dewey** and **Christina Pignataro** to reconnect.



The faculty of Triton College kicked off the holiday season in style at Villa Brunetti Banquets in Franklin Park on December 13th. Enjoying the festivities are, from left, Local 1600 President **Perry Buckley**, TCFA Executive Committee members **Stu Sikora**, **Lesa Hildebrand**, **Debbie Baker** and **Judy Darst**, new TCFA members **Victor McCullum** and **Jennifer Dale**, Chapter Chair **Maggie Hahn-Wade**, new member **Natasha Morris** and CCCTU Suburban VP and retired Triton faculty member, **Jim O'Malley**.

HOLIDAY PARTIES

Good Times at the Harper Faculty Chapter's Holiday Luncheon

Maybe it was the attractive décor, maybe the charming people, possibly the haute cuisine; in any case the Harper Faculty Chapter's Holiday Luncheon at Marlowe's Restaurant in Palatine on Dec. 7 was a great success. Over 60 faculty members and friends attended the event.

President **Michael Harkins** and the Social Committee's **Anne Absalom** greeted people at the entrance to the dining room. Paul Hold and Pat Beach seemed to have a fund of jokes and quips. Local 1600's Suburban Vice President **Jim O'Malley** came by to see old friends and to make new ones.



Harper Faculty Chapter President **Michael Harkins** greets **Dave Antonides**.



The Social Committee's **Anne Abasolo** extends a warm holiday cheer to **LaVonya Williams**.



Kathy Hock and **Kris Piepenburg** were honored as members of the Re-accreditation Steering Committee of the Higher Learning Commission at the luncheon.



Harper negotiation team member **David Richmond** (facing camera) and friends listen to Local 1600 Suburban Vice President **Jim O'Malley's** light-hearted remarks.

Pictures now available on-line at local1600.smugmug.com/.
Or visit www.ccttu.com for the link.

Moraine Valley Support Staff Spreads Holiday Cheer



The Moraine Valley Support Staff celebrated the beginning of the holidays at the Garden Chalet in Palos Hills on December 7th. Enjoying the festivities are, from left, Local 1600 Grievance Chair **Tom Kodogeorgiou**, **Renee Skotnik**, **Julie Poulos**, Chapter Chair **Rose Sakanis**, Board of Trustees Chair **Joseph Murphy**, CCCTU Classified VP **Gail Wiot**, MVCC President **Dr. Vernon Crowley**, Board Member **Mary Nolan**, **Helen Agresti** and Local 1600 Treasurer **Don Radtke**.



Enjoying a light moment are Local 1600 Grievance Chair **Tom Kodogeorgiou**, Trustee **Mary Nolan** and CCCTU Treasurer **Don Radtke**. Upon mentioning her landslide victory and thankful COPE support from Local 1600, Radtke responded in jest that, given the landslide, "perhaps we won't need to donate as much to you next time."

HOLIDAY PARTIES

South Suburban Support Staff Holiday Party a Smash

The SSC Support Staff held its annual holiday luncheon at the Warsaw Inn in Lynwood, IL, on Dec. 14. Below are photos of the event. More photos can be found at www.ccctu.com.



Cheers! **Kadin Mahmet** and **Greg Soczyk** were certainly ready for the holidays.



The raffle table was filled with wonderful prizes. Selling tickets were **Cathy Boniecki** and **Marge Horan**.



President **Perry Buckley**, Suburban Classified VP **Gail Wiot**, SSCSS Chapter Chair **Berdy Kuiken** and Local 1600 Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** celebrate the holiday spirit before a delicious buffet meal.



Rudy Andrews and **Loretta Barba** take a moment to pose for a photo before lunch.

Prairie State Support Staff Celebrate in Style

On December 14th, the Prairie State Support Staff hosted a college-wide celebration at the Serbian Social Center in Lansing, IL.



Pictured are, from left, Chapter Chair **Susan Braasch** and Local 1600 officers Treasurer **Don Radtke**, Classified VP **Gail Wiot**, President **Perry Buckley** and Secretary **Pat Wenthold**.



Sue Braasch and her husband enjoy the festivities.



Prairie State Support Staff Recruitment Chair, **Shirley Parham-May**, presents a gift basket to a guest of the Director of Financial Aid, **Alice Garcia**.

HOLIDAY PARTIES

Malcolm X College Celebrates Its Retirees at Holiday Party

The Malcolm X College chapter celebrated the start of the holiday season at the college on Dec. 14.



CM **Winters-Palacio** says that she's "really looking forward to some R&R."



Luc Elie and **Greg Shumpert** welcome former Chapter Chair **Alta Williams** (center).



Gail Grabczinski cannot believe what **Henry Velarde** just said.



Madeleine Norton (foreground) leads the dance as Dawson Tech's **Rausan Tamir** spins the tunes.



Chapter Chair **William Stewart** (at right) poses with faculty and professionals who are retiring. From left are: **Rosemary Steward**, **Geraldine Williams**, **Ranbin Sokhi**, **Beverly Letcher**, **Maurice Roberts**, **Patricia Williams**, **Madeleine Norton** and **Maxine Dailey**.



Soon-to-be-retired **Maurice Roberts** explains some retirement plans to **Ron Grimmette** (center) and **William Stewart** (right).

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Jim O'Malley: He Knows the Territory

Jim O'Malley, Local 1600's Suburban Faculty Vice President for the last four years, has been serving on negotiating teams for various chapters of Local 1600 for about 25 years. Sometimes he has been the chief negotiator, such as in the Harper Pro-Tech contract which was settled in about three months in 2006. Sometimes he has been an active member of the team, such as in the Harper Faculty contract which took seven months to negotiate in 2006. Whether he is the chief or a team member, O'Malley has brought a lot to the negotiating table.

O'Malley served for over 20 years as the grievance chair for the Triton College Chapter, a chapter which was forced to deal with a relatively large number of grievances. O'Malley always did his best to try to settle outside of the arbitration process, knowing as he does that only God knows what may go on in the mind of an arbitrator. He does acknowledge that he and the union's legal and leadership team were victorious in 20 arbitrations.

Sometimes, O'Malley's job involves a certain psychological approach. For example, in 2007 a few members of the Harper Pro-Tech Chapter suffered a reduction in force. O'Malley explained to them what their settlement, which was fair, entailed. But he noted, "Some of them felt that they had been fired, though that was not the case. You have to clear that idea out of their heads as best you can. They did not do anything wrong to deserve firing."

Since he has been elected, O'Malley has been able to go to every first and final meeting of the semester at the suburban faculty chapters, Triton's Mid-Management and Harper's Pro-Tech chapters. He has often attended the Triton Adjuncts, Moraine Valley Adjuncts and the South Suburban Adjuncts chapters as well.



Jim O'Malley, Local 1600 Suburban Faculty Vice President, has served on union negotiating teams for over 25 years.

O'Malley says this about his job: "Depending on the experience and individual needs of the chapter leadership, my role is to act as either a mentor or a sounding board, or both. I'll do whatever it takes to get a contract; I work at it."

In the Spring 2008 semester, the Triton Mid-Management Chapter—with new leadership under **John Cadero**—are getting ready for contract negotiations. O'Malley will meet with Cadero's team along with some of Local 1600's officers and staff to see how they can be of service to the chapter. In addition, the Triton Part-time Librarians and Counselors will be going for a first contract. President **Perry Buckley** has indicated that he wants O'Malley to serve on their negotiating team. In addition, in late March or April, South Suburban Faculty Chapter Chair **G. A. Griffith** has asked O'Malley to do a training session on the grievance process for his officers.

Whatever happens, if there is a hard negotiation, Jim O'Malley will be there on the union side.

The Voice's Bill O'Connell: More Than a Photojournalist

Bill O'Connell, suburban Voice photojournalist since August 2004 and a member of Local 1600 since 1984, is quite accomplished. During the day O'Connell teaches at Triton College in the Automotive Department while after hours one needs a GPS device just to find out where he is. Aside from his Voice duties, O'Connell is a board member, coach and referee of the Elk Grove In-Line Hockey Association. He also coaches baseball for the Elk Grove Park District. Most interestingly, though, O'Connell leads not one but two bands: Chicago Skyliners Big Band and a rock band, One Foot in the Groove. He can be seen regularly performing at Chicago Bulls and White Sox games as well as FitzGerald's Night Club in Berwyn.

For more on O'Connell, please visit the website:
www.ccctu.com.



Triton College's and the Voice's **Bill O'Connell** plays the drums and leads two bands. Check them out at www.ChicagoSkylinersBigband.com and www.OneFootInTheGroove.org.

PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW

You Should Know: Margie Sedano

Margie Sedano is the chair of the Harper College Pro/Tech Chapter. She inherited the job when **David Dwyer** joined the administration in January 2007, but she was interested in the union since she started working as a part-time adjunct faculty member in 2000.



Sedano's role at Harper started back in 1989-1998. Sedano worked part-time as a classroom assistant at Harper College. In 2000, she came back as an Adult Education instructor and still teaches one ESL class at the Palatine site, though she no longer teaches citizenship. Her full-time job these days is as an Adult Education bilingual student services specialist at the Prospect Heights site. She has a B.A. in Psychology and a B.A. in Spanish. Her psychology degree was useful in raising her five children; the Spanish language is helpful at any American college in the twenty-first century.

When asked how she came into the union leadership, Margie is pretty straightforward. "We were always helping each other out from the first—**Terry Engle, Pat Wenthold** and **Sharon Martin**," Sedano said. "I believe it is very important for younger people to become active in the union. The issues of the older union members at the college will soon become the issues of the younger members."

For more details on Sedano, visit the website:
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