



# IN STRENGTH & UNITY

COLLEGE STAFF GUILD

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS LOCAL 1521A

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On the Web at [WWW.LOCAL1521A.ORG](http://WWW.LOCAL1521A.ORG)

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April-May 2016

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## Hot Off The Press

### STAFF GUILD HIGHLIGHTS

- **Spotlight on Politics:** 1521A supports the “Children’s Education and Health Care Protection Act of 2016”, an extension to Proposition 30 which taxed the wealthiest 2% of Californians and drops the modest sales tax increase that was part of the original proposition. During the Great Recession California schools lost more than 30,000 certificated and classified employees to layoffs due to revenue losses. Thousands more endured pay cuts and furloughs causing colleges and universities to cut classes and increase tuitions and fees. Our ability to offer the best quality education possible to our students and their families suffered greatly. Proposition 30 is a temporary tax that has made an enormous difference helping the growth of funding and restoration of programs since its passage in 2012 and its revenues cannot be allowed to expire.
- **The Supreme Court Upholds Union Dues:** The court’s conservatives could not clinch a majority rule (due to the death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia) in favor of overthrowing the lower court’s ruling in the case of Friedrichs vs. California Teachers Assn. In this case the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals had rejected the claim of an Orange County teacher who contended it violated her free-speech rights to be forced to support the union she opposed.

By no means does defeating the Friedrichs case mean we can rest easy. Attacks on unions and the working class are far from over. The more members get active the stronger we get and the louder our voice becomes during contract negotiations. Through the collective bargaining of our contract we ensure competitive salaries, health care, and retirement. Don’t forget, We ARE the Union! Contact your worksite Chapter Chair and ask how you can help our union become stronger.

- **Dress For Success Fashion Show/Workshop:** Join staff, faculty, students, and administrators for this fun-filled workshop focusing on ways to look your best at work. Learn how to look and feel good on a budget while helping create a professional work environment.
- **Mental Health Awareness Resource Fair:** May is Mental Health Matters Month and LATTC is helping spread awareness by hosting a resource fair. Please join us on May 24<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 2pm on the north side of the Mariposa Building for information, giveaways, and interactive screenings. For more information call (213) 763-3764 or 3764 or go to [www.EachMindMatters.org](http://www.EachMindMatters.org).
- **Congratulations to Staff Guild Retirees:** The AFT Staff Guild would like to congratulate the following members for their outstanding service to the Los Angeles Community College District. These Staff Guild members have contributed significantly toward providing quality service to our students and the public.

| <b>Name</b>      | <b>Classification</b>          | <b>Years of Service</b> | <b>Worksite</b> |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Nicholas Fedak   | Instructional Assistant – Art  | 33                      | East            |
| Betty Ellis      | Office Assistant               | 30                      | Trade-Tech      |
| Kasey Chung      | Chemistry Lab Technician       | 15                      | City            |
| Gail Kawashima   | Instructional Assistant – CAOT | 33                      | West            |
| Alice Yee        | Personnel Assistant            | 23                      | Mission         |
| Karen Amarawansa | Secretary                      | 8                       | Trade-Tech      |
| Karen Murray     | Administrative Secretary       | 5                       | Pierce          |

- **LASD Cares:** Law enforcement agencies around the nation, including the LA Sheriff’s Department (LASD), have developed training on ways to deal with individuals with mental illness. For more information and referrals go to [www.HealthyCity.org](http://www.HealthyCity.org)
- **Mark your calendars:**

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Dress For Success Fashion Show/Workshop – LATTC | May 20 |
| Last Day to Register to Vote in Primary         | May 23 |
| Mental Health Awareness Resource Fair – LATTC   | May 24 |
| Memorial Day HOLIDAY                            | May 30 |
| Last Day to Request Vote-by-Mail                | May 31 |



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