



IN STRENGTH & UNITY

COLLEGE STAFF GUILD
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS LOCAL 1521A

On the Web at WWW.LOCAL1521A.ORG

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Hot Off The Press

STAFF GUILD HIGHLIGHTS

- **Monday, January 3, 2011, Jerry Brown was sworn in as Governor of California:** Governor Brown has already begun to usher in a new era that works for the people, not just the corporations and politicians. As said in his inaugural speech, "We can overcome the sharp divisions that leave our politics in perpetual gridlock, but only if we reach into our heart and find that loyalty, that devotion to California above and beyond our narrow perspectives." The challenge for the new governor is the budget crisis in California. He will seek revenue (tax extensions) to avoid further devastating cuts in community college funding, social programs, health care and other services needed by working families. More information will be forthcoming on the CFT's continuing "Fight for California's Future".
- **MLK Breakfast and Parade:** On Friday, January 14, the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor honored Alvin Turner and Baxter Leach at the annual MLK Jr. Labor Breakfast. Turner and Leach are two former rank-and-file AFSCME sanitation workers and veterans of the historic 1968 Memphis sanitation strike where Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. They were presented awards by members of Teamsters Local 396. California Attorney General Kamala Harris provided final remarks on the legacy of Dr. King to more than 500 LA County union members.

AFT Staff Guild 1521A volunteers participated in the MLK Jr. Day Parade. Ten of our members rode on the labor float with many politicians and labor leaders. Thanks to Dionne Morrissette for all her organizing efforts on that exciting historical day.

- **CFT 2011 Convention:** Elected Delegates to the 69th annual CFT Convention will meet March 18 – 20 at the Manhattan Beach Marriott. This year's theme is "Stand Up, Stand Together, and Speak Out". We look forward to an exciting convention. In addition to the proposed constitutional amendments and resolutions, there will be workshops, events, and guest speakers to round out the program.
- **AFT/PSRP Conference March 25-27:** The classified national conference will be held in Las Vegas, NV. Local AFT representatives come from around the country to learn new concepts and share information. Workers and unions are strengthened through conference, communication and activism. Conference workshops will include Health and Safety, Leadership Training, and Contract Rights.

- **Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA's):** On January 1, 2011, LACCD funded our accounts for the new calendar year. For those of you who have used your HRA for 2010 and if you have a SHPS account you should receive an email with your spending account summary and balance of your remaining funds.
- **LA County Federation of Labor sponsors Garment Industry March:** Join with us on March 25 to commemorate the deaths of 146 young immigrant women in the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire in New York. This tragedy marked the need to organize to protect workers and demand a fair wage. See the special broadcast on PBS February 28; planned activities February through March 2011. www.launionaflcio.org
- **Mobilize! March! Make History!** Save the date of March 26, 2011, for the event in downtown Los Angeles to demonstrate for jobs and justice, speak the truth and demand:
 - Communities before corporations
 - People before profits
 - Main Street before Wall Street
- **Luxe Hotel Workers Strike in Downtown Los Angeles:** Workers for the Luxe City Center Hotel walked off the job January 13 in a one-day strike. Hotel housekeepers led the walkout, demanding that management remove unfair disciplinary actions from their work records. Housekeepers say Luxe management gradually increased workload over the past year, and then punished workers in December when they didn't finish the work. The Luxe hotel workers' contract, like thousands of other hotel workers in Los Angeles, has been expired for more than a year. Workers want a fair contract, fair treatment, decent wages and benefits.
- **Buying Union Made products creates U.S. Jobs:** Labor 411 is a one-stop directory to all things union. Buying union guarantees quality, American-made products and supports good paying jobs that help rebuild America's middle class, the cornerstone of our society. Labor is committed to empowering American consumers to buy quality products that are safe, made in the U.S., and priced for value. More than 2,500 items comprise the list of union-made products and services available anywhere. www.lalabor411.org
- **Personnel Commission Actions:**
 - Reclassify Web Designer to Web Architect
 - Reclassify Administrative Intern to Assistant Administrative Analyst

Mark your calendars:

Presidents Holiday weekend February 18-21, 2011

Next Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, March 30, 2011, 3:00 @ AFT Office