The annual membership meeting celebrates our families and the fight for social justice.

Proud to be Union

“The state of the Staff Guild is strong,” President Velma J. Butler told nearly 200 union members and their families at the annual AFT Local 1521A membership meeting.

“We’re strong,” Butler said, “because of the contracts and health benefits we have negotiated. And members will fight to keep the union strong because of all the advantages and opportunity we provide working people.”

The labor movement is standing its ground against a wave of attacks, including recent Supreme Court rulings that employees aren’t obligated to pay union dues and a hostile Washington, D.C. Local 1521A activists reminded coworkers of all the gains made during 35 years of union representation.

Other speakers at the Sept. 15 meeting included L.A. County Sheriff’s Captain Rodrick Armalin, who discussed safety and security issues at the worksite in the current environment.

Also, Sandra Lepore presented a $1,000 check to Oscar Aviles, the winner of the second annual Lepore Labor Scholarship for LACCD students with a strong commitment to Labor Studies. The deadline to apply for next year’s competition is July 31, 2019.

LACCD: Lack of Diversity in 2019

Without an African American trustee or college president, the District’s commitment to the Black community rings hollow.

By President Velma J. Butler

LACCD is now the largest community college district in the United States that lacks any African Americans and only one female trustee on its board.

The Board worked hard for this “recognition.” Trustees could have picked one of four qualified African American female candidates for a seat that opened when voters sent Sydney Kamlager to the Assembly. Instead, they appointed David Vela to complete Kamlager’s term, leaving the Board with four Latinos, two Anglos and one Asian.

This is not what diversity looks like. We need LACCD leadership that represents the communities we live in and serve, but this Board bears little resemblance to modern L.A. Twelve percent of our student body is African American, the largest number of Black students in higher education in California.

The District is short-changing the Black community, but the appointment is even more inequitable for women. If diversity was based on

Continued on page 4
## CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER
- 6 General Election
- 8 E-Board @ ELAC
- 12 Veteran’s Day Holiday
- 15 Union Day @ West
- 22-23 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 29 Union Day @ Valley

### DECEMBER
- 12 Board of Trustees
- 13 E-Board @ AFT
- 24-25 Christmas Holiday
- 28 Admissions Day Holiday
- 31 New Years Eve

### JANUARY
- 1 New Years Day
- 9 Board of Trustees
- 10 E-Board @ AFT
- 14 MLK Day Holiday
- 15 Union Day @ City

---

## 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 Vice President:** Mercedes Gaitan
- **Second Vice President:** Suleman Ishaque
- **Treasurer:** Shirley Chen-Page
- **Secretary:** Curtis Smith
- **Grievance Secretary:** Sheila Jeter-Williams
- **Director of Union Operations:** Steven Butcher
- **Communications Consultant:** Steve Weingarten

---

## Chapter Chair Highlights

### Valley: Jonathon Hooker

Jonathan Hooker was one of three write-in candidates for chapter chair. His biggest surprise has been how much talking, investigation and tracking people down it takes to resolve problems. His email box has swollen since he took office July 1.

"It’s only been about three months, but so far so good.”

Hooker has worked in Reprographics since he began at Valley in 2011.

He hopes to raise the union’s profile on campus through better communication. “People can turn to the union when they have a problem. We’re here. We can help.”

Hiring is slowly filling gaps in staffing left by last year’s wave of retirements. New staff has helped to lower stress levels.

### District: Hazel Alonzo

Unlike Staff Guild chapters on campus, Hazel Alonzo said, the District chapter has only one building. Alonzo's goal is to communicate directly and accurately so her 133 members get facts, not rumors on the grapevine.

"Rumors spread instantly, but that doesn't mean people know what’s really going on.”

She is concerned about getting employees better tools and training to perform their jobs more effectively, and about the growing number of confrontations between District staff and the homeless on downtown streets.

Alonzo began at the District in Health Benefits in 2006. She joined AFT Local 1521A after transferring from an exempt position in Budget to a represented position in Human Resources two years ago.

### ELAC: Rowena Smith-Kersaint

As a young student, Rowena Smith-Kersaint found her footing after a rocky start and became a student worker. In 2011, she tested for and came to ELAC as a Student Services Assistant and now serves as a specialist.

During her campaign for chapter chair, Smith-Kersaint promised transparency on campus and to build unity, improve communications and union solidarity.

“I live my life in the open,” she said. “You’re either part of the solution, or part of the problem.”

Since taking office, Smith-Kersaint has held three membership meetings at ELAC, including a meeting at the South Gate satellite campus for more than a dozen staff.

---

### AFT College Staff Guild, Local 1521A

#### 2018 Coat Drive

Donate new or gently used coats for the homeless through December 13

For additional information, contact the AFT Staff Guild Office at (323) 851-1521
Nov. 6, 2018 General Election

Propositions

Prop. 1......YES
Bonds for veterans and affordable housing

Prop. 2......YES
Funds housing and services to prevent homelessness

Prop. 3......YES
Bonds for drinking water, ground-water projects

Prop. 4......YES
Bonds for construction at children’s hospitals

Prop. 5......NO
Poorly planned process for transferring property tax rate

Prop. 6......NO
Cuts approved funding for roads and transportation

Prop. 7......YES
Set California clocks to Daylight Savings Time all year

Prop. 8......YES
Regulates dialysis clinics, limits charges

Prop. 9......YES
Expands local authority over rent control

Prop. 10......NO
Requires ambulance workers to remain on-call during breaks

Prop. 11......YES
Improves standards for confined farm animals

Recommendations by the AFT Local 1521A Board

U.S. House

25 .................................Katie Hill
27 .................................Judy Chu
28 .................................Adam Schiff
29 .................................Tony Cardenas
30 .................................Brad Sherman
32 .................................Grace Napolitano
33 .................................Ted Lieu
34 .................................Jimmy Gomez
35 .................................Norma Torres
37 .................................Karen Bass
38 .................................Linda Sanchez
39 .................................Gil Cisneros
40 .................................Lucille Roybal-Allard
43 .................................Maxine Waters
44 .................................Nanette Barragan
47 .................................Alan Lowenthal

State Assembly

41 .................................Chris Holden
43 .................................Laura Friedman
44 .................................Jacqui Irwin
45 .................................Jesse Gabriel
46 .................................Adrin Nazarian
47 .................................Eloise Gómez Reyes
49 .................................Ed Chau
50 .................................Richard Bloom
51 .................................Wendy Carrillo
52 .................................Freddie Rodriguez
53 .................................Miguel Santiago
54 .................................Sydney Kamlager
55 .................................Gregg Frtichle
56 .................................Eduardo Garcia
57 .................................Ian Calderon
59 .................................Reginald Jones-Sawyer
60 .................................Sabrina Cervantes
61 .................................Jose Medina
63 .................................Anthony Rendon
64 .................................Mike Gipson
65 .................................Sharon Quirk-Silva
66 .................................Al Muratsuchi
69 .................................Tom Daly
70 .................................Patrick O’Donnell

State Senate

18 .................................Bob Hertzberg
20 .................................Connie Leyva
24 .................................Maria Elena Durazo
26 .................................Ben Allen
30 .................................Holly Mitchell
32 .................................Bob Archuleta

Recommendations from AFT Local 1521A, the California Federation of Teachers and California Labor Federation.
New Retirees Energize Chapter

More than 100 LACCD classified employees retired last year, including many seasoned Staff Guild leaders and activists. As a result, membership in AFT Local 1521A’s retiree chapter has grown.

The chapter recently elected Chair Greg Whaling, Delegate Donald Santoianni and Alternate Delegate Mitchell Horn, and held its annual membership meeting.

Whaling and Staff Guild President Velma J. Butler welcomed dozens of retirees to the Tam O’Shanter restaurant. Guests included speakers from LACCD Health Benefits, Kaiser and the California Alliance of Retired Americans (CARA).

Whaling’s goal is to keep activists together to benefit both retired and current employees. “Union people do more than work together,” he said. “This is about us taking care of each other. That’s the meaning of brotherhood and sisterhood.”

LACCD…

Continued from page 1

percentages, there should be four female trustees. In fact, the Board has barely acted on significant “Me Too” problems in LACCD, including among trustees.

For the past 40 years, the Board of Trustees has been a training ground for talented African American community leaders, from Gwen Moore and Marguerite Archie-Hudson in the 1970s, Althea Baker and Kenneth Washington in the 1980s and ‘90s, Angela Reddock in the 2000s, and Kamlager in 2015.

The Staff Guild will not forget this newest incident. We will build a broad coalition, find candidates who represent our diverse communities, and elect a Board with a vision of our shared future.

The chapter is holding regional meetings so members won’t have to travel so far. Locations and schedules are available online at www.Local1521A.org

“I want to hear your opinions,” Whaling said. “What are your top priorities?”

The chapter is currently collecting retirees’ post-LACCD email addresses. For more information, contact Whaling at Retirees@AFT1521A.org

Retirees have been the fastest growing segment of the labor movement since the Baby Boomers started retiring. Medicare and Social Security are again under attack in Washington. Barbara Harmon was the first head of the AFT 1521A chapter.