

Member Meeting



Guild members who attended the Guild's Annual Membership Meeting at Trade Tech on May 20 enjoyed breakfast, heard updates from Guild officers, and were inspired by Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas, who delivered the keynote address. He spoke about the challenges faced by our city and state, including homelessness, housing, and safety in our schools, and noted some positive steps being taken locally and statewide to address these issues.

Strong State Budget for Community Colleges... But Prop 30 Extension Critical

Thanks to Proposition 25, which requires only a simple majority of the legislature to pass a budget and docks legislators' pay if they fail to approve the spending plan in a timely fashion, California's 2016-2017 budget recently cleared both the Assembly and the Senate and, at the time of publication, was on its way to Governor Jerry Brown for his signature.

Overall, the budget that ultimately passed is a strong one for the state's community college system and includes \$200 million in one-time expenditures. Highlights include 2 percent growth funding (\$114.7 million), a \$75 million increase in base allocation, \$200 million for the Strong Workforce Initiative, and \$184.5 million for deferred maintenance and instructional equipment.

However, despite the solid budget in 2016-2017, cloudy skies may be ahead. According to projections from the governor's office, California could face a shortfall of at least \$4 billion by 2019 if voters don't take action and extend Prop 30. The California Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act of 2016 would fix that issue by temporarily extending for 12 years the

Two Winners Declared in Guild Run-Off Election

Chee Elected Guild Treasurer

Grace Chee has won the election for Guild Treasurer, unseating incumbent treasurer Amy Roberts.

Grace, an adjunct instructor and Africanist/World Historian, who teaches in the Social Science departments at West L.A. College and East L.A. College, is currently the Guild's EDD Ombudsperson.

"I am humbled and honored by the members' confidence in voting for me," Chee said. "I am thrilled to serve the Guild and will work to ensure fiscal responsibility, accountability, and transparency."

In the race for one of the Executive Board delegate positions from Trade Tech, which had been a tie for the 5th position, Matt Needham was elected to fill the spot. Matt teaches in the Department of Construction Design and Manufacturing.

The Guild's biannual election required a run-off, which was held at the end of May. Ballots submitted by the end of the day on May 31 were counted on June 1 at the American Arbitration Association. All of the winners took office on June 1.

current tax rate on the wealthiest 2 percent of Californians – singles earning more than \$250,000 and couples earning more than \$500,000 a year.

"There is no question that passing the Prop 30 extension is the single most important initiative we have to win in the November general election," said Guild President Joanne Waddell.

Building Power

AFT 1521's Building Power campaign continues to strengthen the union's membership, producing some impressive numbers. Since last June 797 people have signed membership cards. Well done!



BUILDING POWER
TO WIN THE FUTURE

President's Message



Guild President
Joanne Waddell

What a year we've just completed! And what a year is ahead of us!

In the past year we have accomplished a lot.

- We faced the rigors of accreditation at each of our colleges (and the Educational Services Center!), while working with our allies in CFT and the state legislature to hold the ACCJC to the same kind of accountability that the Commission holds the colleges. The outcome of each of these efforts will soon be known.
- We began the process of hiring 240 full time tenure track positions for fall 2016—the magnitude of which we have not experienced before. This effort is a direct result of our growth in the past few years—and one that we celebrate. Added to 160+ full time hires for fall 2015, these new hires will total 25% of our full time faculty ranks. As first or second year probationary faculty, they will benefit from mentoring and community-building on each campus and in each department/division and discipline. This effort will be made somewhat easier since over half of the 2015 hires, and probably a similar percentage of 2016 hires, are not really “new” to our ranks but are already adjunct members of our LACCD family.
- We lost several of our founding Guild members, who knew that building power and building community are essential for a strong Guild. We are reminded that it is our responsibility to maintain the strength of the Guild through our activism, through our increased and engaged membership,

through coalition building with those who share our values, and through deepening our connections with family, friends, and colleagues.

Immediately in front of us are challenges that will take our full attention and energy.

- The future of public higher education. There is no question that passing the ballot proposition to extend Prop 30 is the single most important initiative we have to accomplish in the general election. If you were here between 2008-2012, you remember the cancelled intersessions, the reduced course offerings that shut out thousands of our students, the years of zero salary increases. We can't afford to go back to those days—we WON'T go back! We have an obligation to ensure that public higher education will be here for the next generation of students. Our membership will work with our allies to pass the “California Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act”—what we are calling the Prop 30 extension.
- The future of collective bargaining. This year we came too close to a Supreme Court decision (*Friedrichs v. CTA*) that would have significantly weakened collective bargaining as we know it. But those who would abolish collective bargaining are not done—there are dozens of cases similar to *Friedrichs* in the Supreme Court queue. In November's general election we need to ensure that those who will be in positions of setting policy and making Supreme Court appointments share our values about collective bargaining.

- Providing input and support for LACCD enrollment initiatives. These initiatives include the College Promise (promoting economic equity for our students), Dual Enrollment (building bridges, persistence, and retention), and Adult Education (increasing literacy in Los Angeles)
- Preparing for our next round of negotiations. Our collective bargaining agreement is the heart and soul of our organization. In the fall we will begin to review our current CBA and seek input from you about how to improve our wages, hours, and working conditions before negotiating our 2017-2020 collective bargaining agreement. Be sure to attend chapter meetings on your campus and watch your email for more information.

Enjoy your well-earned summer break—whether you are working, traveling, catching up on recent literature, reconnecting with family and friends, or engaged in other activities that have had to be put aside during the school year.

Congratulations on a successful 2015-16 academic year. I look forward to working with you in what will be a challenging and exciting year ahead.

In unity,
Joanne

Motions Passed by the Executive Board

April 19, 2016

- Approved discussion of an Adjunct Faculty Issues Committee motion and agreed that in the event the JLMBC's labor caucus opens the Master Benefits Agreement this year, that the Guild support an increase in the District contribution for PT faculty currently eligible under the terms of the MBA, to be equal to the full single employee rate based on the average of the top five most utilized CalPERS medical plans.
- Approved the 2016 AFT Convention Delegate election timeline and to fund the top 10 vote-getters at large and the top vote-getters from each of the 10 chapters at \$1000 each to attend the convention in Minneapolis in July.
- Agreed that the Guild should demand that the District improve communications, including timely newsletters; update the Health Benefits Unit website; and create a calendar for tasks to be done in preparation for open enrollment by the end of May.
- Approved a contribution of \$2500 to Mike Gipson (AD 64), \$1500 to Reggie Jones-Sawyer (AD 59), \$1600 to Warren Furutani (SD 35), and \$700 to Janice Hahn (L.A. County Supervisory District 4).

**Staff
Box**

The newsletter of the
**LA College
Faculty Guild**

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Remembering: Don Misumi

We are saddened by the loss of Don Misumi, a highly valued Guild member who served as President of the Emeritus Chapter for the past two years. He passed away on May 27 from complications resulting from vasculitis.

Don was a lifelong union member. He served over a decade as the Trade Tech Chapter President. Not satisfied with sitting on the sidelines, he took on the job of assisting retirees as Emeritus Chapter President. His dedication to the Guild and its members was evident – there was rarely a time when he missed an Executive Board or Executive Committee meeting. His thoughtful comments and sense of historical perspective were valuable contributions to our discussions and decision-making.

He will be missed.



Emeritus Chapter President Don Misumi spoke before the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees on Nov. 4.

Primary Results Reveal Strong Down-Ballot Wins

Guild-Supported Candidates Show Well

By Michael Messina

While Hillary Clinton was winning by a fairly comfortable margin over Bernie Sanders in the Democratic presidential primary election, there were many down-ballot contests on June 7 that had Guild-supported candidates winning big, and a few close contests worth keeping an eye on.

In the California primaries, the top two candidates, regardless of party, move on to the general election in November. The exception is the race for Los Angeles County Supervisor where a candidate can win with 50 percent of the vote, plus one. AFT 1521-supported Congresswoman Janice Hahn is in the race for Seat 4, where Don Knabe will be termed out. She came in first by a healthy 10 percent over Manhattan Beach City Councilman Steve Napolitano, but failed to win outright and so will go to the runoff in November.

Almost every candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives supported by the Guild won big in their races. In the 32nd Congressional District race (West Covina/El Monte), incumbent and

Faculty Guild-endorsed candidate Grace Napolitano came in first comfortably over Republican candidate Gordon Fisher, with Fisher edging out Democrat Roger Hernandez. Bryan Caforio in CD 25 (Santa Clarita/Palmdale) came in second and will need support come November, as republican Steve Knight won by a 21-point margin.

Most Guild-endorsed candidates for the California State Assembly won by large margins, as they were either uncontested or had only one other candidate opposing them. In a race that was closer than anticipated, former LACCD Trustee and Guild endorsed candidate for AD 54 (DTLA) Miguel Santiago finished with a 7 percent lead over fellow Democrat Sandra Mendoza.

The Guild-endorsed candidate in Senate District 35 Warren Furutani beat out Democrat Issac Galvan for second place in the voting. Former Assemblymember and former LACCD Trustee Furutani will face Democrat and former Assemblymember Steven Bradford in November.

ACCJC Update

Amended Lawsuit Filed; CEOs Form Workgroups

In late May, the California Federation of Teachers filed an amended complaint in its lawsuit against the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. The agency has now been fully exposed as an ineffective and dangerous organization, and the amendment in the case is meant to fully define the range of the damage that it has done.

The original complaint filed with Superior Court Judge Curtis Karnow spoke to the violations of the agency regarding City College of San Francisco, while the new version looks at the negative effects the ACCJC has had on districts throughout the state of California.

“Despite the wide and growing consensus that the ACCJC no longer meets the needs of California’s community colleges, the agency continues to inflict damage on the ability of students to pursue accessible and affordable higher education, and on the ability

of faculty and staff to deliver quality education,” said CFT President Joshua Pechthalt. “The ACCJC also harms taxpayers, whose money is wasted by the ACCJC’s unfair and illegal practices. It is past time for the ACCJC to be replaced by a responsible accreditor, and it is the intent of this lawsuit to spell out the reasons why.”

College presidents and district chancellors have also taken steps to make this happen. Following the issuance of a State Chancellor’s Office Task Force report on accreditation, the Community College League of California has taken on the responsibility of handling the ACCJC transition. In what the League is calling a “catalytic conversation about accreditation,” CEOs in March agreed to form two workgroups – one to deal with the immediate task of improving ACCJC function, structure, and relations and the other to explore alternative models of accreditation for higher education in the region.

Poll Finds Strong Support for Prop 30 Extension

The Children’s Education and Health Care Protection Act of 2016, also known as the Prop 30 extension, is on its way to the November ballot and support for the initiative continues to gather speed. The latest survey from the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) shows that Californians want to maintain the fiscal security of public education by extending the current income tax rates on the wealthiest Californians.

The poll, taken in mid-May, found that 64 percent of voters support the extension.

“Californians continue to reaffirm their support for maintaining the current tax rates on the wealthiest in our state to ensure that education and other vital services, including health care, are funded and protected from billions in cuts,” said campaign spokesperson Jennifer Wonnacott in a statement. “We all can remember the deep cuts that led to

teacher layoffs, larger classes, and community college tuition hikes, and can agree that we don’t want to see our students and schools face cuts like that again.”

The campaign has submitted nearly one million signatures to qualify the measure for the November ballot. “We’ll all need to work as hard as we can in the fall to ensure its passage,” explained Guild President Joanne Waddell. “Faculty and students have a lot to lose if we don’t extend Prop 30.”

The growing coalition that supports the initiative includes the California Federation of Teachers, the Association of California School Administrators, the California Hospital Association, the California Medical Association, the California School Employees Association, the

64% OF VOTERS SUPPORT MAINTAINING THE TAXES ON THE WEALTHY TO FUND EDUCATION & HEALTH CARE

– PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA



BECAUSE OUR CHILDREN & SCHOOLS MATTER MOST

California Teachers Association, SEIU 1000, Service Employees International California, the California State PTA, the California School Board Association and numerous others.

For more information on the campaign, visit www.protectingcalifornia.com.

Hammer Museum to Screen Labor Films

The UCLA Hammer Museum will be showing two labor films at the end of June. The award-winning “Matewan” depicts a group of miners and their fight against a coal company, while the documentary “Maquilapolis” reveals the deplorable working conditions of the maquiladoras in Tijuana. “Matewan” shows on Tuesday, June 28 at 7:30 p.m. and “Maquilapolis” on Wednesday, June 29 at 7:30 p.m. For more info visit www.hammer.ucla.edu.



GOTV!

The AFT 1521 Student Interns, with program coordinator Herlim Li, walked precincts in support of Warren Furutani. Furutani finished second in his race for the State Senate in the 35th District with 24.3 percent of the vote. He will face off against fellow Democrat Steven Bradford in the November election.

Scholarship Winners Announced!

The 2016 Guild Scholarship winners were announced at the May Executive Board meeting. Each received a \$1,000 award to go to furthering their education. Congratulations to all.

- **Bill Doyle Scholarship**
Rezia Khatoun, Los Angeles City College
- **Jean Trapnell Scholarship**
Diamond Webb, Los Angeles Southwest College/
West Los Angeles College
- **Hy Weintraub Scholarship**
Anne Berry, West Los Angeles College
Sarai Osorio, Los Angeles Valley College

Scholarships for 2017 will be available beginning January 2017. For more information on how to get your students involved, contact the Guild office or visit www.aft1521.org.