

A joke, from Joe Berry, COCAL: A unionized public employee, a member of the Tea Party, and a CEO are sitting at a table with a plate of a dozen cookies. The CEO reaches across and takes eleven cookies. He looks at the Tea Partier and says, "Watch out, that union guy wants a piece of your cookie."

April 6, 2011

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:

- > This Sunday is the Membership Meeting
- > Report from the state RA

Annual Membership Meeting

At 4:30 this Sunday, April 10th, those who RSVPed to earlier invitations and emails will gather at Riggios (Oakton and Milwaukee) for our Spring membership meeting.

We will be honoring Cheryl Wollin, who will be retiring after thirty years of Oakton service. Cheryl has served as the Treasurer of the Union, an extremely

demanding job, for decades. At the meeting, we will hear of the successes and tribulations of that task, which will be taken over next year by Cynthia Del Medico.

As always, there will also be good conversation with colleagues we so often see in rushed passing. This year's political climate should make any union gathering interesting.



IEA STATE Representative Assembly Reports

On March 11-12th, the Oakton AFA sent five representatives to the state RA, in Rosemont. They were Barbara Dayton, Cheryl Wollin, Steve Brody, Kathy Willis and Beverly Stanis. This annual meeting sets the policies and platform of the IEA. Of course, much time was spent discussing the political situations in neighboring states.

Beverly Stanis reported

that one of the top priorities was to ensure union members are aware of the underfunded pension systems in Illinois. SURS is now funded at 40% of liability, due to the state not making its share of full payments for years. IEA estimates the system could be bankrupt in a decade.

Of importance to the higher ed contingent, our representative Steve

Brody introduced a proposal that the NEA pursue lobbying for the DREAM act, which did pass. Steve Brody also reports that two pieces of Springfield legislation which could be important to us are being watched by the IEA. One suggests a link between performance and pay in higher ed, the other outlines a plan to let high-school dropouts to enroll at community colleges to earn their high-school diplomas.

The president of the IEA warned about anti-union groups such as Stand for Children and Illinois Business Roundtable which are taking the tactic of making unions defend themselves and thus diminish their funds.

Thanks to our reps for their work and sacrifice of substantial time. Also, thanks to Steve Brody and Beverly Stanis for these reports.

Summer National RA Volunteers Sought

Our national union, the NEA, is having its annual convention in downtown Chicago this year, from June 30th to July 5th. President Barbara Dayton reports that there will be over 10,000 delegates from across the country, and that it has been called "the largest democratic assembly in the world."

A gathering this size needs help. The call for volunteers is out. If you'd like to aid unions in this time of need, or are a proud Chicagoan who wants to make your hometown look good, The NEA would be glad to have your efforts.

There is a small bribe. Those who volunteer two full days will have a night of overnight accommodations paid by the regional union.

Contact Barbara Dayton (Div 4 or through the AFA office, x2193) for a Volunteer form.