Guild Members Organize. Resist.

Guild Delegates at the 75th annual CFT Convention in Sacramento took part in numerous events with their colleagues from around the state. Highlights were an Immigration Rights Rally, a Racial Justice Task Force presentation, and workshops on climate justice, fascism, and issues concerning the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC).

The first day featured a march in support of fair and humane immigration laws, which started at the convention headquarters, swung by a local Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office, and concluded on the steps of the State Capitol. Speakers at the rally included CFT President Joshua Pechthalt and Kent Wong, Director of the UCLA Labor Center.

The Convention featured a number of guests, including keynote speaker Tom Steyer, who spoke about resisting Trump's policies. "I am obsessed with refuting their lies, and taking a moral high ground," Steyer said. Assemblymember Tony Thurmond, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, State Senator Richard Pan and AFT Secretary-Treasurer Loretta Johnson also addressed the delegation. In his annual State of the Union speech, CFT President Josh Pechthalt addressed the challenges that lie ahead – threats such as school vouchers and the loss of payroll deduction while praising recent victories, including those against the ACCJC.

Guild members presented at many sessions – Mindy Chen (Trade-Tech) in a workshop on climate justice, Stephanie White (Southwest) on a panel on fascism, and Michael Tompkins (Valley), Fernando Oleas (Pierce), and Dinesa Thomas-Whitman (Southwest) in a Racial Justice Task Force workshop. "CFT is 'out in front' not only on educational issues, but also on broader societal concerns including racial justice and climate justice," said Guild President Joanne Waddell. "They are taking the lead on these 'big picture' concerns as well as the threats facing public education."

Facing a less-than-friendly crowd, ACCJC Interim President Richard Winn addressed the Community College Council. Winn spoke of reducing the necessity for sanctions and promoted his organization's new website, while admitting to a "significant straining of trust." Winn then took questions, many extremely critical of the ACCJC’s treatment of City College of San Francisco and other colleges. Guild organizer Tema Staig asked how the Commission can reverse a culture of fear focused on punitive enforcement. Joanne Waddell noted "the capricious punitive measures" of the ACCJC, before comparing the Commission to an old building that needs to be replaced. "Sometimes you're better off mowing it down and starting fresh," she said.

The Los Angeles Faculty Guild won several communications awards. Michael Messina received an Honorable Mention in Best News Writing for "Defining the Friedrichs Ruse" Read On was recognized with an Honorable Mention for Best Four-Page

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May 1. May Day. International workers’ day. The real labor day.

Labor struggles are as real and as crucial today as they were in 1886 in Haymarket Square: $15/hour living-wage fights, health care for all, impeding right-to-work legislation, privatization of public education. In our own back yard, the Faculty Guild has begun negotiations for the 2017-2020 collective bargaining agreement. Our issues are similar: salary, benefits, working conditions, all toward helping our students succeed and improve their lives.

Organize. Resist. Attending the recent CFT Convention, I was reminded that our Faculty Guild goals are connected to the goals of the larger labor movement, and how central education plays in achieving those goals.

I was reminded of how far we still have to go and how much we need to do to achieve justice and equity in all areas of our lives and the lives of our students: racial justice, immigration rights, climate justice, economic justice, gender equity, food security, affordable housing, access to adequate transportation.

As a union that is active in the labor movement, the Faculty Guild is involved in all these areas. This May Day join the Faculty Guild at the education/voter registration rally at Pershing Square at 11 am and then march with us to the rally at Grand Park. We need every voice. We are in this together. See you on May Day.

In unity,
Joanne

RESIST
(Continued from Front)

Newsletter, and OPEIU Staff Member Tina Ramlall received a second place for Best Use of Graphics for “Stand Together.”

Joanne Waddell was re-elected as a CFT Vice President and Community College Council Southern California VP, serving along with returning President Joshua Pechthalt, Secretary-Treasurer Jeff Freitas, and Senior Vice President Lacy Barnes.

Announcements

May 1: Day of Action!
Join your colleagues and our coalition partners in downtown Los Angeles for a march and rally – the National Day of Action on Monday, May 1. The Guild is partnering with the Women’s March organizers to highlight the role of education and the importance of voting. Meet us at Pershing Square at 11 a.m. The march begins at noon and concludes with a rally in front of City Hall at 1:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.weresist.la

It’s the Season of Rebirth and Regeneration – Your Chance to Contribute to the Community

Food Drive Volunteers Needed
Labor Community Services needs volunteers to sort food collected at its May 13th Food Drive, co-sponsored by United Way. The sorting will take place from May 15 to June 30. To volunteer, visit www.laborcommunityservicesla.org

Motions Passed by the Executive Board

February 21, 2017

• Approved the COPE report, endorsements, and contributions
• Endorsed Al Rios for Southgate City Council
• Endorsed Jimmy Gomez for CD 34
• Endorsed Measure H for social services to the homeless
• Endorsed Measure M, an L.A. city ordinance to regulate and tax marijuana
• Approved the following contributions: $700 to Al Rios for Southgate City Council; $1500 to FACCC for the 2017 Advocacy & Policy Conference; $500 to Bet Tzedek
• Allocated $1,000 to purchase pay-as-you-go cell phones to use for phone banking
• Agreed to mobilize for the March 8 Board of Trustees meeting to urge the Board to take action to protect our undocumented students

Important Information about the District Retirement Incentive

If you plan to take advantage of the District’s retirement incentive, remember that enrollment materials must be submitted between April 10 and April 28, 2017. You can attend one at any campus, no appointment needed. If you have any questions or concerns or have not received a packet, please send inquiries to SRP@email.laccd.edu.

We are advising faculty to check the “rescind” box on the form; if the incentive is not offered, you can still retire this spring by submitting the one-page resignation form found on the District HR site by the June 5th deadline.

If you 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. Remember that if you are eligible for Medicare, 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.

Remaining Retirement Incentive Walk-In Meetings

Tuesday, April 18
West LA College
Library/HLRC
(4th floor, room 4C-D)
9000 Overland
Culver City, CA 90230
2pm to 5pm

Wed. April 19
East Los Angeles College
Academic Affairs Bldg.
G1-301 C & G1-301 E
1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez
Monterey Park, CA 91754
1pm to 5pm

Thurs. April 20
LA City College
Student Union
Union Club Room 2nd floor
855 N. Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90029
1pm to 5pm

Fri. April 21
LACCD-ESC
Hearing Room
770 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90017
1pm to 4pm

Mon. April 24
LA Southwest College
MPR Building
Room SOCTE 127
1600 W Imperial Hwy.
Los Angeles, CA 90047
2pm to 5pm

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