

October 2013

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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 one of the three most recent semesters).

Fall Membership Dinner/Meeting Sun. Oct. 13

Mark your calendars for 5:00 p.m. Sunday, October 13, for this semester's dinner/meeting. This semester we will meet again at Fairway Banquets, 6676 W. Howard (between Waukegan and Caldwell) in Niles. Dinner – free for members of AFA – includes salad, chicken francaise, pasta, and dessert.

RSVP by Thursday Oct. 4 by typing your full name in the subject line and RSVP Yes. You may bring a guest for a \$25 charge – just RSVP for two. Haven't come before? It is a chance to relax, catch up with colleagues, and enjoy a good dinner together.

Do you have questions about the new adjunct contract? The new adjunct contract will be the agenda for this meeting.



All questions regarding the new contract will be answered

at the meeting, but questions *must* be e-mailed *in advance* to Bev Stanis.
(BesBus221@comcast.net)

This is also an occasion at which we can thank the negotiating team for their patient hard work and outstanding dedication on our behalf. This contract was approved by our membership by an overwhelming margin of 2 to 1. During what we all know has been a difficult year, they negotiated many benefits for Oakton adjunct faculty and we thank them.

A significant benefit is the pay raise which will be retroactive to the beginning of the fall semester. Watch for it in your coming paychecks.

Membership

Waffling about joining the union? Membership costs you just \$30 more than the fair share amount which everyone pays, member or not, as we all benefit from the union. The October and April membership dinners are free to members, and new members receive a free AFA satchel. Not only that, but you can get that \$30 back.

Here is how:

Write to IEA Government Relations, 100 E. Edwards St., Springfield, IL 62704. Simply

request that you be sent a form for a rebate from IEA.

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Write to IEA Government Relations, 100 E. Edwards St., Springfield, IL 62704. Simply request that you be sent an IPACE Rebate Form. When you get it, complete it and mail it back to the same address before the end of the year. So, if you are not a member yet, please join! Contact Cheryl Brown (Division 4) to do so at cbrown@oakton.edu.

Two forms need to be filled out, both available on-line on the AFA website, oaktonafa.org, under "Membership."

Just a reminder: expect dues to be taken out of the 5th and 6th paychecks during both fall and spring semesters.

Questions about Obamacare?

The IEA (Illinois Education Association) website has a great deal of information about Obama care. The health care exchanges begin on Tuesday, October 1, and some of us may be eligible for government subsidies or tax credits for the health care we will purchase. Do check it out.

Come to a Board Meeting!

Let's keep reminding the Board of Trustees of us adjuncts. Your presence at a board meeting lets the board see the faces behind the numbers. The next Board meeting will be on the evening of Tuesday, October 15 at 7:30 in the Board Room, Room 1506. Union president Barbara Dayton will introduce you to the board, so check in with her when you arrive.

Congratulations!

This year's winner of the Adjunct Faculty 2013 Ray Harstein Award for Outstanding Professional Excellence in Teaching at Oakton is Cari Paterno, teacher of psychology. Cari joined the Oakton faculty in 2010. She has a BA in Psychology from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and an MA in psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Congratulations, Cari!

Adjunct Faculty Directory

Have you filled out and returned the form with your information for the annual adjunct faculty directory? It is a quick way to look up colleague's phone numbers (need a sub?) or address. Only those who are included will get a copy of the directory.

Annuitants

Some of us still have an issue with the new state pension law that affects annuitants and how much they can earn after formal retirement. Senator Bill was instrumental in getting this law passed and admits a mistake. Let *him* know how you feel. Contact him locally at 847-568-1250 or e-mail him at senatorbiss@gmail.com.

New Board Members

Cheryl Thayer is filling John Bishop's considerable shoes as office manager, and Dan Filipek and Jaleh Sherbini are sharing the offices of Vice President and Grievance Chair. They both attended a grievance training Sept. 25 that was given by IEA, and have already spend many hours working on our behalf handling grievances.

Remember the Adjunct Faculty Survey?

You can access the results of Keith Johnson's adjunct faculty survey (which we filled out in preparation for negotiations) by going to the AFA website.