

Oakton AFA News

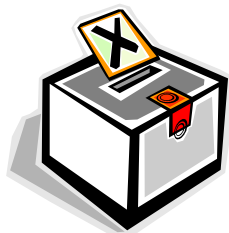
Oakton Adjunct Faculty Association NEA/IEA

AFA Website: www.oaktonafa.org

Office: Room 2470—ext. 2193

Special points of interest:

- Consider running for RA rep for a chance to travel to New Orleans
- Spring Membership meeting set



Welcome Back

At the beginning of last semester, we returned to vote on a strong contract the negotiating team worked for many months on. Even in the face of the difficult economy, the team was able to secure real growth in pay.

This semester, we return to a still-troubled economy. As of this writing, the College has a projected multi-million dollar

deficit for the coming fiscal year. Oakton's President, Peg Lee, has called for a meeting of the leaders of all constituency groups to discuss the matter. Your union board will attend and report back to you.

State budgets and politics have always directly affected us, but the present election looms large over higher education budgets and the SURS system.

The IEA does have a political wing which makes endorsements of candidates. As early voting has started, and the election is coming closer, the membership is asked to consider the IEA endorsements.

Our Reps to The RA

In December, the union members voted for our representatives to the IEA's Representative Assembly. This is our state-level union's annual congregation, which sets policies and platforms for the coming year. A great group, representing many disciplines will be representing us. Those elected were: Steve Brody (coach), Barbara Dayton (sociology), Tracy Foster

(art), Elena Garcia-Ansani, (early childhood), Cheryl Wollin (political science). Thank these members when you see them, as they are giving full days, March 18-20, to serve us in Rosemont.

Oakton Board Meetings

We look stronger as a union, and more professionally-involved as individuals, when we have a presence at the college's monthly board meetings. All members are encouraged to attend these meetings. Before the meetings, identify yourself to our AFA president, Barbara Dayton, so you can be recognized in the meeting and minutes.

AFA Office Hours

Again this semester, the AFA vice-president, Olivia Cronk will be staffing the union office. The Adjunct Faculty Association office in room 2470 will be open on Tuesdays, from 9:30-12:30. Stop by to sign up for membership, to have questions answered, or to check on your membership status. The phone line, 847/635-2193, does have voice mail so if these hours are not convenient, please leave messages.

A Professional Travel Opportunity

This year, the NEA's national assembly will be in New Orleans over the week of July 4th. Our union is looking for a couple of people who would like to represent us. While it is a week full of serious sessions and important votes, there would be opportunities to meet national educational

and political leaders. If you are interested, contact Donna Ryan, the Union's secretary and Election Chair, through Division Four.

For all of us, watch for an election for these representatives in the week of March 3rd.

Date of First Pay

This semester, our first paycheck for regular semester work is scheduled to arrive on February 5th. This is the end of the third week for full semester classes. The union is aware many members suffered hardships in the Fall when the first paycheck did not arrive until the fourth week, and is in discussions with the administration on remedies.

Access to a Credit Union

A benefit extended to part-timers which seems little known is access to the Maine Township Schools' Credit Union. A few members have started to report good experiences, in both savings and small loans, such as car loans. Oakton's human resource office has applications, but will need to refer questions directly to that credit union. The credit union's number is 847/ 696-1555. If you have contact with them, please tell other adjuncts your experience as this could become an important benefit.

Put a Spring Meeting on Your Calendar

Chester Kullis has started to arrange this Spring's membership meeting. The event keeps growing in popularity and attendance, so mark your calendar for April 11th, at 4:30. We'll return to Riggio's pizzeria On Oakton at Milwaukee to discuss union issues and socialize. RSVP invitations will be sent soon. This is another benefit of local union membership, but guests and spouse can join us that day for \$20 each.

Special Welcome to 25 new Adjuncts

There is a small corps of new adjuncts on campus. Welcome, and consider this your invitation to join the union. We are one of the oldest adjunct unions in the state and have delivered progressively better contracts since our inception. We are an NEA/IEA affiliate. State dues are \$89 a semester, local dues are \$10. Because we are a fair share place of employment, all adjuncts teaching more than six hours pay the \$89 dollars. It really only costs ten more dollars to be a member, and have a vote. The more members we have, the stronger our negotiation position.



AFA WEBSITE

You might want to bookmark our union website, www.oaktonafa.org. On it, you will find news, copies of the past contract, and a copy of the current contract. There are also useful links to other college faculty associations and our state and local unions. If you lose the address, it will always be in the newsletter's masthead.

A Web Site Recommendation

Feeling a little lost? Paul Boisvert and Cheryl Wollin's web page filled with resources for new faculty members is at www.oakton.edu/user/~pboisver/NewFaculty/. It is filled with information and links to practical information such as the computer help desk hours, instructions on how to get students linked to counseling, testing center extensions, etc. It is being recommended here not just for new faculty, but all of us veterans who have been here so long we're wistfully remembering our own orientations.