

- SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES
- GUILD ELECTION INFO



Delegates to the CFT Convention marched in support of City College of San Francisco faculty, who have been stymied in their efforts to negotiate a fair contract. (From left, LAVC Chapter President Larry Nakamura, Guild Secretary Deborah Kaye, Guild President Joanne Waddell)

Time to Extend Prop 30

Signature gathering starts for new ballot measure

By Michael Messina

California's Proposition 30, which voters passed in 2012, saved public higher education in this state. And we must do it again. "We know how much hard work is ahead of us to pass a Prop 30 extension," said Guild President Joanne Waddell. "Our community colleges depend on the adequate funding that a fair taxation measure will bring."

A new ballot measure – the Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act – has been created by the California Federation of Teachers, along with a coalition of other unions and community organizations. The proposition would affect only those whose income is in the top 2 percent in the state and is expected to raise up to \$11 billion annually through 2030, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office. Signature gatherers are currently trying to get enough names to qualify the measure for the ballot this November.

"A modest obligation from California's wealthiest has resulted in a significant revenue increase benefiting millions of students across the state," said CFT President Joshua Pechthalt in a recent op-ed for the *Orange County Register*.

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The Friedrichs Case: A Reprieve, But Not a Victory

How quickly things change.

After the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in the Friedrichs v. CTA lawsuit, conventional wisdom held that the court would rule 5-4 in favor of the plaintiffs and deal a blow to the labor movement.

With the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, all that changed. While nothing is certain, the thinking is that the court will rule 4-4, meaning that the case will revert back to the appellate level, which favored the defendants.

For those not familiar with the case, Friedrichs v. CTA challenges the constitutionality of the agency fee. If the court rules in favor, unions would still have to represent their workers but would be stripped of the necessary funding to effectively protect their interests. While the current situation is a reprieve for labor, anti-union forces haven't given up, and other lawsuits are in the pipeline.

The Guild is dedicated to signing up new members, many of whom may not realize that they are not full-fledged members. "We are building the power of AFT 1521 to continue making progress in salary, benefits, and workplace protections," commented Guild President Joanne Waddell. "We can do this by ensuring we have a strong and engaged union membership."

Accreditation Teams Visit LACCD

From March 6-10, ten teams comprising administrators and faculty from other two-year institutions of higher learning in the Western Region visited our nine colleges and the Educational Services Center as part of the LACCD's comprehensive self-evaluation. This is the first time that the District has had a separate team of evaluators focused on its governing board and district operations.

Although in the past, colleges underwent a comprehensive review every six years, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) changed the timeline so that all nine LACCD colleges would be on the same evaluation cycle. The three Valley colleges – Mission, Pierce, and Valley – had their last review three years ago; West, Southwest, and Harbor had theirs four years ago; City, East, and Trade were visited seven years ago.

Union leaders and members were heavily involved in the preparations leading up to the visit. Union chapter presidents served on accreditation steering committees, several active union members served as faculty accreditation chairs, and many members served on the working committees that compiled the report and collected evidence.

The visiting team chairs recapped their conclusions in exit reports on each campus on Thursday afternoon. However, the official notification of the ACCJC's recommendations and the colleges' accredited status will be announced after the Commission holds its next meeting in June.

Multiple Scholarship Deadlines Drawing Near

Deadlines are fast approaching for five AFT 1521 scholarships of \$1,000 each. Please let your students know about these great opportunities. All applications are available on the AFT 1521 website under the Scholarships tab. There are a certain number of minimum qualifications for all scholarships. See the applications for details.

Bill Doyle Memorial Scholarship

Deadline: March 18, 2016

Essay Requirement: "What do you see as the role of the Labor Movement in the present economy?"

Contact: Reyna Gonzalez (323) 851-1521

Jean Trapnell Memorial Scholarship

Deadline: March 18, 2016

Essay Requirement: "Freedom of Speech"

Contact: Reyna Gonzalez (323) 851-1521

Hy Weintraub Memorial Scholarship

Deadline: March 18, 2015

Essay Requirement 1: How do your personal qualifications reflect Hy Weintraub's dedication to the Union Movement?

Essay Requirement 2: What are the qualities needed to be a good union leader today?

Contact: Reyna Gonzalez (323) 851-1521

Ethel McClatchey Scholarship

Deadline: April 15, 2016

Essay Requirement: Interests and future plans. What do you expect to be doing five years from now?

Contact: ethelmclatcheyscholarship@gmail.com

AFT 1521 Foundation Scholarship

Deadline: April 15, 2016

Essay Requirement: How has your involvement in the struggle for social and economic justice impacted you as a person?

Contact: aft1521foundation@gmail.com

Guild Elections – Democracy in Action!

It's time again to make your voices heard. Every two years, the Guild elects its district-wide officers, college chapter presidents, and Executive Board delegates. Candidate Forums are being held through March at all nine campuses. Check the AFT 1521 homepage, www.aft1521.org, for dates, times, and locations.

Watch your mail for these important materials:

- Candidate statements – to be sent to home addresses by U.S. mail on March 18
- Ballot and envelope to cast your vote – to be sent to home addresses by U.S. mail on April 11

Flyers will be sent with instructions to contact the Guild Office if you have not received the candidate statements or ballots. You must be a Guild member to vote.

Ballots must be received by the American Arbitration Association by midnight on May 2. Votes will be counted and the winners announced the following day. So watch the Guild website on May 3 for the results. (If a run-off is needed, ballots will be mailed on May 6 and must be received by May 20, with winners announced on May 24.)

Those whom you elect represent YOU – so have a say in creating your leadership team!

PROP 30

(Continued from Front)

Before Prop 30 passed, California was facing budget cuts that were devastating school resources and putting an unnecessary burden on educators and the system itself. The new funds helped restore some of those Great Recession-era cutbacks and continue to provide essential services today.

The push is on! The deadline for petitions to be submitted is April 1. Look for signature-gatherers for the Proposition 30 extension on your campus.

Cal State Faculty Prepare to Strike

Faculty in the California State University system are preparing for a strike in April if their reasonable demands for a pay increase (5% general and 2.65% service – similar to a step) are not met. More than 50% of CSU faculty earn less than \$38,000 a year and the average lecturer pay is \$27,000.

The California Federation of Teachers (CFT) passed a resolution on March 12 at its annual convention to support the contract demands of the union representing CSU faculty, the California Faculty Association (CFA), and assist them in their efforts to achieve a satisfactory agreement.

"Many community college faculty also teach in the CSU system," said Guild President Joanne Waddell. "They deserve fair compensation. It's important that we stand with our brothers and sisters in CFA and honor their job action."

Sharon Hendricks, FACCC Advocate of the Year

Sharon Hendricks, CalSTRS vice-chair and City College chapter president, was recently awarded the John Vasconcellos Advocate of the Year Award by the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC). Congratulations to her as well as to her co-recipient and Long Beach City College instructor Lynn Shaw.

Staff Box

The newsletter of the
LA College Faculty Guild

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Motions Passed by the Executive Board

November 17, 2015

- Approved an MOU clarifying the functional duties of deans and department chairs related to classified support staff
- Endorsed Raul Bocanegra (AD 39) and Bryan Urias (AD 48) and contributed \$1500 to each
- Endorsed Warren Furutani (SD 35) and contributed an additional \$2500
- Contributed an additional \$2600 to Al Muratsuchi (AD 66)
- Approved the 2016 Guild election timeline with three edits
- Approved the revised COPE Endorsement Process

December 15, 2015

- Contributed an additional \$2600 to Phil Ting (AD 19)
- Referred the issue of paycheck deductions to the Executive Committee, which will report back at the January Executive Board meeting
- Approved an MOU that eliminates new language in the CBA on evaluation that could potentially contradict Ed Code

January 19, 2016

- Approved recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on Elections Code and Procedure



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