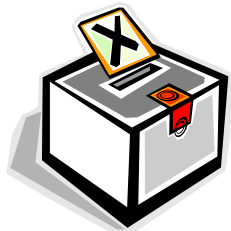


Oakton AFA News

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

Special points of interest:

- New Contract has been negotiated
- Membership meetings to be held September 8th and 9th to discuss provisions
- Membership to vote on its acceptance Sept. 9th and 10th



New Four-Year Contract Negotiated

After a year of difficult work, the AFA negotiating team has reached a four year agreement with the college. The college's Board of Trustees ratified the contract at its August 18th meeting, and the next steps are for the union membership to learn details of the contract and to vote on its acceptance.

Rules preclude a discussion of the contract's provisions here, so your attendance at one of three upcoming forums is important.

MEETINGS ON THE CONTRACT

The contract's provisions will be explained at three meetings. On the Des Plaines campus, members are encouraged to come to Room B in the Business Conference center on Tuesday, September 8 at either 12:15 or 5:00.

On the Skokie Campus, on Wednesday, September 9th, a meeting will convene at 12:30 in room A151.

THANKS TO NEGOTIATORS

All Oakton part-time instructors owe gratitude to our negotiating team for their commitment and endurance, especially over long summer hours, that resulted in this new contract. The negotiating team, Barbara Dayton, Beverly Stanis, and Larry Cohen, has recommended a "Yes" vote to ratify the contract.

Voting on the Contract

Voting to ratify the contract will take place on Wednesday, September 9th and Thursday, September 10th. Ballot boxes will be located in each Division office in Des Plaines and in the Faculty Support Office on the Skokie campus. AFA members may vote until the closing times of these offices.

To vote, please legibly sign the check-in sheet located

at each box. Then, take a ballot, mark it, and place it in a small envelope. Place this smaller envelope inside a larger envelope and sign the larger envelope. Place the double-enveloped ballot into the box.

All materials and instructions will be at each box. This method should ensure secrecy and accuracy.

A Dues Note

If you are a member who teaches at another school and pay dues to another NEA/IEA affiliated union, please let us know. Your dues may be reduced to just local dues here.

On an associated note, the AFA board has voted on this year's dues and has managed to keep dues to 95 dollars per semester.

New Members

We are presently more than 250 members strong. As always, we are recruiting new union members. The union will be trying to contact new faculty members (welcome!), but don't wait for us to make the first move. The Adjunct Faculty Association office in room 2470 will be open on Tuesdays, from 3-6 pm this semester. Stop by to sign up for membership, to have questions answered, or to check on your membership status,

A Conference Opportunity

The annual IEA Higher Education Conference is coming up. It will be held at the Doubletree hotel in Bloomington starting at 5:00 pm on Friday October 2nd, continuing until 3:30 on Saturday.

The registration cost is only ten dollars, and you may register online at

<http://www.ieanea.org/higherEducation.aspx>.

This is an opportunity to study and discuss the relationship of the state and higher education in today's difficult economic and political climate. This year's theme is "Under One Umbrella." If you plan to attend, tell the union office; it's possible we can set up a car pool.

Representative Needed

Our local is always looking for members to take active roles.

Right now, there is an opportunity for an individual who would be willing to be our representative at a monthly meeting of our region at the Skokie office of the IEA. If you are willing to add a line to your resume, let Barbara Dayton know. If you can't commit that much time, there are always other jobs to be done. Simply talk to any active union member and we'll utilize your talents.

New Full-time Faculty

One of our colleagues, Stephen McNamara, in English, has received a one-year full-time appointment. We hate losing members, but this is the way to do it! Congratulations! We'll announce other hires as they are formalized.

A Colleague in Need

Cheryl Wollin, AFA treasurer, has received a letter from Paul Mooney's Aunt, Nancy Doyle, requesting financial aid. Paul was a long-term English adjunct with us who became ill, and many of you contributed to his health care in prior years and kept up with his progress on his blog. If you wish to contribute, checks can be made out to Paul Mooney and mailed c/o Nancy Doyle, 2463 W Estes, Chicago, IL 60645.

Chronicle Reporter to Visit

Look forward to reading an article featuring Oakton adjuncts in the Chronicle of Higher Education in the coming month. A reporter will be on campus on Monday August 31 and Tuesday September first collecting information on part-time and adjunct faculty at Oakton. She has set meetings with some of us, as well as with full-time faculty and administrators, and will spend some time simply observing.



AFA WEBSITE

You might want to bookmark our union website, www.oaktonafa.org. On it, you will find news, copies of the past contract, and, after ratification, a copy of the new contract. There are also useful links to other college faculty associations and our state and local unions. If you lose the address, it will always be in the newsletter's masthead.

SURS Letters

Over the summer, some members may have received termination letters from the State University Retirement System. We have been told to ignore these letters as those members will be reinstated as soon as they start teaching again.