

Barbara Dayton, President,
Division 4

Beverly Stanis,
Acting Vice President and
Grievance Chair,
Division 4

Cindy DelMedico, Treasurer,
Division 4

Donna Ryan, Secretary,
Division 4

Jackie McNeilly, Editor,
Division 2

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John Bishop, Manager
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Mondays 10-11 am
Wednesdays 10-12 am
Voice Mail at: (847) 635-2193
Email: info@oaktonafa.org
Blog: blog@oaktonafa.org
Visit our web site:
www.oaktonafa.org

Board announces AFA Blog

AFA members have a forum for their ideas and opinions on this moderated blog on issues relevant to community college teaching and the adjunct, Oakton, or IEA/NEA experience. To blog, go to: blog@oaktonafa.org.

Rules and procedures on back page.

IEA/NEA Representative Assembly Reports:

More than 1,200 delegates and guests filled the International Ballroom at the Chicago Hilton to conduct business, hear inspirational speakers and honor their own during the 158th Representative Assembly.

Dual Credit Courses

Beverly Stantis reports the number one topic of discussion at the Higher Education meeting was the effect of Dual Credit courses on college instructors. High school teachers are teaching high school students college level classes. Students earn both high school and college credit. Schools monitor this situation in different ways. McHenry County high school teachers are monitored by a McHenry College instructor (who is paid \$150 per instructor to do so). The high school instructors must have the same credentials as the college requires for its instructors. The high school instructors do not receive additional pay for this work (unless they are working overtime).

IPACE Contributions

The IEA is both pleased that its efforts to elect Governor Quinn were successful and unhappy as he has not lived up to expectations. There was much discussion regarding the need to keep up political efforts through increased "voluntary" contributions to IPACE.

IPACE currently has less money available for its political work than in the past. So, the assembly (**not our group**) voted to increase the contribution from \$10 to \$20. Each member can contribute more or "opt out" by contacting IEA directly

More reports continued on back page

April 1 AFA Dinner

Riggios 7530 W. Oakton, 4:30. Contact Chester Kulis at ckulis@oakton.edu with your reservation.

Board elections will be held. Send your Resume to spalletto@oakton if you wish to run.

Daniel Biss will be our speaker. He is a first term state representative, 17th district and a candidate for the State Senate 9th district. He serves on the Appropriations Committee for Higher Education and Personnel and Pensions Committee. He co-chairs the bipartisan working group to explore solutions to the state's pension crisis.

OCC Master Plan progress

- Ground breaks for Health and Science building in April
- Summer remodeling of 20 classrooms
Phase one: 2442, 2527, 2535, 2537, 2547, 2549, 2723, 2735, 2755, and 2759
Phase two: 2444, 2806, 2808, 2812, 2814, 2816, 2822, 2824, 2834, 2836 and 2840
- Parking Lot A and C Improvements begins this summer

BLOG: Student Engagement.
See back page for starter discussion
by Chet Kulis

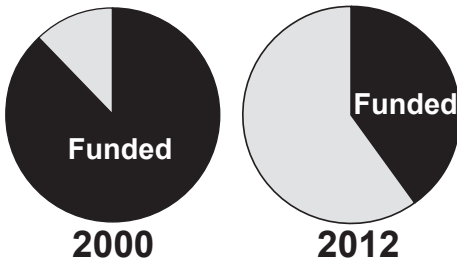
IEA/NEA Representative Assembly Reports continued:

SURS, by Barbara Dayton

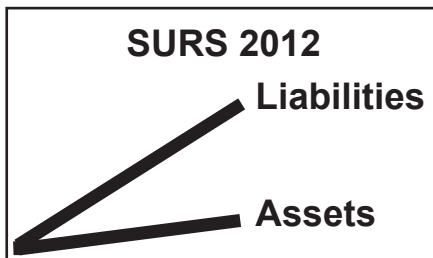
SURS stands for the State University Retirement System. It's mission is to secure and deliver the retirement benefits promised to it's members. It is where 8½% of your biweekly paycheck goes. State law requires the state to contribute funds sufficient for SURS to meet its expected pension liability. For 18 of the last 19 years, the state has not made its required contribution.

For details and numbers, see: www.surs.org/pdfs/joint/SURS_Facts.pdf.

At the beginning of 2000 SURS was 88% funded. Today it is funded at slightly over 40%.



SURS assets are \$14.24 billion while its liabilities are \$31.5 billion. The number



of current employees paying into the system is 81,611 while the number of retirees is 51,552 with another 80,000 deemed inactive.

What all this says is that your retirement system is grossly under-funded and may not be there for you when you retire. The IEA is working tirelessly to assure that the state lives up to its obligations.

Dues Increase by Cindy DelMedico

The "Ay's" have it! That was a common reverberation heard throughout the IEA RA. One of the main purposes of the RA was to discuss, review and approve the 2012-2013 budget. While many new business items were debated, the main focus was on the loss of union membership due to attrition and layoffs, attacks on member benefits, in particular, the pension, the need for a positive media campaign for our profession, and lastly, the need for an increase in dues to counteract these challenges.



While members of the Oakton delegation voted a resounding "NO" for an increase in dues (1/4 of which is passed on to the AFA/OCC), the increase was approved. The primary use of these funds will be to develop a media campaign to educate the public as well as counteract the negative campaigns of certain politicians and other groups intent on diminishing the union's rights under collective bargaining.

Blog topic: Student Engagement

by Chester Kulis



Oakton is circulating a survey on Student Engagement which must be completed on line by April 30th. The survey does not specifically address how adjunct's interaction with students might differ from full-time faculty.

Adjuncts could reflect on how their adjunct experience might enhance but also limit their interaction with students. Are the expectations for faculty/student engagement realistic for faculty, especially adjuncts?

Adjuncts have little job security, few course assignments, and low pay compared to full-time faculty.

The number of full-time faculty at Oakton has remained constant for many years (around 150), while the number of adjuncts has doubled to around 500. This adjunct perspective is critical for Student Engagement and should have been reflected in the survey.

Share your thoughts on this or any other subject by making a submission to blog@oaktonafa.org.

Rules for Submission to the Blog:

- Post must be relevant to community college teaching and the adjunct, Oakton, or IEA/NEA experience.
- Posts must be signed, no anonymous posts
- Posts may not single out specific individuals in the Oakton Community or IEA/NEA. Generic terms such as employee or administrator. Department chair, /Dean, Vice President is too specific.
- 500 words or less

Procedures:

- Use short posts and comments for email entries
- Use MS Word or PDF for longer posts
- Only AFA members may post comments and must conform to the rules
- Posts and comments should be sent to blog@afa.org

The AFA reserves the right to make minor edits of posts to assure compliance with the blog rules. Post are limited to AFA members, but comments will be available to anyone using the internet.