

Oakton AFA News

Oakton Adjunct Faculty Association NEA/IEA
AFA Website: www.oaktonafa.org
Office: Room 2470—ext. 2193

Special points of interest:

- Membership meeting at Riggio's on October 11th
- New Contract has been ratified

FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

All AFA members are encouraged to attend our semi-annual membership meeting. It will be held at Riggio's Restaurant, at 7530 W. Oakton on Sunday, October 11th. (Riggio's is on the Northwest corner of Oakton and Milwaukee.)

The meeting will be at 4:30, with the discussion expecting to center around the new contract.

Dr. David Hunter, music instructor, will provide entertainment by demonstrating a variety of musical instruments. You can also count on Riggio's pizza.

We do request that you RSVP

by Monday, October 5th. To do so, return the form you received in your mailbox to Chet Kulis in Division 4. You may also email Chet at chesterkulis@att.net. Please indicate your name, division, and email address.

This dinner is free to members, but guests are welcome. There is a charge of \$20 at the door for guests. Please indicate in your RSVP that you intend to bring a guest.

PS: It's a bye-week for the Bears and the Packers—we checked.

Adjunct faculty who are not AFA union members are welcome to attend and join at the meeting. Members, please encourage new faculty to take this opportunity to learn about our association.

We have a new contract due to the strength of our numbers. This is a time to build on that strength.

Non-members, please RSVP in the same manner described above.

Award Winning Teaching

Congratulations to Larry Marks, the adjunct faculty winner of 2008's Ray Hartstein award. Your hard work is inspiring to us your colleagues and to your students.

How to Access Our New Contract

The fastest way to read our new contract is to go to the union's website, www.oaktonafa.org, and click on "AFA-OCC contract." That will bring up a PDF version of the 32-page agreement, providing hours of scintillating reading.

Actually, jokes aside, this is a key resource and members should familiarize themselves with the provisions that apply to all of us, as well as those provisions applying to specific disciplines.

If you'd prefer a hard-copy, Oakton's Human Resources

department should soon be sending an email out announcing printed copies are available.

As this year continues, this newsletter will run an article every month highlighting one area of the contract.

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Course Requests

With each contract, we seem to gain in more specifically worded procedures for assigning classes. Now, the contract spells out that preference sheets by which we request classes should be given to adjuncts three months before the start of a semester. For the Spring 2010 semester, we should all receive a form by mid-October.

It is our responsibility to return these forms within two

weeks of receiving them from our Deans and Chairs.

These forms may both arrive and be responded to as e-mails. As with all important paperwork, it is important to retain a photocopy or email record of your response in case of a difficulty arising.

In the Spring semesters, an Adjunct Commitment Contract, for those who have

taught 22 or more prior semesters, should be sent from Human Resources by February 1st. This requires a response by March 1st.

The contract has a copy of the forms as appendices A and B. You may also want to read carefully article 2.6 which spells out course assignment issues such as seniority. A future newsletter will highlight a couple bits of that area.

Continued Eligibility Requirements

Another contract issue to be aware of is that we have a "Continued Eligibility Requirement." The administration wanted this inclusion to ensure that faculty are remaining current in their fields. In short, every five years, on a rotating basis depending on one's starting date, each adjunct faculty member may be asked to pro-

vide evidence of activity such as participation in professional conferences, taking college-level courses in the field, attending Oakton-sponsored professional development, and even publication.

The requirement is to be administered by the office of the Vice-President of Academic

Affairs. However, **the AFA recommends that members, before pursuing such an activity (if you are doing it for this purpose), ask their chairs if it would meet this contract requirement. Please ask for this in writing and retain their response.**

Part-Time Faculty Directory

In your mailbox you should have received a yellow invitation to be included in the union's Part-Time Faculty Directory. If you have not done so, please fill it out and forward it to David Arieti at Faculty Support (B206) in Skokie. The deadline to be included in the directory, and to receive a copy, is October 25th.

Our Local Has National Exposure

Cheryl Wollin, our treasurer, and our President, Barbara Dayton attended the NEA national convention in San Diego on July 1-6. At almost 10,000 delegates, it is one of the largest democratic, representative assemblies in the country. Speakers ranged from Arne Duncan, the new Secretary of Education, to Bill Richardson, the winner of the "Greatest Education Governor" award. Hot

issues involved Charter Schools (some with union leadership), reforms in NCLB legislation, and, inevitably, a vote on a dues increase for NEA members.

Days began at 7:00 a.m. with the Illinois caucus strategizing the voting and ended in the early evening. Social highlights included an outdoor dinner at the San Diego Zoo.

This type of involvement helps to build the credibility of our union. It also should be seen as an enticement. If you would be willing to do some union work, such representative opportunities are available. Please contact the union office or talk to any active AFA member.