



IN STRENGTH & UNITY

COLLEGE STAFF GUILD
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS LOCAL 1521A

On the Web at WWW.LOCAL1521A.ORG

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Hot Off The Press

STAFF GUILD HIGHLIGHTS

- **California Community Colleges Classified Employee of the Year Award Nominee:** Congratulations to Debbie J. Swarens, Assistant Administrative Analyst, Pierce College. Ms. Swarens was nominated by her colleagues and endorsed by the Board of Trustees as an employee who demonstrates the highest level of commitment to professionalism and community colleges. For over twenty years she has worked diligently at Pierce College with Career and Technical Educational faculty and staff building relationships with industry and local high schools. Award winners are selected by representatives of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors, Chancellor's Office, and the Foundation for California Community Colleges. Recipients will be announced and honored at the May Board of Governors meeting. Debbie has served as the Staff Guild Chapter Chair and Negotiating Team Member representing Pierce College.
- **CFT Convention Highlights:** The 69th annual CFT Convention was held March 18-20 at the Manhattan Beach Marriott. The AFT Staff Guild's 36 delegates were active participants in the exciting three day event. From guest speakers to constitutional amendments, members listened and cast their votes for policy change within the 100,000 member union. Cheers were heard throughout the convention hall when Wisconsin AFT President, Bryan Kennedy, spoke on the fight to save collective bargaining for public employees. Solidarity in support of Wisconsin workers, firefighters, teachers, support staff, etc. was the call of the day (watch for full story in *In Strength and Unity*).

Resolutions Submitted by AFT 1521A and Passed at the Convention:

- Join the National Campaign for Play-Ka Boom
 - Support Classified and Faculty Unity
 - Oppose the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act
 - Support the Los Angeles Black Workers Center
 - Continue the Ethnic Minority Participation Leadership Committee
- **Weapons & Workplace Violence Prevention Training:** This event is presented by Horizon Health EAP in partnership with the Office of the Chancellor, the LA Sheriff's Department, LA County Department of Mental Health, LACCD Human Resources, and the JLMBC. The workshop helps us recognize potential traumatic events and how to deal with them by recognizing the types and levels of workplace violence, learning the actions to take to reduce the risk of violence, discover strategies to address challenging behaviors and potential conflict situations, and identify internal and external resources to aid in workplace violence prevention. All worksites will have this training. Be sure to attend!

- **Staff Guild Breakfast with Board of Trustees and College Presidents:** Periodically the Staff Guild hosts an informal meeting inviting trustees and college presidents for conversation and a continental breakfast with members. On March 10, 2011 Deputy Chancellor Adriana Barrera attended along with Harbor College President, Marvin Martinez, Trustees Nancy Pearlman, Miguel Santiago, and newly elected trustee Steve Veres who will take office July 1. Issues and concerns affecting District and classified staff were discussed. Communication and conflict resolution were dominant topics.
- **State Budget Shortfall Derails Summer Sessions:** Cancellation of summer classes will impact our students as well as UC and CSU students. Implications to our district are devastating without summer sessions and expected fee increase of \$36 per unit for the fall.
- **LA City Council Unanimously Passes Resolution in Support of Wisconsin Workers:** Several of the 161 Angelenos who traveled to Wisconsin with the L.A. County Federation of Labor testified before the LA City Council in support of our Wisconsin Brothers and Sisters to maintain their Collective Bargaining Rights. LA City Council President Eric Garcetti introduced a resolution. "This resolution is about standing up for basic fairness, and sending a message that we expect policymakers to set aside the political nonsense and focus on getting our country moving again."
- **LA Workers Hit the Streets Saturday, March 26:** March and Rally for our communities and our jobs! Throughout the economic crisis, all over the world, working people have been making their voices for change heard. On March 26, labor and supporters from diverse groups rallied in Los Angeles. Staff Guild members participated in the event lending their voice for budget protections for education and social services. One principal target was Ralph's supermarket downtown. Contracts for 60,000 grocery workers in Southern California have expired. Let's do what we can to prevent another strike and lockout like 2003/2004.
- **April 4th "We Are One" National Day of Action!**
On April 4, 2011, join union members, community activists, people of faith, students, youth, civil rights, and immigrant rights allies to stand in solidarity with working people in Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, and dozens of other states where well-funded, right-wing corporate politicians are trying to take away the rights Dr. King gave his life for: the freedom to bargain, to vote, to afford a college education and justice for all workers, immigrant and native-born. It's a day of action, teach-ins, worksite discussions, vigils, faith events-a day to be creative, but clear:
We Are One.
- **Congratulations to Classified Retirees:** Acknowledging your years of service and dedication to the Los Angeles Community College District:
 - John Stirrat, Student Services Assistant, 31 years, East
 - Barbara Stephens, A & R Evaluation Technician, 40 years, Southwest

Mark your calendars:

**CalPERS Retirement Workshop, for members planning to retire.
Thursday, April 7, 2011, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at LAVC Monarch Hall**

**Next Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 3:00 at LASC**