CFT Convention

Anti-Gun Violence Rally, Guest Speakers Mark Three Days of Solidarity in Costa Mesa

From March 23 to 25, a contingent of 42 Guild delegates joined over 400 of their colleagues at the 2018 CFT Convention in Costa Mesa.

Guest speaker Erwin Chemerinsky, the Dean of UC Berkeley Law School, addressed the potential impact of the Janus v. AFSCME Supreme Court case, saying “The only rights public employees will have will be the right to not pay their fair share for the services they receive.”

Tony Thurmond, the CFT-endorsed candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction, spoke movingly about the impact of public education on his life and laid out his vision for an educational system that gives all students a chance to succeed. California Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher and State Senator Connie Leyva were honored with Legislator of the Year Awards for their advocacy for public education and unions.

In small-group constituency sessions, delegates discussed a broad range of policy resolutions, which were brought to the floor for a vote. One approved resolution was to hold future CFT conventions every other year instead of annually. To celebrate the victory of teachers in West Virginia in achieving a five percent raise for all public employees, delegates joined together in a rousing rendition of John Denver’s song “Take Me Home, Country Roads.”

Workshop topics included informational sessions on retirement planning, cultural relevance in the classroom, climate education, and adjunct health benefits.

On Saturday, delegates joined with thousands at a “March for Our Lives” rally in a Santa Ana park, hearing from young people who had been personally affected by gun violence. Gavin Newsom, Lt. Gov. and CFT-endorsed candidate for Governor, also addressed the crowd.

AFT 1521 took home four communications awards – for use of social media (the AFT 1521 Facebook page), for our bulletin series “Loud & Clear,” for our newsletter Read On, and for a faculty profile in Read On, “Overcoming the Odds.”

The next CFT Convention will be in Los Angeles in 2019 and will mark CFT’s 100th anniversary. Consider becoming a Convention delegate next year!

Election Update

The 2018 Guild Election is nearing completion. By now, you should have received a ballot mailed to your home address – the ballots were mailed on April 9th from the American Arbitration Association. If you haven’t received one or you threw it out by mistake, call Tina or Reyna immediately at the Guild Office -- (323) 851-1521.

Ballots must be received at the American Arbitration Association in the envelope provided by April 30th at midnight.

Ballots will be counted and the winners announced on May 2nd – if a run-off election is needed, it will take place from May 7th to May 29th, with results announced on May 30th.

Negotiations Update

The 2017-2020 Collective Bargaining Agreement is nearly ready for publication. Hard copies should be ready for distribution in May, and an electronic copy will be available on the AFT 1521 website as soon as it is finalized.

Academic Calendars have been given to chapter presidents for distribution and are being posted on the AFT website.

As we have done with each new contract, the Guild and the District will conduct training sessions for department chairs, deans, and VP’s. These sessions will take place in fall 2018.
Concerned about incidents of gun violence on U.S. campuses, the Guild at its March 20th Executive Board meeting passed a resolution urging the District to do more to ensure the safety of our students and employees. The resolution, entitled “Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety,” affirms the Guild’s commitment to work for common sense reform to stop gun violence, opposes arming faculty and staff, and asks the District to adopt more safety measures, such as alarm systems, campus drills, and inside door-locking capabilities. The resolution is posted on the Guild website, www.aft1521.

You are invited to the Faculty Guild’s ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

- Join your colleagues for continental breakfast and lunch prepared by Trade Tech Culinary Arts students.
- Find out the latest news from the Guild
- Hear from special guest speakers
- Recognize retirees and newly-tenured faculty
- Win prizes at the raffle

Friday, June 1st
8:30 am - 1:00 pm
Trade Tech College / Magnolia Hall Atrium

RSVP by May 18th to Robert Salazar at rsalazar@aft1521.org or (323) 851-1521 EXT 205
Tell Robert if you are retiring this spring.

Motions Passed at the February 20, 2018 Executive Board Meeting

Agreed to strengthen the COPE Committee’s candidate interview process by adding two AFT 1521A Staff Guild members and one UTLA member as voting members as well as the political director of CFT, who would not have a vote

Endorsed the following candidates: Antonio Sanchez (AD 39), Jesse Gabriel (AD 45), Sydney Kamlager-Dove (AD 54), Uduak-Joe Ntuk (Long Beach CCD Board of Trustees), Ricardo Lara (Insurance Commissioner)

Supported the Affordable Housing Act by agreeing to collect signatures for it as well as signatures to repeal the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act

Contributed $5000 to the L.A. County Federation of Labor to help elect labor candidates

Contributed $250 to Ricardo Lara, $100 to Uduak-Joe Ntuk, and $1500 to Antonio Sanchez (AD 39)

Approved the Good & Welfare Report

Contributed $1775 for an ad to honor Labor 411 on its 10th anniversary

Approve $3000 for six student interns and a coordinator to attend the 50th anniversary commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s March and Strike in Memphis, Tennessee

Upcoming DHLI Programs

These exciting Dolores Huerta Labor Institute programs shouldn’t be missed! Tell your students!

- Thursday, April 26 – Friday, April 27 at Trade Tech: DHLI sponsors the event “Black and Brown and Powerful,” convened by the Institute on Inequality and Democracy at UCLA Luskin, where research will be discussed by scholars and community activists to analyze structures of urban displacement, racialized policing, criminal justice, forced labor, and the mass supervision and control of youth.

- Friday, April 27 from 10 am – 4 pm in Pierce College’s Great Hall: DHLI will be tabling at the Immigration Celebration and Resource Fair. Be sure to stop by!

For more information or additional program details, call the DHLI at 213-763-7070 or visit https://www.laccd.edu/DHLI/Pages.

Walking in Memphis

Members of the AFT 1521 Intern Program joined thousands of activists from around the country in Memphis in remembrance of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was assassinated 50 years ago on April 4.