

September 2013

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Welcome back!

Welcome back to the new school year to all part-time and adjunct faculty – especially the newcomers! Each month you will find this AFA newsletter in your mailbox, bringing you up to date on pertinent issues and the goings-on at Oakton – all rumor-free.

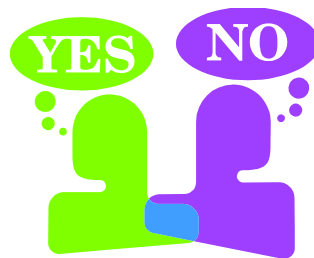
What is the AFA? The AFA is *your* union, protecting and fighting for the rights of all adjuncts covered under the

bargaining agreement between the college and the AFA (anyone teaching at least six LHE's in any one of the three most recent semesters).

Fall Membership

Dinner/Meeting Sun. Oct. 13

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 13, for this semester's dinner/membership meeting. Location will be announced at a later date. Are you new to Oakton? Faculty who have attended this dinner in the past have had a great time. It is a chance to relax, enjoy the company of colleagues you know and in addition, meet new ones. Plan on coming! (And it is free to members!)



What's up with the contract?

A tentative agreement has been reached between the Administration and the AFA. Membership meetings in both Des Plaines and Skokie will be held immediately following Labor Day to discuss the new contract. These meetings are your chance to have your questions answered and be an

informed voter. Voting for ratification of the new contract will be Monday and Tuesday September 9 and 10 in Rooms 2757 and 2170 in DP and in the Faculty Support Office in RHC.

Membership

Even though your rights as a member of the bargaining unit have been fought for all summer to achieve the best possible outcome, it is possible that it may have slipped your mind to actually sign up and join the union. Don't ride on your negotiators' coattails! If you are not a member yet, please join! Contact Cheryl Brown (Division 4) at cbrown@oakton.edu to do so. Two forms need to be filled out, both available on-line under "Membership" on the AFA website, oaktonafa.org.

But, you say, money is already being taken out of my paycheck for the union. Why? Everyone pays \$94 "fair share;" everyone benefits from the work of the union regardless of whether or not you actually sign up as a member. Negotiated pay increases benefit everyone, so everyone contributes. However, for \$30 more (\$15/semester) you can actually join the union, giving it a better base to act from when dealing with the administration.

Where does the money go? In a nutshell, Oakton's AFA is supported with resources and know-how by IEA (Illinois Education Association) and NEA (National Education Association). We in turn financially support them. About 75% of your dues goes to IEA/NEA, 15% to IPACE (Illinois Political Action Committee for Education – the political arm of IEA), and the remaining 10% to our own local Oakton union. If you join, you can actually get \$30 back by applying for a refund from IPACE. It amounts to actually joining the union for free and being counted – and new members get a free attractive roomy fabric satchel with the AFA logo on it.

Our Condolences

Two of our adjunct faculty members, English teacher Svetlana Boulevina and Marianne Millman, Keyboarding teacher, experienced the sudden loss of their husbands over the summer. The AFA wants to extend our sincere condolences to both of them at this very difficult time.

Congratulations to New AFA Board Members!

We thank John Bishop as he retires from his work as office manager. Sociology teacher Cheryl Thayer will take over his responsibilities. This semester is also Beverly Stanis' last as Vice President of the union as well as grievance chair. She will be training both Dan Filipek, business teacher, and Jaleh Sherbini, who teaches political

science, to take her place. We look forward to the new input and leadership they will provide. Welcome!

"Affected Annuitants"

The new pension bill sponsored by State Senator Daniel Biss continues to affect retirees who come back to OCC to teach. In a nutshell, if you come back to teach at OCC after retiring, you cannot earn more than 40% of your previous highest annual salary. Aimed at high salaried workers who rake it in after retirement, it is devastating to adjuncts. A simple solution might be to add an amendment excluding adjuncts from the bill. Let Senator Biss and your local legislators know how you feel and how this will impact you. Contact Biss at 847-568-1250 or senatorbiss@gmail.com.

Be Seen at a Board Meeting!

This past year we made our presence known at Board meetings and have seen results. Let's continue to make sure that adjuncts are not forgotten. The Board of Trustees needs to see you, and your being at the Board meetings keeps us in their sight. The next Board meeting will be on the evening of Tuesday, September 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Rm 1506. Union president Barbara Dayton will introduce you to the board, so check in with her when you arrive.

Get the news!

If you think you may not be on the AFA mailing list, let us

know. With "add me to the email list" in the subject line, email oaktonafa@gmail.com. In addition, add this email to your address book to prevent important AFA email from going into spam and getting lost.

New Student Evaluation Forms

All of us have received an e-mail from Nancy Prendergast, Assistant Vice President and Dean of the RHC campus, with an attachment of the student evaluation which will be piloted this semester with all adjunct and full-time faculty. It was piloted with a limited number of faculty this past spring and summer and received positive feedback. Your continued feedback is welcome. On-line faculty should continue to use the current student evaluation form, as the new format will be phased in for them at a later date.

Continued Eligibility

If you are up for "continued eligibility," pay attention to those e-mail announcements or reminders. As you know, every 5 years, a report on your professional development activity must be submitted to your dean, chair, and Nancy Prendergast. Discuss what professional development is acceptable with your chair. Pay attention, as continued employment hinges on this.