The State of Our District

Disunity among trustees and failure to work with staff are holding back LACCD

By President Velma J. Butler

Sometimes I am embarrassed by the example District leaders set for our students. What lessons are members of the LACCD Board of Trustees and administration teaching with their power games, disrespect for employees, and empty promises?

Power games? What else can you call it when past trustees traditionally rotated the Board presidency yearly – as the County Board of Supervisors and other leadership bodies do – but Scott Svonkin has kept the gavel for three terms?

Svonkin hasn’t stayed on top by playing well with others. The Board is split on major issues, and this disunity has had consequences. The trustees, for example, didn’t even respond to Labor’s proposal on Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA) for months.

Disrespect? Why else would the Board not even respond when the well-being of thousands of employees is at stake? It’s a dead issue now that open enrollment period has closed.

Empty promises? Trustees were glad to jump on the College Promise bandwagon to not charge tuition for...Continued on page 4

Union Takes the Lead in Disaster Preparedness

Every fall, the College Staff Guild comes together at an annual meeting to address on-the-job and political issues. This year, more than 200 AFT Local 1521A members and their families took on another challenge: getting our homes, our campuses and our communities ready before disaster strikes.

Solidarity is the glue that holds the Staff Guild together at the worksite, and Labor Solidarity helps hold society together during emergencies. President Velma J. Butler called on union members to get ready for both now. “We need to know our coworkers’ needs before we fight for a new contract,” Butler said, “and we need to know our neighbors before a disaster.” Butler asked members to work with their emergency response committee as part of shared governance. She also called for a broad fight to protect the public’s right to safe tap-water from Compton to Flint, Michigan.

“I protect you and you must protect me. That’s how it works,” Butler said.

Union mem-

Dozens of union families received survival packs.

These honorees are the volunteers who make our union strong!

November 8, 2016 Voting Guide

Find your voting location: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/polling-place
CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

2 Board of Trustees, Southwest
8 General Election
8 Personnel Commission District
17 Executive Board, Trade
22 Personnel Commission, Southwest

DECEMBER

6 Personnel Commission, District
7 Board of Trustees, Valley
15 Executive Board, Office
20 Personnel Commission District
23, 26 Christmas Holiday celebrated
29 Admissions Day celebrated
30, 2 New Year’s Holiday celebrated

JANUARY

16 Kingdom Day Parade
18 MLK Holiday

AFT College Staff Guild

The American Federation of Teachers College Staff Guild is an affiliate of the CFT/AFT, AFL-CIO.
The AFT College Staff Guild Local 1521A represents more than 1,200 clerical and technical employees of the L.A. Community College District.

President: Velma J. Butler
First Interim Vice President: Mary Van Ginkle
Second Interim Vice President: Mercedes Gaitan
Treasurer: Shirley Chen-Page
Interim Secretary: Curtis Smith
Grievance Secretary: Fern Reisner
Executive Director: Diana Ramon
Communications Consultant: Steve Weingarten

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL ELECT

Hillary Clinton • Tom Kaine
President • Vice President

Hillary believes every student should be able to graduate from a public college or university in their state without taking on any student debt. Clinton and Tom Kaine will also make the economy a central priority to ensure every American can find a good-paying job, with rising incomes across the board. During their first 100 days, they will make the largest investment in good-paying jobs since World War II.

Anthony Portantino
State Senate District 25

Almost every education leader in the 25th District has endorsed Anthony, who defied party leaders as Chair of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education by aggressively defending K-12 and community college funding. The former mayor and veteran legislator will push for Sacramento to reinvest in the Master Plan for Higher Education, improve community college students’ access to financial aid, and open community colleges to more high school students.

Warren Furutani
State Senate District 35

“We still have unfinished business,” Warren says. “We need to strengthen education – with community colleges at the heart of it – especially now that so many adults are returning to learn new skills.” We need proven champions like Warren in Sacramento. The former head of the LACCD Board of Trustees and veteran Assemblyman knows his way around public education and wants to create a statewide career-tech system to prepare Californians for the jobs of the 21st century.

Keep Education Funded

Since voters passed Prop 30 in 2012, the measure has pumped about $7 billion per year into public education and other state programs slashed during the Great Recession. Nearly $240 million went directly to LACCD. About 85 percent of that revenue came from higher taxes on Californians making more than $250,000 per year. Organized Labor, including the California Federation of Teachers, want to extend for 12 years the tax on the wealthy, which is set to end in 2018. At stake is $94 million per year for LACCD. Vote November 8!
A recent agreement between the District, Staff and Faculty guilds, and Teamsters Local 911 clarifies the roles of deans, department chairs (chairs) and classified staff.

Under the Memo of Understanding (MOU):

- The supervising dean and chair will review classified job descriptions to ensure that staff are working within their classifications with appropriate duties and responsibilities.
- Chairs will oversee day-to-day work direction. Chairs will meet with employees to review job duties and responsibilities.
- Chairs will notify their dean when classified employees need or request training.
- Chairs will forward staff requests for new work schedules, ergonomic equipment, and leaves of absence, including illness, vacations and conferences, to the deans.
- Chairs will initial and forward time sheets and requests for overtime to the dean to sign.
- Deans will share all release time schedules with the chairs.
- Deans will prepare classified employees’ performance evaluations. As part of that process, chairs will provide

These recommendations are drawn from endorsements by the California Federation of Teachers and California Labor Federation.

**U.S. Congress**

25 .......................... Bryan Caforio
27 .............................. Judy Chu
28 .............................. Adam Schiff
29 .............................. Tony Cárdenas
30 .............................. Brad Sherman
32 .............................. Grace Napolitano
33 .............................. Ted Lieu
34 .............................. Xavier Becerra
35 .............................. Norma Torres
37 .............................. Karen Bass
38 .............................. Linda Sánchez
40 .............................. Lucille Roybal-Allard
41 .............................. Mark Takano
43 .............................. Maxine Waters
44 .............................. Isadore Hall, III
46 .............................. Joe Dunn
47 .............................. Alan Lowenthal

**State Senate**

21 .............................. Jonathon Ervin
25 .............................. Anthony Portantino
29 .............................. Sukhee Kang
31 .............................. Richard Roth
33 .............................. Ricardo Lara
35 .............................. Warren Furutani

**State Assembly**

36 .............................. Darren Parker
41 .............................. Chris Holden
43 .............................. Ardy Kassakhian
44 .............................. Jacqui Irwin
45 .............................. Matt Dababneh
46 .............................. Adrin Nazarian
47 .............................. Cheryl Brown
48 .............................. Bryan Urias
49 .............................. Edwin Chau
50 .............................. Richard Bloom
51 .............................. Jimmy Gomez
52 .............................. Freddie Rodriguez
53 .............................. Miguel Santiago
54 .............................. Sebastian Ridley-Thomas
57 .............................. Ian Calderon
58 .............................. Cristina Garcia
59 .............................. Reginald Jones-Sawyer
61 .............................. Jose Medina
62 .............................. Autumn Burke
63 .............................. Anthony Rendon
64 .............................. Michael Gipson
65 .............................. Sharon Quirk-Silva
66 .............................. Al Muratsuchi

**State Propositions**

51 .................................................... Yes
52 .................................................... Yes
53 .................................................... No
54 .................................................... No
55 .................................................... Yes
56 .................................................... Yes
57 .................................................... Yes
58 .................................................... Yes
59 .................................................... Yes
61 .................................................... Yes
62 .................................................... Yes
63 .................................................... Yes
66 .................................................... No
67 .................................................... Yes

**Janice Hahn • Kathryn Barger**

Janice Hahn • Kathryn Barger
L.A. County Board of Supervisors
Be Prepared…  
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bers are committed to taking the lead in disaster preparedness. Dozens of survival packs were given out during the meeting, and local experts offered first-hand advice on surviving an emergency.

As head of the American Red Cross in Los Angeles and no stranger to disaster, Jarrett Barrios offered several easy steps to take:

- Keep a pair of shoes by your bed. Cut feet were the second-most common injury in the Northridge earthquake.
- Store one gallon of water per person per day. A family of four, for example, will need 28 gallons for seven days.

Jarrett Barrios of the Red Cross offered tips for surviving a disaster.

The State of Our District…  
Continued from page 1

community college, but we haven’t seriously discussed how to keep that promise. We will need adequate staffing to register thousands of new students, pick up more trash, keep campus bookstores and food services running, etc.

Opinion polls routinely show great public support for community colleges. The trustees’ current conduct could trash that. It isn’t too late for leadership to start working with labor to resolve problems. They can begin by acknowledging shared governance. Otherwise, what are we teaching our students? What is our commitment to the community?

MOU Duties…  
Continued from page 3

deans with appropriate observations, input and recommendations in writing. Deans will also receive and process all staff contract grievances. This MOU allows the parties to work more efficiently together and provide quality service for LACCD students.