

**September 2023**

## *The AFA Office Has Moved*

**Mary Hope Griffin, *President***

**Mary Obernesser, *Vice Pres.***

**Sylvia Cielak, *Treasurer***

**Linda Berendsen, *Secretary***

**Phil Prale, *Member Services***

**Room 2116 DP**

**Web site: [oaktonadjuncts.com](http://oaktonadjuncts.com)**

**Email: [afaoakton@gmail.com](mailto:afaoakton@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 2023 Payroll Dates**

9/29, 10/13, 10/27, 11/9, 11/24,  
12/8, 12/22

AFA dues are taken out of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> paychecks.

### **Oakton Board of Trustees Meetings**

10/17, 11/14, and 12/12 in the D.P. Board Room

### **AFA In-person Open Office Hrs.**

DP: Wed. 10-11 & Thurs. 9:30-10:30

Skokie: Mon. 1-2 in A213

### **AFA On-line Office Hours**

4 - 5 Thurs. on 10/12, 11/9, 12/7  
On Zoom

The AFA office has moved down the hall to **Room 2116** right next to the Adjunct Lounge. The lounge is furnished with a table, sofa, comfy chairs, TV, refrigerator, sink, and coffee machine, perfect for a between class break or chat with colleagues after visiting the office. These rooms are just down the hall from what was formerly the Division 2 office – the future home of the Division of Liberal Arts.

### ***AFA Office Hours in Skokie***

The AFA now has in-person office hours in the Skokie campus. AFA Vice President Mary Obernesser will be in A213 in Skokie from 4 to 5 p.m. on Thursdays.

### ***Get Your Preference Forms for Spring In***

According to our contract, the time-table for submitting Spring preference forms is as follows:

- **By 9/28/23:** Adjunct faculty return the completed form to their chair within two weeks of the notification.
- **By 10/16/23:** Chairs/coordinators provide notice of assignment to at least 80% of their adjunct faculty.
- **By 10/30/23:** Adjunct faculty accept or decline the assignment within two weeks of the notification.

The preference form is here:

<https://www.oakton.edu/facstaff/entrenous/facforms/adjfac.php>

### ***1/3 of Our Students May Be Food Insecure***

In 2018, 31% of Oakton's students reported low or very low food security in a local survey, the [Illinois Course Materials Survey: Student Perspective](#). Nationally, food insecure students skip buying course materials at significantly higher rates than other students (.S. PIRG, 2021). Haven't we all experienced students trying to keep up with a class but without having bought a textbook? To learn more about our students' experiences with the cost of course materials and their impact, Oakton College is participating in a state-wide research project the "[Illinois Course Materials Survey: Student Perspective](#)."

Please consider sharing this survey with students in class or via email. The voluntary survey will take between 5-10 minutes. To participate, students must have been 18 years of age or older at the start of the fall semester.

Questions can be directed to Michelle Oh, Librarian for Open Access and Equity, at [moh@oakton.edu](mailto:moh@oakton.edu). More information on this project is available through at the website for the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI): <https://www.carli.illinois.edu/illinois-course-materials-survey-student-perspective>.

### ***Take Advantage of AFA Membership***

When you join the AFA, you are also a member of IEA (Illinois Education Association) and the NEA (National Education Association, the largest union in the country). Besides having your rights protected, there are many other advantages available to members.

*Did you know that –*

New Costco members can get a \$30 shop card when you join through NEA Member Benefits.

The NEA Pet Insurance Program can get you reimbursed for eligible vet bills.

You can get Vision and Dental Insurance through NEA.

You can go to shows and performances through the Discount Tickets Program.

You can get discounts or cash back on Goodyear and Goodwill, ESPN and Britbox, Verizon and Xfinity Mobile, as well as Acer, Dell, HP and Abt.

When you need a break, you can get up to 25% off on car rentals, up to 60% off on cruises, and discounts on airfare.

Help is also provided with personal loans, home loans, and student loans; retirement planning; home and car insurance; and auto purchases.

And many more -

Join the AFA and [then find out more about the benefits here](#).

### ***Thinking of Retiring?***

Retiring from Oakton can be a confusing business. The AFA is working with the administration to come up with a step-by-step guide to retirement. What do you need to do first? When will you know the amount of your pension? When will the pension start? A guide to how to retire is coming.

### ***The AFA is also working on –***

We all know how complicated our schedules are at Oakton. Classes may be 16-week or 8-weeks – 4 weeks. They may have labs or not. They may involve a lot of writing or not. We also have office hours.

A formula is needed to convert our work into something that Oakton can use to accurately communicate our work to SURS (State University Retirement System - the state organization that administers our pensions). For a long time, the formula Oakton has used has not accurately represented our work. This formula needs to be clear, understandable, and fair as it is the basis for what our pensions will be. The AFA has been working with the administration to come up with a formula agreeable to both sides – the administration and adjuncts.

