

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:

- > Spring membership meeting scheduled—Please RSVP
- > Adjunct authors night a big success
- > RA Election this week

History of AFA

Barbara Vallaly, division 4, is writing a history

of the AFA. This is commissioned by the AFA and is meant to give future members and officers a guide to past decisions and actions. If you have memories of important events in the AFA history, please contact her.

Morton Adjuncts Unionize

The IEA advocate reported that Morton College

has unionized, making it the last Chicago area community college to do so. The Oakton AFA was the first in the state, and instrumental in helping others do so.

Vote for National Reps on March 1st and 2nd

On March 1st and 2nd, look for ballot boxes. The AFA needs to vote for representatives to attend the NEA's Representative Assembly. This is a five day meeting over the fourth of July at which our national union establishes policies. This year, due

to the events in Wisconsin and elsewhere, it's easy to assume to be an important meeting. It will be held in Chicago this year. The ballot boxes will be in 2757 in Des Plaines and in the adjunct office next to the Faculty Support Office in Des

Spring Membership Meeting at Riggios

As a union, we'll be meeting again at Riggios for our semi-annual membership meeting on April 10th at 4:30.

On the corner of Oakton and Milwaukee, Riggios has hosted us several times. The union will buy the pizza and soft drink, and you may order your own extras.

These meetings allow us all to keep up to date on union business, to volunteer to do some work for the union, and to socialize. The meeting is a particularly good place to meet adjuncts

in other divisions and from the "other" campus. ("Other" being the one you don't teach at!)

Invitations will be in your mailboxes and in your email. **Please RSVP to Chet Kulis, at the RHC Skokie campus.**

The Fall and Spring Membership meetings have been so popular lately, with over fifty members attending, we must be doing something right. If you haven't attended, don't let this opportunity slip by.

AFA Sends Five to State RA

On March 11th and 12th, Oakton Adjuncts will be represented by five

members at the state-level Representative Assembly. These five, who are giving up their time for us, and for the cause of public education in the state, are Kathy Willis, Beverly Stanis, Cheryl Wollin, Steve Brody and Barbara Dayton.

The event is scheduled for the Rosemont Stevens convention center.

Again, all should see the union presents some real opportunities to make changes in the world. If you'd like to help, please leave a message at 847/635-2193.

Adjunct Authors Night

On Tuesday, February 22, the AFA held its first ever author night. With strong attendance and both professional and social conversation, the book length work of six of our members was highlighted.

The event was timed to precede the college's monthly Board of Trustee meeting, allowing administrators and Board members to see a small bit of the professional academic and creative work we do in addition to teaching. The authors were also acknowledged in the Board meeting.

David Arieti presented two

works on geographic and climate science. We were also pleased to welcome his co-author, Jacob Nieva.

Thomas Sanfilip showed three volumes of poetry while Barbara Vallaly's two books showed how family narrative became published histories. History prowess was also shown through Richard Smelter's book on the Colt Army revolver.

Showing our range of expertise, Jackie McNeilly showed her fully-illustrated children's book, How Uncle

Russ Learned to Swim.

Nathan Harpaz, who also curates the art museum on the Des Plaines campus where the event was held, added two of his works on two exhibits.

Look for the Des Plaines Campus library to dedicate a shelf toward the door with the works of these authors and books by more adjuncts.

Space here does not allow the deserved full description of the works these talented writers pre-

sented. Please see the full list of the titles on the AFA website, oakton-afa.org.

This being the first event of its kind the AFA held, we presented only book-length publications. Because of its success, do look to future years when we may be able to repeat with other types of academic, creative and professional works.



National Anti-Union Concerns

Of course we are all concerned with the events in Madison over the last two weeks. Similar anti-union rhetoric and draft laws can be found in other traditionally pro-worker states also. The state-level union, the IEA does have lobbyists watching our state legislature, and so it may be imperative to read communications from the IEA and NEA, more than ever before.

Also, watch the local news. Unionized Adjuncts seem to be under pressure at Columbia College and East-West university.

A local's newsletter is not the spot to debate politics, but it is simply right to call our members to watch events as they unfold, to be careful in interpreting information presented by overheated media, and to act when conscious calls.

The IEA state-level website is at www.ieanea.org. That level of our union is organizing sympathy demonstrations for our union brethren in Wisconsin.

Professional Development Requirements

Again, the AFA

reminds members that professional development is part of our contract. Every five years, we should each receive a letter from the school requesting a report on our professional development activities which is to be submitted to our chairs. If you received one this year, please act on it. We also recommend you discuss what is acceptable professional development with your chair.

Adjunct Commitment Contracts in Emails

One example of the cooperation between the administration and the AFA is part of our contract. Longer-term adjuncts are given a "Commitment to Teach form" which promises to the school that the instructor will teach for the next year. This allows Oakton to plan ahead more than many colleges. On the instructor's side, this form lays the foundation for some of the seniority and bumping rights the union has fought for. In short, this is an important form.

This form was emailed last week and the instructor must print it out and return it to her or his chair. If you have taught at Oakton for twenty-two Fall and Spring semesters, please check for that form in your email.

Salhi to Head IPSA

Congratulations to Ribhi Salhi, Oakton adjunct, who was just elected President of the Illinois Political Science Association.