



IN STRENGTH & UNITY

COLLEGE STAFF GUILD
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS LOCAL 1521A

On the Web at WWW.LOCAL1521A.ORG

September/October 2014

Volume 8 Issue 5

Hot Off The Press

STAFF GUILD HIGHLIGHTS

- **General Election:** For results of the November 4, 2014 election and a list of AFT 1521A endorsed candidates go to www.local1521a.org.
- **Spotlight on Politics:** Congratulations on Labor's candidates Tom Torlakson for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Betty Yee for State Controller and Shiela Kuehl for L.A. County Board of Supervisors. We strongly supported Mike Gipson for State Assembly, District 64 and Tony Mendoza, State Senate District 32, our candidates who support classified workers and quality public education.
- **Bylaw Amendment Change:** At the 2014 membership meeting the proposed By-Law Amendment of increasing dues/fees from 1% of gross to 1.25% of gross passed with maximum support.
- **Membership Meeting Guests:** Speakers included Mike Gipson, Candidate for Assembly District 64 and Ernie Moreno, Board of Trustees member. Both guests addressed the importance of classified employees in the colleges and our role in serving the students of our communities. Thank you to the 200 attendees for your participation and letting your voice be heard.
- **ALL IN TO WIN:** California Labor Federation is launching a new plan for organizing. "ALL IN TO WIN" which supports large-scale, strategic organizing campaigns that lift up the Labor Movement and build momentum. Three major campaigns are spearheading the plan:
 - USWW is taking on corporate giants Apple and Google to improve standards in one of the state's fastest growing industries. <http://www.seiu-usww.org/>
 - Teamsters Joint Council 7 is committed to rebuilding opportunities for immigrant workers in food processing and dairies. <http://teamstersjc7.org/>
 - Brave Walmart employees are fighting back! For decades, Walmart has threatened good union jobs by driving down wages and working standards in the retail industry. <http://forrespect.org/>

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- **Paycheck Fairness Act S.2199:** In 2014 – more than 50 years after the passage of the Equal Pay Act – women still make an average of 77 cents to a man's dollar with Black women earning 64 cents and Hispanic women earning 53 cents for every dollar earned by white men. On September 15, 2014 the bill failed in the senate because every republican voted no! Please contact your Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein and thank them for co-sponsoring the bill. Locate your Senator's office:
http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm
- **Members - Check Your Social Security Statement:** The Social Security Administration (SSA) decided a few years ago to stop sending paper Social Security Statements in the mail. You can, and should, check your recorded earnings and potential benefits by going online at SocialSecurity.gov/myaccount/ and creating an account. Use the statement to help figure out your income in retirement and how much money you may need to supplement your benefits.
- **35th Annual Labor Day Parade:** On September 1, 2014 AFT Staff and Faculty members volunteered in the Labor Day festivities in Wilmington, CA. Members participated on our 1521A float celebrating fairness and equity within our society and communities. Many walked in the parade and afterwards made thousands of free sno-cones. It was well attended and fun was had by all. Thank you to all 1521A and 1521 volunteers. See our website, www.local1521A.org, for photos.
- **Fighting for Fair Accreditation:** On Monday 10/27, the fight to save City College of San Francisco moved to the courtroom as the trial began between the City of San Francisco and the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera filed a lawsuit against the ACCJC to stop the commission's illegal and inappropriate disaccreditation order against City College of San Francisco. Disaccreditation would effectively close City College, denying 80,000 students access to quality and affordable higher education. See www.cft.org
- **LACCD Accreditation:** The nine LACCD colleges participate in a comprehensive accreditation "Self Study" every six years. During the process, teams of college faculty, administrators, classified staff, and students work together to assess the effectiveness of current institutional efforts and to make plans to improve college performance. The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) has decided that all 9 colleges and the District office will undergo the process Spring 2016. We urge all classified to participate in committees and make classified's voice heard!