

February 2023

Mary Hope Griffin, *President*
Cindy Del Medico, *Treasurer*
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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).

AFA President's in-person Ofc Hrs

Room 2110 in DP:
 Mondays 11-1, Thursdays 9-10:45
 or by appointment

Spring 2023 Payroll Dates

Payroll dates for this semester:

Feb. 17,

March 3, March 17, 31,

April 14, 28, May 12, 26

AFA dues are taken from the 5th
 and 6th paychecks.

Oakton Board of Trustees Meetings

Feb. 21, March 21,

April 25, May 23

AFA Open Office Hours

The first Friday of each month
 10-11 via [Zoom](#).

Next AFA Board Meeting:

Feb. 17 9 -10 a.m. [on Zoom](#)

Memories of Cheryl Shared

During the memorial gathering for Cheryl Thayer on Friday Feb. 3, so many offered comments and shared memories of her. Here is a sampling: "I just talked to her" "I had just met with her" "She had just called me" "She left work to carry on – we need to maintain her legacy" "Thirst for justice" "She always had time" "Fairness" "Kindness" "Generous with time" "She fought so hard for us to have a reasonable pension" "A force" People recounted the number of people she mentored and the adjuncts "who were hungry" that she looked out for. "We've lost an advocate." "Maintain her legacy." "Now who's going to fight?"

Well, colleagues, let's step up. Speak up. Show your face at Board of Trustee meetings. Volunteer on committees. Get involved.

You can also add your comments on [the AFA website](#) on the message board. Cheryl's MA thesis and PhD dissertation are also available on the website.

Memorial contributions in Cheryl Thayer's honor can be made to the Charles D. & Betty J. Thayer Scholarship for students at Oakton College (www.oakton.edu/giving) which Cheryl established in honor of her parents. Memorial contributions may also be made to Habitat for Humanity (<https://www.habitat.org/>).

Earn LHEs in the Adjunct Faculty Student Success Project

Have a great idea? Want to develop a project? Share some research? A pool of 12 LHE's is available through our contract for these initiatives:

- Integrating a high impact practice into course content and activities
- Developing and leading a project that increases adjunct faculty engagement and inclusion
- Developing and delivering open educational resource material
- Leading a student success initiative
- Developing content-specific on-line course materials or interactive student activities
- Researching, using data from the Office of Institutional Research request, any learning equity gaps in your courses and developing and implementing an action plan to address those gaps.

Interested? Complete the application by Wednesday, April 5. The maximum LHE's per person is 2 LHE's, and priority is given to those who have not yet been awarded LHE's in the past

Memoriam

Lina Brotherton, retired adjunct in the English Department and avid artist, passed away Feb. 11 in Denver, Co.

Before you submit an application, you need to get your chairperson/coordinator and dean approval. Applicants will be replied to within 3 weeks.

Intend to Teach in the Summer?

According to our AFA contract, adjunct faculty preference forms were due on the 6th of February. Your chair or coordinator then must send a notice of assignment to 80% of their faculty by Feb. 23. You need to accept or decline that assignment **by March 9**, that is within 2 weeks of that notification. Mark the date.

Remember, the more flexible you can be regarding times, places, whether on-line or in person, and courses you are willing to teach, the better your chance of being assigned a course.

Fall Preference Forms

Fall semester is around the corner! Pay attention to these dates:

- **On 2/2/23:** Deans email their adjunct faculty requesting that they complete the form.
- **By 2/16:** Adjunct faculty return the completed form to their chair.
- **By 3/6:** Chairs/coordinators send notice of their assignment to at least 80% of their adjunct faculty.
- **By 3/20:** Adjunct faculty accept or decline the assignment

Here is the link to the updated Adjunct Scheduling Preference Form
<https://www.oakton.edu/facstaff/entrenous/facforms/adjfac.php>

Full-Time Jobs at College of Lake County

The College of Lake County needs to fill 20 full-time positions that are available due to retirements. Average faculty salary is \$105K and can go to \$128K with overload. Please go to
https://jobs.clcillinois.edu/postings/search?&query=&query_v0_posted_at_date=&925%5B%5D=1&440=&435=&924=&commit=Search

Keep Yourself and the College Safe (Another Training)

In light of the many cyber-attacks we have read about, we need to participate in a federally mandated on-line training via the Vector Solution system. The 5 modules are estimated to take about an hour, and like in previous trainings, you can use your office hours to complete them. You need to complete the trainings by May 3 and will receive reminder emails from Vector until you are done. Keep yourself and the college safe.

So that you can plan your time accordingly, the 5 modules are:

- Passwords Security Basics (10 min)
- Email and Messaging Safety (14 min)
- Browser Security Basics (17 min)
- Protection against Malware (15 min)
- Clean Desk Policy (4 min)

How do I access the training?

The Vector Solutions Online Training link is available in MyOakton on the HR & CPD page. Access this page in MyOakton via: Resources by Area -> HR & CPD, then look for the "Vector Solutions Online Training" link on the "Center for Professional Development" menu or just go to <https://oakton-il.safecolleges.com/training/home>

Wishing these retirees well:

Constance Drogos - Stem
Angelo Gero - Stem
Bernie Lewis- Liberal Arts
Howard Rozenzweig -Stem
Robert Taylor -Stem
Richard Trent- Stem

Tech Help for Students

Campus Technologies is now providing 24-hour tech support to students. Students can call the IT Help Desk at 847-635-1965 from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. and on weekends and holidays. They will hear a message telling them that their request for help is being forwarded to D2L End User Support Services. The D2L Support Services can then answer the most common IT questions and explain to students how to do something (for example, how to change their password) but cannot actually make the change for them.

In D2L, there will be a SOLVE button that allows the user to chat and search D2L resources including videos on how to use D2L. **This is available at any time in D2L.**

Students can borrow a chromebook and/or a WiFi hotspot for the term. The form is on the student view home page of myOakton. They can also get Microsoft Office (now Microsoft 365) on their home computer by logging in to myOakton ➤ "Academic Assistance" on the student view page ➤ "[Digital Backpack](#)". There students can find a link to Office 365.

Faculty can get it too: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/education/products/office>

Thanks for Serving

These adjuncts are serving on the search committees for these posts:

Director of Major & Planned Giving/Foundation Assoc. Exec. Director:

Ruth Whitney

Athletic Trainer:

Tristam Bisgrove:

Athletic Support Compliance:

Steve Brody:

Bio Lab Assistant:

Mary Obernesser

Dean of Liberal Arts:

Jennifer Davidas-Hong and Kristin Haas



Retiring? There Are Benefits to Being an Emeritus

Our contract now provides an opportunity for adjunct faculty members to be given Emeritus status upon retirement. Beside the title, there are tuition benefits as well as library privileges. To apply for this status, contact Waseh Hashmi (whashmi@oakton.edu) in the Office of Academic Affairs.

Wondering What Will BE Reported to SURS?

If you have been working at Oakton for at least 10 years, you may now request a SURS data report that will include work begin and end dates, your gross pay, and the percentage of time worked for each period that will be reported to SURS when you retire. To request the report, go to sursdatarequest@oakton.edu. Requests from employees over 55 or imminently planning on retiring will be prioritized. The college suggests patience.

Join the Race (in giving, that is)

Sign up for payroll giving – all proceeds go to the very worthy Educational Foundation. The divisions are in a race for highest proportional percentage of participation And-.as Suzie Ziegenthorn (pres. Of OCCFA) says, "Remember the stakes here: a catered lunch, an obnoxious trophy, and the right to heckle losing colleagues for an entire year...Want to get involved? Go to https://www.oakton.edu/my/employees/authenticated/resources_by_area/educational_foundation/employee_giving/ and sign up for payroll giving. It is not the amount, it's the participation. As this goes to print, Liberal Arts is in the lead!