

## August 2014

Barbara Dayton,  
President  
Jaleh Sherbini,  
Vice President and Grievance  
Chair  
Cindy DelMedico,  
Treasurer  
Donna Ryan,  
Secretary  
Cheryl Thayer  
AFA Office manager  
Room 2470 DP  
Office Hours:  
M 11-12;  
Tu 1:30-2, 3:15-3:45  
W 11-12  
Th 1:30-2, 3:15-3:45  
Voicemail at  
(847) 635- 2193  
Visit our web site at  
[www.oaktonafa.org](http://www.oaktonafa.org)  
Email: [info@oaktonafa.org](mailto:info@oaktonafa.org)

### *The AFA*

What is the AFA? The AFA is *your* union, protecting and fighting for the rights of all adjuncts covered under the bargaining agreement between the college and the AFA (anyone teaching at least six LHE's in any three previous terms).

# WELCOME

### *Welcome back!*

You are receiving this monthly newsletter compliments of your union. In it, you'll find information that is important to you as an adjunct at Oakton, in our state of Illinois.

### *Join the Union!*

Notice the amount when your first paycheck comes. It went up from last year - thank your union. There is strength in numbers; your fellow adjuncts need you to join us. To join, you need to fill out two forms: the IEA/NEA form and the Oakton payroll deduction form, both of which are available on the AFA website. Return them to Barbara Dayton in Division 4, Des Plaines.

First time members will also receive a black tote with the AFA insignia, great for your first day of class. AFA members also get a variety of perks ranging from discounts on new memberships at COSTCO to savings on the purchase of new cars. Join now!

### *Help Us Keep Track*

If you are an adjunct and did not receive two classes, or have been bumped by an Affiliate to achieve their load, please let Cheryl Thayer (in the AFA office, ext. 2193) know. We would like to keep track of how often this happens.

### *That Next Paycheck*

As anxious as we all are to meet our new students, many of us are even more anxious to see our next paycheck. The next substantial pay date is September 12, covering the first two weeks of class, August 24 to September 6.

**Senator Durbin  
Introduces a Bill for  
Loan Assistance for  
Adjuncts.**

According to Adjunctaction.org, Senator Durbin has recently introduced a bill expanding access to the 2007 Public Service Service Loan Forgiveness act (PSLF). The PSLF is a part of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, intended to encourage graduates to pursue careers in public service. It provides forgiveness of student loans after ten years of working full-time in a government or not-for-profit job. Right now, to access this forgiveness, a teacher must work 30 hours a week over the course of a year. Part-timers can combine hours from multiple jobs, but of course, adjuncts often do not have control over the number of hours they teach.

Senator Durbin's bill, the Adjunct Faculty Loan Forgiveness Act, would eliminate the 30 hour requirement. Adjuncts would need to teach one course in a given year to qualify for this program. (This

would not include those who hold a separate full-time job in the private sector). "It is only right that we expand access to the PSLF program, a benefit already available to many of their full-time colleagues," stated Durbin.

**Congratulations,  
Leslie Dubin!**

It was announced at this month's Board Meeting that business teacher Leslie Dubin is the winner of this year's Ray Harstein Award for Teaching for part-time faculty. Congratulations!

**Affiliates and Health  
Insurance**

There has been a change in the starting date of the health insurance of Affiliates who have been hired starting this Fall semester. Their insurance will begin this Fall semester instead of the coming January 1. If an affiliate was not rehired for this fall, their insurance will continue through Dec. 31.

**Come to the Next OCC  
Board Meeting**

Your presence at Oakton's Board of Trustees meetings reminds the board of our interest in their policies. Come to the next meeting on

September 16 at 7:30 in Room 1506 in Des Plaines.

**Outsourcing of Hiring in  
Michigan**

Instead of hiring adjuncts directly, several Michigan community colleges have turned to an educational staffing company. The company, EDUStaff, also assumes payroll duties. Why? As a private employer, EDUStaff does not have to contribute to the state retirement fund, saving the colleges money. Opponents see the move as a way of leaving educational values out of the hiring process and increasing the degree of corporatization of higher education.

**Thank You to Larry Knapp**

Thanks to Larry Knapp, Div. 3 film instructor, for taking the lead in getting an added benefit for affiliated adjuncts. Permanent employees have been able to purchase through OCC's employee computer purchase program; starting this school year, this program has been opened to affiliated adjuncts. Thanks to Larry for initially surveying adjunct interest in the program and his persistence in convincing Business Services Director Doreen Schwartz to develop guidelines for the affiliated group.