

NEWSLETTER

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MARGARET RYCKEBUSCH HONORED



Margaret Ryckebusch

Last Fall, the MCCC Executive Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that a memorial award be established in memory of Jon G. Butler, former chapter president at No. Shore Community College who died suddenly in September, 1984.

Jon exemplified the importance of the role of chapter president, and throughout his years as chapter president and throughout negotiations, was a vocal and strong voice for the unit membership. The award is intended to focus on the important and pivotal role of the chapter president, and to reassert how the statewide organizational strength is predicated on the strength at the chapter level. If the chapter president is active and pursues issues of concern to the membership and makes sure that the contract is implemented correctly, the local is strong; if the chapter leadership stands still and becomes a passive participant in the enforcement of the members' rights, the unit membership is denied the equitable enforcement of their contract and subsequently their rights.

In recognition of the importance of the role of chapter president, the MCCC Board of Directors voted to establish a yearly award for outstanding chapter president. This year, the first recipient of the Jon G. Butler Memorial Award will go to **Margaret A. Ryckebusch**, President of the local chapter at **Bristol Community College**. Margaret has demonstrated unusual dedication, courage and leadership ability in her role as chapter president, and is a strong advocate for unit members' rights. She has made a commitment to her role as chapter president and has worked to establish herself as an effective leader over the past two years.

When Margaret was asked how she felt about being Chapter President, she stated, "It is hard and constant work, but also very rewarding. A president is in a constant state of reaction and has to be constantly aware of violations of the Agreement. The job demands a lot of reading, follow-up, memo writing, meeting with the membership and administration, keeping abreast of what is going on within the statewide organization and within your own membership, and making sure the contract is implemented fairly. My main priorities are keeping my membership informed, good contract defense and attempting to work at good labor/management relations." She said that she was looking forward to a period when the membership will be well paid and living better under the terms of the contract, but is also aware of the need for good preparation for the next round of negotiations.

She will be awarded the **Jon G. Butler Memorial Award** at the MCCC Delegate Assembly on April 27, 1985.