

November 2022

Cheryl Thayer, *President*
Mary Hope Griffin, *Vice President*
Cindy Del Medico, *Treasurer*
Linda Berendsen, *Secretary*
Phil Prale, *Grievances; Cheryl Thayer & John Bishop assisting*
Room 2470 DP
Web site: oaktonadjuncts.com
Email: afaoakton@gmail.com
Email for grievances:
oaktonafamembers@gmail.com

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).

Fall 2022 Payroll Dates

Payroll dates for this semester:

11/10, 11/25, 12/9, 12/23
AFA dues are taken from the 5th and 6th paychecks

AFA Open Office Hours 9-10

AFA Meetings 10-11:30

11/4, 12/2

On ZOOM

Oakton Board of Trustees meetings:

11/15, 12/13 All meet in the DP Board Room.

IEA Urges You to Vote YES

on the [Workers' Rights Amendment](#) next Tuesday, Nov. 8. The Amendment would further protect the bargaining rights of unions and keep Illinois from becoming another state with the "Right to Work" (as an employee who has no voice at their workplace).

Terms of Two Trustees Ending

The six-year terms of two Oakton Board of Trustees members, Martha Burns and Paul Kotowski, are ending. Right now, five of the nine trustees are from Evanston, skewing what the board does. The district Oakton serves, however, is much wider than that. Adjuncts who live in the OCC district are needed to help. Attend a Board of Trustees meeting yourself to judge whom to support. If you want to become more active, please contact Cheryl Thayer. [Nominations](#) for these trustee positions can be made from Dec. 12 through Dec.19; the election is April 4, 2023.

Worried About What's Happening on School Boards?

IEA (Illinois Education Association, our umbrella union) is offering a session called *Getting Involved in Protecting Public Education* – in other words, how to prepare for local school board elections. The session will be on Nov. 10 from 4:40 – 6:30 at the Skokie office of IEA at 5215 Old Orchard Rd. Suite 500. Dinner will be provided! RSVP to Kayla Campbell (Kayla.Campbell@ieanea.org)

Funds Still Available for Students for Textbooks

Encourage students to apply for the SGA Textbook Purchase Program (app found here [21-22textbkpurchase SGA \(oakton.edu\)](#)). Funds are still available despite the deadline being. In addition, students who have been awarded Federal Financial Aid can request for a Pell book voucher. Students should contact the Enrollment Center.

In Memoriam

Long time adjunct in psychology, Cathy Willis, has recently passed away. Cathy had been active in the AFA in many roles, assisting with elections and attending Regional Assemblies of the IEA on behalf of the AFA, among others. Funeral arrangements are still to be announced.

Feel like a Play?



Oakton's
PlayOn
Playwriting
Festival

features short pieces written by community college playwrights from Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. May I brag? One of Oakton's entries is by my husband, Ted Smukler, who enjoyed Tina Fakrid-Dean's creative writing class last year. Appropriate for this newsletter, it is on union organizing. It is this coming weekend, Nov. 4 and 5 at 7:30, and Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. at the Des Plaines campus StudioOne Theater.

Deadline for Mandatory IDHR Sexual Harassment Prevention Training Is Around the Corner

All Oakton employees must complete two trainings. One is the approximately 30-minute-long training mandated by the Illinois Department of Human Resources on sexual harassment prevention, and the other is a 15-minute-long training on FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) regulations. Both are due by Nov. 30. While unpaid - being state mandates, you can use your office hours to complete these. Watch for email reminders from Vector Solutions.

Need Health Insurance or Want to Explore Other Options

Open Enrollment starts NEXT month! **Insurance navigators will be on campus** in November and December to help students, staff, and faculty explore insurance coverage available through state programs and the Affordable Care Act marketplace. Look for additional details around campus and feel free to email wellness@oakton.edu with any additional questions.

Did You Get Paid?

Check your pay stubs to be sure that you have received the pay that is due you. You should have received the retroactive pay and stipends of \$100 (if one teaches three LHE's) or \$200 (if one teaches six LHE's) that were part of our new contract.

Watch for Information About Applying for Senior Lecturer Status.

As part of our new contract, "Adjunct faculty with 22 or more semesters of seniority who have consistently demonstrated professional development and strong classroom performance may apply for honorary status of Senior Lecturer. Applications will be reviewed by a joint committee of the AFA and the College." While there is no money attached, the title itself would be useful as part of one's resume when applying for grants or residencies. More information should be coming soon.

Have You Read the Contract?

Our new contract is easily accessible on the AFA website. Check it out! I was impressed by how well written and easy to read it is. As an English teacher, I would give it an A+ for clarity, organization, and vocabulary. Bravo to the writers! Seriously, compared to other legal documents, and if you have a question, I think you will find it easily answered.

