

Election 2016: Prop 55, Measure CC Win Big

Looking beyond the election of Donald Trump for president, many local measures and propositions went well for Los Angelenos and Californians as a whole, and particularly for the world of education.

Local 1521, along with other education unions and community groups in California, pushed hard for Prop 55. The proposition called for an extension of tax rates on the wealthiest Californians in order to fund our schools. The voters passed it overwhelmingly, paving the way for a healthy education system in this state for the next 12 years.

On a more local note, Measure CC – a bond measure worth \$3.3 billion that will go specifically to the Los Angeles Community College District for infrastructure – passed with a whopping 75 percent in favor. The Faculty Guild supported the measure and welcomes the progress it will promise for our campuses.

In other Faculty-Guild-supported victories, Measure HHH (homelessness bond), Measure JJJ (housing regulation and local hire) and Measure M (traffic improvement) all passed with flying colors.

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The AFT 1521 interns take a well-deserved break on election night after months of campaigning for Guild-endorsed measures and candidates.

Show the Board Why Benefits Matter!

At its December 7th meeting, the Board of Trustees will consider opening negotiations on health benefits for the 2017-2020 Master Benefits Agreement to discuss the HRA and adjunct faculty health benefits. A noticed motion to open the agreement appeared on the Board agenda in November, the first response since the Guild's request in May to re-open the MBA. If the motion is passed, the Guild and the District could be at the table as early as the following day.

We need you to show up and make a strong show of power to the Board. Let them know why health benefits are important. The meeting starts at 6:30, so meet at 5:30 pm outside Monarch Hall, Campus Center, in your blue t-shirts! (We'll have extras if you don't have one). Remember that your campus parking pass is good for all nine campuses. The nearest parking structure can be accessed on Ethel Avenue from either Oxnard or Burbank.

Looking Ahead to March 2017 Board of Trustees Election

AFT 1521 has endorsed Steve Veres for the open seat on the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees. The election will be held in March 2017.

Veres was on the Board from 2011 until 2015. During his four-year term, he served for one year as Board President and also chaired the Facilities Master Planning & Oversight Committee. He made an unsuccessful bid for a Los Angeles City Council seat in 2015.

A Los Angeles native, Veres attended Loyola High School and earned his undergraduate degree from UCLA. A former public school teacher, he has taught at UCLA and Trade-Tech. Currently, he is the Deputy Chief of Staff for California State Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León, where he counts higher education and the environment as high priority issues.



Steve Veres

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President's Message



Guild President
Joanne Waddell

After the election results of Tuesday night, we have expressed our feelings in various ways. We're devastated. In shock. In disbelief. Angry. Sad. Afraid. Deeply concerned.

- About the hate that was unleashed and sanctioned during this election cycle and the work in front of us to bar those words and actions
- For decisions that will last for decades from a newly shaped Supreme Court likely to overturn decisions about health care, public education, voting rights, LGBTQ rights, and workers' rights, including collective bargaining
- For policies that the Federal legislative branch will likely approve about immigration, our environment, access to health care, and deregulation of industries that will result in death for some and financial ruin for others
- About the ways in which our students, our colleagues, and our communities will be

affected by those decisions

- For a vision of our country about to be implemented that the majority of us just don't share

Yet, while the pall cast by the top-of-the-ticket loss is real, profound, and frightening, we can't let the shadow cast by this loss blot out the down-ballot wins. Those wins are also real and profound—and encouraging! And they remind us that usually, if not always, “when we fight, we win!”

Whatever adjectives and adverbs you are using to characterize the outcome of the presidential election, let's not minimize the successes we had “down-ballot.” We delivered. We “walked, knocked, and talked” on phone banks, on social media, and in precincts to get our messages out. We need to celebrate our victories, including Senator-elect Kamala Harris, State Senator-elect Anthony Portantino, Assemblymember-elect Al Muratsuchi, Measure CC, County Supervisors-elect Janice Hahn

and Kathryn Barger (completing a pro-labor sweep on the County Board of Supervisors) and a foursome of social justice measures (HHH, JJJ, M, and the defeat of RRR).

Congratulations to all of us on successfully doing the one job that directly and immediately impacted higher education—we passed Prop 55!

Each of our victories was the result of a coalition forming, prioritizing a goal, and organizing to achieve the goal. Going forward as we face known challenges (e.g., negotiations) and unknown challenges (e.g., the impact of new federal policies) we will need to prioritize, organize, and mobilize repeatedly.

On Tuesday, November 8th I listened to Senator-elect Kamala Harris say that “this is not the time to throw up our hands in despair. This is the time to roll up our sleeves and get to work!” Beginning the next day and continuing through the week there was a kind of strength and energy visible in the streets of Los Angeles and across the country that you feel when a coalition is forming and energizing.

What's next? Of course we don't really know what structure or platform our coalition will stand on. But the path is being cleared: with analysis—so we don't make the same mistakes; with fearless action—making our voices heard; and with thoughtful activism—politically at the grass roots, legislatively, and judicially in efforts to retain a sense of balance so necessary for a democracy.

I look forward to standing together with all of you as we begin our work.

In unity,
Joanne

CFT Election

REMINDER: Ballots to elect delegates to the California Federation of Teachers (CFT) Convention have been sent to union members' home addresses. If you have not received a ballot, contact the Guild Office at office@aft1521.org or call (323) 851-1521. The CFT Convention is held every two years. The 2017 convention will be held March 31-April 2 in Sacramento. Delegates learn about issues affecting faculty in the state's community colleges and vote on resolutions, some of which may become state law.

Your ballot must be received at the Guild Office by November 21st.

Honoring Don Misumi

The Faculty Guild recently passed a resolution supporting the Board of Trustees' authorization to put up a plaque in honor of Don Misumi. A long-time union member and recent president of the Emeritus Chapter for AFT 1521, Don passed away on May 27th of this year. The plaque will be placed on the building at the Gold Creek location, which will be named the “Don Misumi Natural Science Laboratory.”

Motions Passed at Executive Board Meeting September 20th

- Approved the proposed minutes of August 17th
- Approved the COPE report, endorsements, and contributions
- Endorsed Dave Jones for State Attorney General
- Endorsed Prop 62
- Endorsed Measure CC
- Endorsed Steve Zimmer for the LAUSD Board and contributed \$1,100 to his campaign
- Contributed \$1,500 to each of these candidates: Al Muratsuchi (AD 65), Mike Gipson (AD 64), Phil Ting (AD 66), Laura Friedman (AD 26)
- Contributed \$2,500 to Anthony Portantino (SD 25)
- Contributed \$1,000 to Margaret Quinones-Perez for Santa Monica College Board
- Contributed \$1,000 to CHIRLA

Staff
Box

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

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AFT 1521

Negotiations Set to Begin for 2017-2020 Contract

The Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) is the heart and soul of our union. It's the document that establishes our wages, hours, and working conditions. Our performance evaluation process, work environment, leaves, provisions regarding distance education, and much more are established by hammering out the details of this contract every three years.

A team of administrators, representing the interests of the District, and a team of Guild members, representing faculty from our nine campuses, will propose revisions to the contract and come to an agreement. The final product needs approval by a vote of Guild members and the Board of Trustees.

We need your input! If there is something in the current contract that you feel needs to be changed or something that you would like to see added, let us know through the survey that will be sent out soon, at one of the forums to be held on your campus, or by contacting your chapter president or someone on the negotiating team. The Guild team will begin meeting in November.

These are the members of the faculty negotiating team:

- City: Sharon Hendricks
- East: Marcellino Morales
- Harbor: Paul Grady
- Mission: Louise Barbato
- Fernando Oleas: Pierce
- Jeff Boh: Southwest
- Carole Anderson: Trade
- Larry Nakamura: Valley
- Olga Shewfelt: West
- Sherron Rouzan: Presidential Appointment/Nonclassroom Faculty Rep
- Michelle Myers: Presidential Appointment/Adjunct Rep
- Ken Taira: Presidential Appointment/Adjunct Rep
- Darrell Eckersley: Presidential Appointment
- Bill Elarton: Presidential Appointment
- Don Gauthier: Presidential Appointment/Senate Rep
- Deborah Kaye: Presidential Appointment
- Armida Ornelas: Presidential Appointment

Adjunct Spotlight on Hasmik Arakelyan

By Kelly Ross

Hasmik Arakelyan is making a difference to students at Valley College – not only to those taking her psychology classes but also to the members of LAVC's Gay/Straight Alliance, for which she serves as the club sponsor. Recently elected to the Guild Executive Board, she also serves as a representative from Valley on the Adjunct Faculty Issues Committee.

After emigrating from Armenia to the U.S. in her early 20's, Arakelyan completed her Masters in Psychology at Pepperdine University and began teaching psychology on a collegiate level, which she done for nearly 12 years. In addition to working at Valley College, she also teaches at Cal State L.A.

"I believe education is the most powerful force for change," said Arakelyan, who hopes to empower her students and encourage them to be more open minded. Serving as a great example for her students, Arakelyan works to promote justice as a volunteer for the Human Rights Campaign and as an activist for the LGBTQ community, volunteering for the LA Gay and Lesbian Center. Furthermore, after going back to school to earn her PHD in Psychology and a Juris Doctorate degree she began to work with law clinics to offer free legal advice to those in need.

While Arakelyan's passion for social justice is undeniable, it is paralleled by her enthusiasm and dedication to her students.

"When I see excitement in my student's eyes about a topic or when there are times they can't wait to express their opinion, that is one of the most rewarding feelings for me," she said. "It is a pleasure to go to work because I have amazing co-workers and absolutely wonderful students. I learn from them and they learn from me."



Hasmik Arakelyan

Labor, Tech, Politics and the Future

By Michael Messina



Adam Dorr

With the help of the Dolores Huerta Labor Institute, community colleges in Los Angeles now have access to a valuable voice in the labor community. Adam Dorr is a PhD candidate in Political Ecology in UCLA's Department of Urban Planning – a specialized field that looks at environmental policy, planning

and sustainability through a political lens. A portion of the work also looks at how labor is involved. Faculty can request that he come to our campuses as a guest lecturer.

"I try to understand the intersection between environmental change and technological change," explains Dorr. "Both are changing very fast and we get a lot of political conflict at that intersection. The specific topic I'm studying right now as I finish my dissertation is fracking in California."

Fracking is just one example of new technology with environmental concerns. Dorr explained that a lot has

been promised with regard to economic benefits that have not really materialized in California. "There are places where fracking has created a lot of new jobs, but California isn't one of them," he said. Another example is self-driving cars, a technological advancement that will have a big impact on labor.

These topics as well as others will be discussed in six lectures Dorr has scheduled for the fall semester. With his focus on environment, technology and labor, he will explore the intersection of sustainability and labor and what the future of that looks like for L.A.

Mindy Chen, DHLI Programs and Development Coordinator and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the L.A. Trade Tech Labor Center, has been organizing the lectures and met Dorr at UCLA, where she is a PhD candidate in Social Welfare.

Chen recognizes that conflicts do often arise with labor and its relationship to technology, the environment, and politics. She gave the Dakota Access Pipeline as an example, where there might be social and environmental injustices, but notes that the AFL-CIO supports the project because it provides jobs. She also

recognizes labor needs to be more forward thinking.

"We're very interested in his work because I think, as far as labor education goes, we have been focused on labor history and what labor has done in the past," Chen said. "We have seen how technology has displaced workers and that labor unions have resisted new technology ... Adam's research can really help enrich the intellectual thinking and challenge students and faculty. How can we preserve good union jobs, yet also really deal with having a green environment and long-term sustainability? He's trying to figure out solutions."

Dorr said he loves to engage in the educational aspects of his academic work and jumped at the opportunity to connect with the community outside of UCLA. He's hoping it's just the beginning of his relationship with DHLI and that others find his work interesting.

"These are becoming increasingly important issues for the wider public and for society as a whole," he said. "And they're only going to become more important in the years ahead."

If you would like to arrange for Adam Dorr to speak to your class or on your campus or if you have any other questions pertaining to labor, contact Mindy Chen at chenmm@latic.edu.

ELECTION

(Continued from Front)

In the all-Democratic race for U.S. Senator, Kamala Harris beat out Loretta Sanchez to replace Barbara Boxer, who is retiring after serving four terms.

With the exception of two Congressional, two State Assembly, and two State Senate seats (including that of former LACCD Trustee Warren Furutani), Guild-endorsed candidates won their election races.



AFT interns worked hard to garner support for Warren Furutani for State Senate. Right, Intern Coordinator Herlim Li shows his support for Prop 55.



By Kathy Holland and Ken Taira, Co-chairs

In October, AFIC met with the Guild's chief negotiator to discuss adjunct issues relevant to the upcoming contract negotiations. AFIC offered several recommendations for consideration. *Please keep in mind that these are only recommendations. The negotiating team has not yet chosen which contractual issues they will bring to the table. The Guild will be sending out a negotiations survey to all faculty. Please look for that survey—and use it to offer your ideas and recommendations to the negotiating team.*

Among the recommendations discussed:

1) Medical:

- Provide full medical coverage with a .5 (or better) assignment
- Provide medical coverage at a .2 load with an increased premium contribution from the district
- Add an additional benefit program separate from CalPERS so that adjuncts have more choices (the idea is to offer CalPERS, plus a separate, more affordable program)

2) Second Class offerings:

- Establish a second class guarantee—strengthen the already-existing contract language so that department chairs are mandated to offer 2nd classes to adjuncts or
- Second class seniority list—bring back what we had in previous contracts years ago

3) Salaries:

- Add an additional step on the adjunct salary column (step 10)
- Add an additional column onto the adjunct salary schedule—so that adjuncts who've earned additional academic credits and degrees will be compensated for their continued educational efforts
- Add to the salary schedule a stipend or differential pay for teaching off-campus courses to be paid as a salary differential and make it available to full-timers, too. At the very least, it covers the extra costs for gas, mileage, etc.
- Add a pay differential/stipend onto the salary schedule to replace ancillary pay
- Fold into the adjunct salary schedule the district-offered equity pay differential

AFIC members Michelle Meyer (Pierce) and Ken Taira (West) will serve as the AFIC reps on the negotiating team. Feel free to contact them and AFIC with your suggestions and recommendations.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ENDORSEMENT

(Continued from Front)

"If I'm elected, I would offer a broad approach," he said. "There are many needs and interests in the District, but I understand the Board's responsibility to serve all constituencies." He noted that efforts have been made by the Guild to encourage diversity on the Board. "I feel comfortable being an advocate for the Hispanic population we serve, given the experiences I've had. And we'd have a Spanish speaker on the Board."

With the passage of Measure CC, which will bring \$3.3 Billion into our construction program, Veres sees the need for a sound policy approach. "The District has no plan yet on how to allocate the funds. We need to be sure we have solid planning and address the greatest needs."

His interest is also personal. His high school-age daughter is in concurrent enrollment through Pierce and his two younger daughters attend summer camp and community services classes at Valley. He has worked on projects with Mission and attended classes at East. His wife, mother, and father are graduates of LACCD colleges.

"I care very much about the system and its impact on people's lives," he said. "I hope to work collaboratively and help bring cohesion to the Board to be sure it works as well as it should."

Adjunct Faculty Save the Dates!

EDD Step by Step: All Hands-On Computers Workshops

Tuesday, December 6th, 4:30-6:30 PM (light reception)
West LA College, CE, Room 225

Tuesday, December 6th, 12:30-2:30 PM (tentative)
Mission College Library, Room 234 (light lunch)

*Notice date change because of the early Guild office closing this semester.

RSVP beginning in December.

Grace Chee, EDD Ombudsperson – Serving all 9 campuses with Virtual Office Hours, Most Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30 PM (May-June, Dec-Jan)

Adjunct Faculty Issues Committee

Upcoming Events

United Way Home Walk

The world of labor in Los Angeles is coming together to raise money for homeless veterans for this year's United Way Home Walk. Registration is free to union members and their families for this 5k run/walk. For more info, visit <http://homewalk.unitedwayla.org/>

When: Saturday, Nov. 19
Registration at 7 a.m.
Opening Ceremony at 8:30 a.m.
Where: Grand Park
200 N Grand Ave., Los Angeles

Joe Hill Memorial Event

Storied labor leader and labor songwriter Joe Hill will be honored in San Pedro 101 years after his death.

When: Saturday, Nov. 19 at 10 a.m.
Where: 100 West 5th St. (Corner of 5th St. and Harbor Blvd.) San Pedro, CA 90733

Turkeys and Toys

Labor Community Services of Los Angeles County has started its Turkeys and Toys drive for the upcoming holidays. Many families will not be able to afford a Thanksgiving meal or gifts for their children without your help. Please consider donating to this wonderful cause. For more information visit www.laborcommunityservices.org or contact Margarita Chavez at 213-985-1987 or mchavez@unitedwayla.org.