

Oakton AFA News

Oakton Adjunct Faculty Association NEA/IEA
AFA Website: www.oaktonafa.org
Office: Room 2470 on the Des Plaines Campus, extension 2193

Special points of interest:

- > Welcome Back
- > Pencil in Feb 22nd and April 10

Adjunct Authors Night—February 22nd

Plans have come together to have our first Oakton Adjunct Authors Night. Six adjuncts with published books have offered to represent us to the larger community, showing the range of interests from academic to poetry, from adult to children which we encompass.

The six authors, at the time of press, are Barbara Vallaly, Nathan Harpaz, Jackie McNeilly, Richard Smelter, David Arieti, and Tom Sanfilip.

All members of the Oakton Community are invited, but adjuncts are especially asked to stop by and show support for our friends. There will be light refreshments.

Thanks should be extended to Chester Kulis for organizing this event.

The event will be held from 6 pm to 7:30 in the Koehline Art Gallery, on the Des Plaines Campus. The event is timed to precede the regular meeting of the college's board of directors. This is Oakton adjuncts putting our best foot forward.



Spring Membership Meeting

The biannual, and rather popular, AFA membership meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 10th, again at Riggio's. Watch for future newsletters and emails from the AFA asking for RSVP's as we come closer to the date.

Summer National RA Delegates Sought

Every year, our national union has a summer convention, called the Representative Assembly (RA) over the fourth of July weekend. In the past, this has offered the opportunity for a couple of our members to travel to New Orleans, San Diego, and

other destinations to participate and vote on the NEA's policies and hear national-level education leaders and politicians. This year, the convention is in Chicago, and the AFA would love to send members who have not attended. This is a great

opportunity to become involved on a large platform.

If you can possibly represent us over the fourth of July Weekend, please contact Donna Ryan, the AFA secretary, through division 4.

State Legislative Moves

With the recent, and rather sudden, passage of the 2% Illinois income tax hike, we all are quite aware how quickly some things can move in Springfield in this political climate. Our state-level union is asking for Illinois teachers to watch other proposals which are being considered either officially or only casually at the moment.

The IEA's list of concerns ask

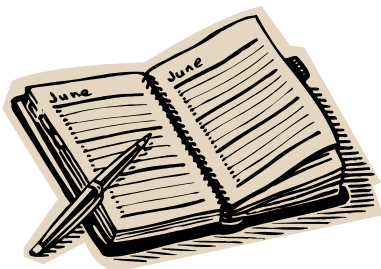
its members to support revenue proposals that provide money directly to education and the IEA opposes school vouchers. The IEA sees the "tax-payer bill of rights" as "devastating" the state budget. It counters the proposal with the union-backed "Accountability for All" proposal.

Most importantly for us, as a union, is talk of changes in

the rights of state workers to unionize or strike.

While the local AFA respects the varied political views of our members, we believe it is responsible to ask our members to pay attention to state politics and contact their representatives.

These are interesting times in this state.



Know Your Contract: Schedule Requests

Outside of issues of seniority, bumping rights, commitment letters, there is one simple issue that is too often overlooked, the simple "Adjunct Scheduling Preference Form." Our contract has all departments in the college using a similar form asking for our schedule preferences and availability for the next semester. Accord-

ing to contract, the school is to send it to adjuncts three months before the start of the semester.

The adjunct has the responsibility of a prompt response to this form (keep a copy!).

Additionally, once the assignments are made, the contract requires an adjunct

to reply within two weeks.

The call here is to respond to scheduling forms as soon as you receive them, for, as Barbara Dayton, our union President has said, "If you don't, you simply negate the chair's responsibility to give you an assignment that semester."

Call for Advice

With the continuing pressure on all levels of education to bring in more assessment of teachers, the AFA local would like to continue building a base of knowledge on such evaluation programs. If you have expertise on education management or Human Re-

source management, particularly evaluation, the union would appreciate knowing. In the future, we may call for advice.

AFA Office Hours

This semester, Olivia Cronk, the AFA Vice President, will staff the office, room 2470 in Des Plaines on Thursdays from 1-4 in the afternoon. The exception will be every second Thursday of the month, when the same office hours will be in Skokie, most likely in the conference room next to the faculty support office. Stop in with membership issues, and use the phone number in our masthead to leave messages.