

May 2022

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What is the AFA?

It's *your* union, protecting and fighting for the rights of all adjuncts covered under the bargaining agreement between the college and the AFA (anyone teaching at least six LHE's in any of the three previous terms).

Oakton Board of Trustees Meetings:

May 24, 6:00, DP 1506

June 28, 6:00, DP 1506

Contact *Beatrice Sparks* at bsparks@oakton.edu for the Zoom link.

Congratulations to the 12-LHE Fund Awardees!

Ribhi Salhi and Mary Hope Griffin have both been awarded funds for projects they are working on to further student success as part the 12-LHE Fund.

Let's Get Together...

It's here! – The chance to meet and talk and break bread again in person! You are all invited to come to the North Branch restaurant on Lake Ave in Glenview from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 22. Seating will *outdoors in a covered - but not heated - space, so dress accordingly*. It has been a long time since we have seen each other, so please come. Dinner for both members and retired members is free, but dinner for partners is \$35. There will be more than pizza – an RSVP is required, so get yours in. Check your email from Mary Hope Griffin.

Questions about the contract?

The tentative new contract is now available for you to read. You have received an email on May 4 from the AFA with the link to the tentative contract. If you have questions about it, come to the *Open Office Hour this coming Friday, May 6, from 9 to 10 a.m. on Zoom*.

Here is the link:

[Join Zoom Meeting](#) (ID: 91905081506, passcode: 930052)

Join by phone (US) +1 669-900-6833 (passcode: 930052)

There is also a Power Point summarizing the main points of the contract available on the AFA website home page.

A reminder: only AFA members can vote on whether to accept the contract or not. Voting will be done electronically. You will receive your secure personal link to your secret ballot via email on Friday, May 6; it will come from Adjunct Faculty Association at Oakton Community College. Voting will end at midnight on Thursday, May 12. If you are not yet a member, then this is a good time to join. Go to the AFA website at oaktonadjuncts.com to download the new IEA/NEA membership form and the payroll deduction form and enroll.

Will You Be on a Committee?

Being on a committee is an opportunity to earn some extra pay if one has the LHE's available, and a great way to participate in the inner workings at Oakton. It's interesting, a chance to meet new people, and also learn a lot. One adjunct is needed to fill an opening on the Curriculum Committee and another on the Professional Development Committee. These positions begin in Fall and are paid through LHE's. A requirement is to have taught at least six LHE's, so that someone who is not teaching now is not eligible. Adjuncts from business or CTE are especially wanted. Contact the AFA at afaoakton@gmail.com.

On-line Teaching Guidelines

There have been concerns about the new guidelines on the teaching of on-line courses. As our current contract is still in effect, fall teaching assignments are not subjects to those guidelines. Even if an instructor has not completed the required on-line training but has been assigned a hybrid or asynchronous course, it is not your problem. It is your dean's responsibility, not yours.

IEA Dues Change

The recent IEA Regional Assembly voted on a change in how union dues are calculated. The dues for your union membership will be calculated based on a sliding scale. This was done in an effort to be more equitable. Exact figures are not available yet, but it is expected that roughly half of OCC adjuncts will pay somewhat more and half somewhat less.

"The Name Game"

Oakton's decision to change its name from Oakton Community College to just Oakton College is part of national trend among community colleges, according to an article in the May 2 issue of *Inside Higher Ed*. Pikes Peak Community College in Colorado has become Pikes Peak State College; its president stated that students realize the value of education at a community college, but of course they need to enroll to realize that. In addition, many community colleges, like Oakton, were founded 50 years ago, and with that kind of major anniversary comes a desire to appear more modern and a hope that with the new name will come more enrollment. Another factor is the fact that more community colleges are beginning to offer some 4-year degrees. A name change eliminates the need to explain to prospective employers how they got a BA from a 'community college.'

Not all community colleges are jumping on board. The president of Lansing Community College feels that instead of seeing it as a marketing problem, the college needs to teach the public why the 'community' in the name reflects its mission and is so fantastic. His slogan is "We are not going to change our name. We are going to change your mind."

And the Winners Are...

We have winners of the AFA photo contest illustrating the adjunct experience! First place and winner of a \$50 gift certificate is the Art Department's Vesna Jovanovic featuring her curious cat; second place and winner of a \$25 gift certificate is Cheryl Brown from the Business Department for her lovely shot of the woods on the Des Plaines campus.

