

# Buelna and Veres Win Big in Trustees Race

By Michael Messina



Members of AFT 1521 and Guild staff celebrated the end of another election campaign with victorious Board of Trustees candidates Gabriel Buelna (3rd from left) and Steve Veres (2nd from right).

**F**aculty Guild-backed candidates Gabriel Buelna and Steve Veres both won their respective races for seats on the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees on March 7.

Veres won Seat #2 by a whopping 27 points and Buelna rode out an easy victory as well for Seat #6, with a 20-point advantage over incumbent candidate Nancy Pearlman.

"It's humbling. It's a 5½ year term, so I have an opportunity to do a great many things. It will allow for some long-term planning," said Buelna, an educator at Cal State Northridge for 18 years. "AFT 1521 was a great partner in the campaign. We truly got to know each other as we went through stressful times in the campaign. I appreciated how well we worked together."

Buelna said the major challenges he will face are based in Washington, D.C. with the new presidential administration, but he is excited about the potential for growth and opportunity for the LACCD to address concerns such as homelessness and hunger, as well as other issues affecting our students.

This is Veres' second time around on the Board of Trustees, formerly serving from 2011-2015, with a term as Board President. His record speaks for itself in fighting for students in the LACCD.

Veres said he is encouraged and excited to see higher education being prioritized at the state level and looks forward to finding ways to work together with his colleagues. He also praised AFT 1521 for its work on the campaign trail.

"They're the best people to work with and coordinate efforts with to make sure we stay student centered, that we stay service oriented, that we're right on the issues that are critical and important, and that we're well positioned to bring value to the table," Veres said.

The Faculty Guild worked with numerous faculty and student volunteers to distribute postcards, do phone banking and hold on-campus events to get these candidates elected. Buelna and Veres will take up their posts in July.

"As our trustees-elect prepare to take office in July, we look forward over the next five and a half years to a productive relationship with them that serves LACCD students, faculty, and other employees with the dignity and respect that are cornerstones of success," said Faculty Guild President Joanne Waddell.

## FACCC Honors Joanne Waddell



Faculty Guild President Joanne Waddell was recently honored by receiving the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges' John Vasconcellos Full-Time Faculty Advocate of the Year Award. Joanne received the award at a reception in Sacramento on March 5th. John McDowell, the Guild's Director of Government Relations, introduced Joanne. Other honorees included, from left: Linda Chan, Part-Time Faculty Advocate of the Year; City College of San Francisco's Alisa Messer, Full-Time Faculty of the Year; CCSF's Tim Killikelly, Full-Time Faculty of the Year; Joanne Waddell, John Vasconcellos Full-Time Faculty Advocate of the Year; and Dr. Jacki Scott, Part-Time Faculty of the Year.

## Guild News Briefs

### Leaders Head to Washington to Push for New Accreditor

Representatives from the California Federation of Teachers, including members of AFT 1521, made their way to a National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) meeting in Washington, D.C. in early March to insist on a replacement for the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC).

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## Update on Contract Negotiations

By Louise Barbato, Guild Chief Negotiator

**O**n March 8th, the Board of Trustees rejected our request to use a collaborative approach to negotiations in which both sides work together in small groups, considering their common interests. This system, called Interest Based Bargaining (IBB), proved to be an efficient and productive method of bargaining during our last round of negotiations since it required management to see the issues from our point of view.

Instead, we will negotiate our 2017-2020 contract using positional bargaining (sometimes called adversarial bargaining), which is the strategy of presenting and arguing a position in an oppositional context. Our team has identified its objectives based on the input provided by Guild members in surveys and at campus meetings. We are prepared to negotiate a contract which will improve the working conditions and protect the rights of LACCD faculty. One of our major objectives is to make sure that our collective bargaining contract is in compliance with the latest legislation and Ed. Code changes.

On March 24, we will be meeting with management and formally beginning negotiations. Meetings are scheduled through the end of May, with the intent to conclude negotiations by the end of the spring semester.

# President's Message



Guild President  
Joanne Waddell

**A**s the March 7 election results have proved, once again, **when we stand together, we win.** In unity there is strength and power.

We will need to remember that lesson in the coming months as we work with the JLMBC Labor Caucus to regain the HRA and improve adjunct medical benefits. We will need to remember that lesson when the Guild's negotiating team meets with management to negotiate improvements in our Collective Bargaining Agreement.

On June 30 we will congratulate many of our long time members on their retirement. One result will be loss of institutional memory. That means that we will need to make a conscious effort to share our history with our 400 probationary faculty and 2500 adjunct faculty so that we don't

repeat mistakes of the past—Trustees who believe the answer to budget woes is to lay off faculty; Guild members not actively studying the State, District, and college budgets; and Guild members not stepping up to take part in the decision-making process at our colleges. There are more pathways for faculty engagement now than there were 20 years ago when the choice was Academic Senate or the Guild. The demands of accreditation take up much of our time. We need to make sure that faculty understand the advantages of a strong, engaged Guild membership, and that they understand the time it takes to maintain its strength.

In unity,  
Joanne

## Important Information about the District Retirement Incentive

If you are eligible to take advantage of the District's retirement incentive, you should have received a large envelope from PARS, which is administering the cash payout for those retiring this spring. Remember that enrollment materials must be submitted between April 10th and April 28, 2017. If you have any questions or concerns or have not received a packet, please send inquiries to: SRP@email.laccd.edu

Our collective bargaining agreement specifies that faculty receive certain percentages of their health benefit premiums paid for by the District if they have completed full-time service of:

- 20 years -- 100% paid
- 15 years -- 75% paid
- 10 years -- 50% paid

However, if you take the incentive and have at least 10 years of FT service, you may be able to count your adjunct service prior to being hired full-time. Contact Health Benefits at: HealthBenefits@email.laccd.edu to find out if your years of adjunct service will count toward paid premiums. Remember that if you are Medicare-eligible when you retire, your premium costs in retirement will not be the same as the premiums listed on your paystub. Those rates can be found by clicking "Retirees" on the LACCD HR Health Benefits page: <http://www.laccd.edu/Departments/HumanResources/healthbenefits/Pages/Retirees.aspx>

Walk-in individual meetings (first come, first served, no appointment needed) are scheduled for the month of April [http://www.laccd.edu/Departments/HumanResources/Pages/Supplementary-Retirement-Plan-\(SRP\).aspx](http://www.laccd.edu/Departments/HumanResources/Pages/Supplementary-Retirement-Plan-(SRP).aspx). At these meetings, you will have a chance to ask questions about the incentive, have a PARS representative review your enrollment packet, and turn in your completed application.

## NEWS BREIFIS

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The ACCJC has long been ineffective and numerous government and educational leaders agree it is long past due for a new accreditor. AFT 1521 Strategic Campaign Initiative organizer Tema Staig, CFT Secretary-Treasurer Jeff Freitas, and AFT 2121 President Tim Killikelly were in attendance, among others.

### DHLI Welcomes Jennifer Galvez

The Dolores Huerta Labor Institute has a new full-time consulting instructor with Jennifer Galvez joining the team. She will be working on program development and operations coordination for DHLI and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the job. Galvez studied history and Chicana/o studies at UCLA

and higher and post secondary education at Teachers College-Columbia University. She has worked on the academic success and development of first generation, low income and historically underrepresented students, applying her skills at colleges in both New York and Los Angeles.

### Deadline Approaching for Scholarships

The time has come to start applying for the Faculty Guild's annual scholarships. There are multiple scholarships of \$1,000 each, as well as a \$3,000 scholarship from the California Federation of Teachers for students in four-year programs. Students must meet certain requirements for each application and have those applications in by the April 28 deadline for AFT 1521 and July 1 for CFT. Visit [www.aft1521.org](http://www.aft1521.org) and click on "scholarships" for more information and links to the applications.

## JLMBC Update on the AHCA

By Bill Elarton-Selig  
AFT 1521 Executive VP & Chair of the JLMBC

Congressional Republicans released their version of a health care plan on March 6, called the American Health Care Act (AHCA). Adjustments within the proposal include changes to coverage based on age, income bracket and employment. Notable details that will not change from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) include prohibiting exclusion for pre-existing conditions, coverage for kids until age 26 and prohibition on lifetime or annual limits. This draft of the AHCA will most certainly go through changes and the JLMBC is following all updates, getting information out and working to minimize any effect the new program might have on the benefits and options of our members.

## Motions Passed by the Executive Board

January 17 2017

- Approved the minutes of December 13, 2016
- Approved the COPE report, endorsements, and contributions
- Added an additional \$100,000 to the Coalition for L.A. Community College Reform in Support of Steve Veres and Gabriel Buelna
- Allocated \$50,000 to the County Fed for its March 7th election campaign
- Approved the negotiating team report on the proposed articles and appendices to sunshine

Staff  
Box

The newsletter of the  
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