



West Valley-Mission Contract Campaign Heats Up

It was a full house at the West Valley-Mission (WVM) Board of Trustees meeting at the end of the spring semester! ACE AFT 6554 President Ann Marie Wasserbauer delivered 513 Petitions from faculty, staff and students to the board of trustees with the message: "Come back to the bargaining table!"

Speakers addressing the board included Leigh Burrill, on behalf of the West Valley Division Chairs, Academic Senate Presidents Thais Winsome and Eric Pape, and ACE Grievance Officer Rick Hobbs who all urged the board to support the "faculty-inclusive, shared governance-based organizational structure," pointing out that reorganizing the college such that division chairs no longer



Courtesy Local 6554

Local 6554 members hold up signs in support of a fair contract during their annual Flex Day action.

exist will likely precipitate many grievances, a time-consuming process for both ACE, HR and eventually the board itself.

When school resumed this fall, so the did the campaign for a fair contract. Amidst the annual Flex Day addresses given

by the chancellor and respective presidents of Mission and West Valley Colleges, faculty members took action by holding signs demanding a "Fair Contract Now" and "Quality Education for Students."

The action was intended

to jumpstart negotiations in anticipation of mediation set for late September. Newly appointed steward Carol Brockmeier, a 14-year veteran of Health Occupations and departmental chair at Mission College described the atmosphere in the room as especially moving as nearly all of her full-time and part-time departmental colleagues took part in the action. "It felt contagious," she said and that ultimately there were not enough signs for all the faculty that felt emboldened to take part. All 60 signs were also in use at West Valley College, and at one point during the chancellor's speech a group of faculty members spontaneously walked out in protest. Among those leaving the assembly hall was Language Arts Divi-

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CCFF Rallies to Encourage BOT to Approve Contract



Luz Langworthy

Nearly 100 members of the Cerritos College Faculty Federation (CCFF) rallied at the Cerritos College Board of Trustees meeting on September 21. Members demanded that the board approve the tentative agreement they recently ratified in a vote of 283 to 2.

The BOT initially declined to vote on the contract. So CCFF members in attendance phoned their members and walked halls to rally more supporters. In the end the board approved the contract 7-0. "This is the power of collective action at work," SCIO and bargaining team member Stephanie Rosenblatt pointed out to the assembled crowd.

After years of stalled negotiations, CCFF ramped up their efforts by building power through increased membership and member involvement. In the

last month, the local has added over 50 new members and over 20 new COPE contributors. CCFF President Solomon Namala added in a report to the executive board members, "First of all congratulations, to all of us for getting this contract completed! A special thank you to Stephanie [Rosenblatt], Dennis [Falcon], Lucy [Langworthy] and Erin [Conley] for organizing faculty, calling faculty at the spur of the moment, and for leading the chants. What we saw last night was empowering!"

-By Project Organizer Erin Conley

CCSF: Fight for Free Community College

The California ballot this election year is historically crowded. In San Francisco, it's even more crowded: but one local ballot measure, at the bottom of the alphabet, could have incredible significance for the future of education in California. Proposition W will provide the funds to make City College of San Francisco free, like it was before 1984, for residents of San Francisco and city workers. All community colleges in California used to be free for everyone. The growing

student debt crisis has put increasing access to higher education back on the top of the progressive agenda. Free City is particularly important to the future of City College of San Francisco, as free credit courses could be instrumental in rebuilding the enrollment lost after rogue accreditor ACCJC nearly discredited the institution in 2013. That's why San Francisco Community College District Federation of Teachers, Local 2121, is fiercely organizing to

pass Prop W, along with supervisor and state senate candidate Jane Kim.

Free City College is a popular proposition among San Francisco voters, but the campaign has two big challenges to overcome. One is that Prop W is near the very end of a very long ballot, and voter fatigue may keep an uninformed electorate from voting on every measure. Another issue is that the actual ballot language does not connect Prop W to City College. If passed, the proposition will fund a luxury-property transfer tax, the revenue from which SF supervisors have already voted will be in part dedicated to make City College free, in addition to improving other city services.

Simply raising awareness of Prop W among SF



Courtesy of Local 2121

voters, and parrying any attacks which may come from the well-organized real estate industry, will be the critical task for Prop W proponents. SCI Organizer Athena Waid is coordinating 2121's electoral organizing with allies including the San Francisco Labor Council, Community Housing Partnership, Jobs with Justice, the Alliance of Californians

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SCI Organizers share knowledge of what's at stake with Prop 55 so that they can effectively communicate the importance and urgency in their member outreach and political organizing, at their annual 2016 Fall SCI Training.



CoC Hosts Workshop on Utilizing EDD Resources

Part-Time Faculty United at College of the Canyons, Local 6262, hosted a workshop on Employment Development Department services for their members at the Valencia campus on May 27.

Kisha Turner and Carlos Pinho, instructors and members of Part-Time Faculty United, lead the workshop that walked members through accessing unemployment benefits during school breaks from the State of California Employment

Department. Sixteen members attended the workshop to learn about their eligibility and rights. Members were also asked to fill out a contract survey and commitment card.

Patricia Medina, CoC secretary, explained that it's important all of their members know that the EDD benefits are already there. "They don't know that the district is putting this money aside, and it's our responsibility to let them know that the money is there. If our classes get cancelled in the summer



Erin Conley

Kisha Turner and Carlos Pinho, instructors and members of Part-Time Faculty United at College of the Canyons, lead a workshop on accessing unemployment benefits during school breaks.

or the winter, we're left with nothing," she said.

Many community colleges also do not provide information about financial resources

available to help part-timers through these hard times. CFT locals have stepped in to fill the information gap.

- By Project Organizer Erin Conley

CoC Starts Fall Semester with More Organizing



CoC tabling event at the new adjunct faculty orientation day.

Part-Time Faculty United Local 6262 started the semester strong, signing up 45 new members at the new adjunct faculty orientations at College of the Canyons. For these two orientations on the college's two respective campuses, SCI Organizer and Board Secretary Patricia Medina and Interim President Dan Portillo shared with the group their union's successes over the last academic year, as well as their goals for the upcoming academic year. In discussing Local 6262's past successes from 2015-16, they

mentioned their increase in membership from 38% to 75%, their fight to win paid office hours and their negotiating for more office space for adjunct faculty in their new contract. In terms of goals, they talked about their plan to recruit department representatives, fill open officer positions and build more power through increased membership engagement. Erin Africa, who is also an organizer with the SCI program, and member activist Kim Bonfiglio added their personal stories of how they were inspired to get more involved with

their union. Of the 45 new members, six people donated to the local's COPE fund. Additionally, ten new members committed to getting more involved in increasing their union's presence and power on campus.

Following this meeting, Local 6262 organized an informational membership meeting on September 9 focused on Proposition 55. Patricia and Erin led this meeting, underlining the urgency of getting this ballot measure passed. Patricia explained

to the group what it was like teaching during the recession, and how important saying Yes to Prop 55 is to having a quality public education. They passed out forms for people's availability for phone banking and tabling over the next couple months.

The meeting ended with an open session for members to talk about the local's upcoming negotiations, and how they could get more involved around issues important to them.

- By Project Organizer Alex Castillo-Kesper



Over 70 members of the Coast Federation of Classified Employees came out to the July 13 Board of Trustees meeting to demand that the district share financial responsibility for implementing a reclassification study and settle a fair contract.

Local 6215 Building Union Power



Stephanie Rosenblatt explains the importance of becoming a union member.

The week before school started, Cerritos College Faculty Federation, Local 6215 met 70 new full and part-time faculty members at two orientations conducted by the campus' Center for Teaching Excellence.

The union provided breakfast and got time on the packed agenda, signing up 50 new union members and adding 12 new COPE members. These new members added \$83 a month in on-going contributions to the union's political war chest.

More importantly, new faculty met with union officers on their first day of work and added the union to their growing support network at their new jobs. Several of these new members have already volunteered to help turnout members to ratify their new contract.

Under the existing contract, the union isn't guaranteed any time to meet with new faculty and the district hasn't consistently given new hires membership materials. Union leaders have used personal relationships built over time via committee work and other campus service to ensure that the union isn't left out of these important events. -By Project Organizer Luz Langworthy

El Camino Classified Employees Welcome Members Back to School

Luukia Smith



El Camino Classified Employees deliver baskets of treats to members as a welcome back from the summer break.

The Building Power program helped us to be more organized and systematic in our efforts. We've developed a mapping of our campus that helps us identify where our employees are and how many classified employees we have in each area. With this information we were

able to strategically reach out to volunteers to successfully take on our first event for this semester.

The first week of the fall semester is always the busiest week of the year. During this first week it is difficult for our members to find time to step out of their offices,

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sion Chair Leigh Burrill who was tired of hearing the usual empty platitudes and realized she was not alone when other English and music faculty led the way out.

Now, the ACE AFT 6554 Political Action Committee (PAC) is preparing

for the election of trustee candidates who support faculty efforts, and has been contacting members of the PAC and potential volunteers.

-By Project Organizer Sasha Mobley, with contributions from Ann Marie Wasserbauer, President, AFT Local 3267

AFT College Staff Guild Local 1521A gets out the union's message to the public at the annual Labor Day parade. After the parade, AFT 1521A



Suleman Ishaque

distributed more than 3,000 snow cones to the public at their booth in Banning Park. This year AFT 1521A and Los Angeles College Faculty Guild AFT 1521 marched together in solidarity. This is one of the many ways AFT 1521A connects to the community and its sister local.

so our volunteers went to them. We gathered 18 volunteers who loaded up baskets with a variety of snacks and delivered them to 48 different offices on campus welcoming our classified members back to school. The baskets of snacks were very well received and appreciated. Often it is the small gestures that bring big smiles.

We've learned so much about how to connect with our people and the importance of tracking and assessing events, volunteers and potential leaders. We're excited the Building Powers program will be continuing because we still have a lot to learn.

- By Luukia Smith, President, AFT Local 6142

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for Community Empowerment and others. "By coordinating our broad network of labor and community allies to get the word out in our city and do voter registration outreach to City College students, we hope to pass Prop W and make City College free for San Franciscans again," Waid said. Door knocking is just starting up, but so far voters who have heard about Prop W are excited to vote for San Francisco to become the first - but hopefully not the last - city in California to make college free again.

- By Michael McCown, SCI Organizer, Local 2121

California Federation
of Teachers 
AFT, AFL-CIO
A Union of Professionals

The California Federation of Teachers is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO. The CFT represents faculty and classified workers in public and private schools and colleges, from early childhood through higher education. The CFT is committed to raising the standards of the profession and to securing the conditions essential to provide the best service to California's students.

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