



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- NEW JLMBC CHAIR
- BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTS OFFICERS



August 2016

www.AFT1521.org



Pay Increase Takes Effect

The Guild has negotiated a pay increase for faculty of 2.83 percent effective July 1, 2016. This consists of two percent from the LACCD plus a .83 percent growth-based contribution. There was no California Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) in the state budget this year.

Starting in 2013, when the union won a three percent “reopener” raise, faculty salaries have increased 14.8 percent compounded (4.04 percent in 2014, 4.2 percent in 2015 and now 2.83 percent in 2016).

This fall, the Guild will begin preparations for the 2017–2020 contract talks.

“We will put together a negotiations team and gather input from our members that will guide possible changes in the next collective bargaining agreement,” said Joanne Waddell, Guild President. “Key to our success in the next round of negotiations is the passage of Prop 55 in November, which would extend the Prop 30 tax reforms approved by voters four years ago.”

Working with California Federation of Teachers (CFT) partners and other unions across the state, the Guild will be pushing hard to pass Prop 55.

1521 at the National Convention!

Delegates elected to represent the Guild at the AFT Convention in Minneapolis in July joined with 3,000 faculty and staff from across the nation to celebrate AFT’s 100th anniversary, attend sessions on higher education, vote on education resolutions, and hear from an inspiring array of speakers, including AFT President Randi Weingarten, Democratic Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, Senators Al Franken (D-Minn.) and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), and Steve Zimmer (LAUSD School Board President). The Guild won an award for increased membership at a “Pride of the Union” event. Delegates were Joanne Waddell (President), Deborah Kaye (Recording Secretary), Grace Chee (Treasurer), Sharon Hendricks (City), Michael Tompkins (Valley), Claudette McClenney (Harbor), Tema Staig (City) and Don Anderson (Emeritus).

Vote Yes on California Prop 55 (AKA Prop 30 Extension)

Officially labeled Proposition 55, the Children’s Education and Health Care Protection Act is headed to the California ballot in November. Formerly known as the Prop 30 Extension, the initiative is meant to retain the strong funding California’s schools are now receiving in order to continue to restoration of programs cut from public education throughout the state during the recession.

Prop 55 continues the current income tax rates on the wealthiest of Californians, an extension of the tax-rate increase in 2012, and would prevent drastic cuts to education. If voters do not approve the initiative, an estimated loss of at least \$4 billion a year in income would result in larger class sizes, a reduction in sections and the general weakening of our educational system that is finally coming back from the Great Recession.

In addition, Prop 55 would provide enough income each year to improve access to health care programs for low-income children, an area that is currently underfunded.

In all, the initiative would generate an estimated \$8 billion annually, with every dollar going to education via a system that requires absolute transparency. AFT 1521 and many other unions strongly support the passage of Prop 55.

“Get involved in this critically important campaign,” said Joanne Waddell, Guild President. “Its successful passage will put the Guild in a stronger position for future negotiations and continue the restoration we’ve made in the state since the recession.”

For more information, visit protectingcalifornia.com.

CFT and AFT Continue to Push Back on ACCJC

By Mike Messina

In the ongoing battle with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, the California Federation of Teachers filed a new complaint with the U.S. Department of Education on Aug. 8, arguing that the DOE should “de-list” the ACCJC by denying its renewal as an accreditor.

The complaint was filed in conjunction with City College of San Francisco’s faculty union, AFT Local 2121, as well as the National AFT. It says that the ACCJC has failed in every capacity as an accreditor and is no longer widely accepted by the community colleges in California. CCSF has been just one of the victims of the agency’s gross overreach, nearly discredited by the agency and currently listed under the unapproved standing of “restoration status.”

“For years, the ACCJC has pushed forward with self-serving, illegal accreditation practices that unjustifiably sullied the names of colleges and universities throughout California like our own City College of San Francisco, while allowing bad actors like Corinthian Colleges to defraud and even bankrupt thousands of students,” said AFT President Randi Weingarten.

This complaint follows a directive by the DOE from two years ago that informed the ACCJC that it needed to clean up its act, recognizing several instances of non-compliance in its practices. The Community College Board of Governors also directed two working groups to make recommendations for reform of the rogue accrediting agency and to seek out a new accreditor. The new complaint maintains that the agency has not only not improved, but has declined in its professionalism.

President's Message



Guild President
Joanne Waddell

Colleagues,
We have an exciting year ahead of us. As we prepare for many new initiatives – including the College Promise, Dual Enrollment, and Adult Education (all wrapped up in services we know increase student success) and a possible new construction bond – we have an opportunity to work with the District on the most positive path it has been on in many years. That path will be influenced by the outcomes of a variety of challenges that all of us can directly impact: Passing Prop 55 in November, ensuring that we have a meaningful voice in discussions about the revitalization of our campuses, improving our

compensation and working conditions through successful negotiations to create a fair contract, continuing to strengthen our membership and power, and electing pro-public higher education and pro-labor LACCD Trustees in March 2017.

To achieve our goals, these plans for success depend on you—our membership—as we “Stand Together” with our partners, communities, and allies.

Have a wonderful start of the Fall Semester!

In unity,
Joanne

Guild EVP Named New JLMBC Chair

The Guild is pleased to announce that Bill Elarton-Selig, Guild Executive Vice President, has been named the new Chair of the Joint Labor Management Benefits Committee (JLMBC).

“As a parent of two young children, I know how important health benefits are for our members, and I am committed to preserving the level of benefits we’ve achieved and also to trying to expand coverage for adjunct faculty,” Elarton-Selig said.

Paulina Palomino, a faculty member at East L.A. College who served as JLMBC Chair since 2014, resigned as Chair when she was hired as Dean of Student Success at East.

“It has been an incredible and amazing experience and an honor to work with labor leaders and learn from their expertise,” Palomino said. “I’ve developed skills to ensure that all stakeholders’ voices are heard as we’ve built consensus to complete our work.”

“We’re very grateful for Paulina’s leadership on this important committee,” said Joanne Waddell, Faculty Guild President. “We have every confidence that Bill’s leadership will continue to move the committee’s agenda forward.”

Labor Day 2016

On Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 5, AFT 1521 will be joining the festivities at the annual Wilmington parade and barbecue. We’d love to see you there! Also, this year, Snoop Dogg is headlining the Labor Day Music Festival at L.A. Memorial Coliseum’s Exposition Park the Faculty Guild has a limited number of tickets available. Email rsalazar@aft1521.com for more information. For more info on the music fest, visit www.workingcalifornians.org. Let’s celebrate all we’ve won, all we have, and all that we continue to fight for.

EDD Column *By Grace Chee, EDD Ombudsperson*

At the June EDD workshops, I explained a major change that makes applying for unemployment benefits more challenging for many faculty -- a fully online application and bi-weekly certification process (unless faculty had partial wages). Issues can arise because of mistakes in the bi-weekly certification form.

How should you answer question #6, “Did you work or earn any money, whether you were paid or not”? The answer is “No!” You did NOT work or earn any money unless you were working during intersession or in another job. Yes, adjuncts do receive a paycheck. Yes, there is a lag between when you work and when you receive your paycheck. But you do not receive additional pay from the LACCD once your

assignment ends in mid-December or early June.

Look at the date each week begins and ends. The question asks whether you worked this week, not whether you are receiving a paycheck for work completed previously. If you are still working, write “still working full-time” or “still working part-time.” When you report “still working full-time,” you will not be mailed a subsequent claim form.

It really helps that EDD asks filers to think about hourly and quarterly wages, rather than paychecks. Check out question #15 on the FAQs as well as other useful documents in Unemployment Benefits Information by clicking on the Adjunct Faculty tab at www.aft1521.org.

Board of Trustees Elects New Officers

The Guild congratulates the LACCD Board of Trustees officers for 2016-17:

- Scott J. Svonkin, President
- Sydney Kamlager-Dove, First Vice President
- Mike Fong, Second Vice President

The Board elects its officers annually.

Motions Approved at the Executive Board Meeting of May 17, 2016

- Made a technical fix in the April 19th AFIC motion to delete the words “AFIC recommends to the E Board that” and add the word “will” after “Guild”
- Adopted the Proposed 2016-17 Guild Budget
- Approved an MOU on Article 29 to insert language inadvertently omitted
- Approved an MOU on Article 36 to include an implementation date of July 2016
- Specified that candidates in the run-off election may not campaign by using District/College email or District/College phones
- Accepted the election results certified by the American Arbitration Association

Motions Approved at the Executive Board Meeting of June 21, 2016

- Agreed that changes to MOUs brought to E Board will include original and amended language in the minutes
- Agreed that motions and amendments passed by the E Board will be written out in full and included in the minutes and that discussion regarding supporting documents and reports will be included if referenced
- Approved the recommendation of the Elections Committee to confirm the run-off election results for Treasurer [529 to 383] and E Board delegate from Trade-Tech [63 to 60]

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Box**

The newsletter of the
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Faculty Guild**

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