

The Voice

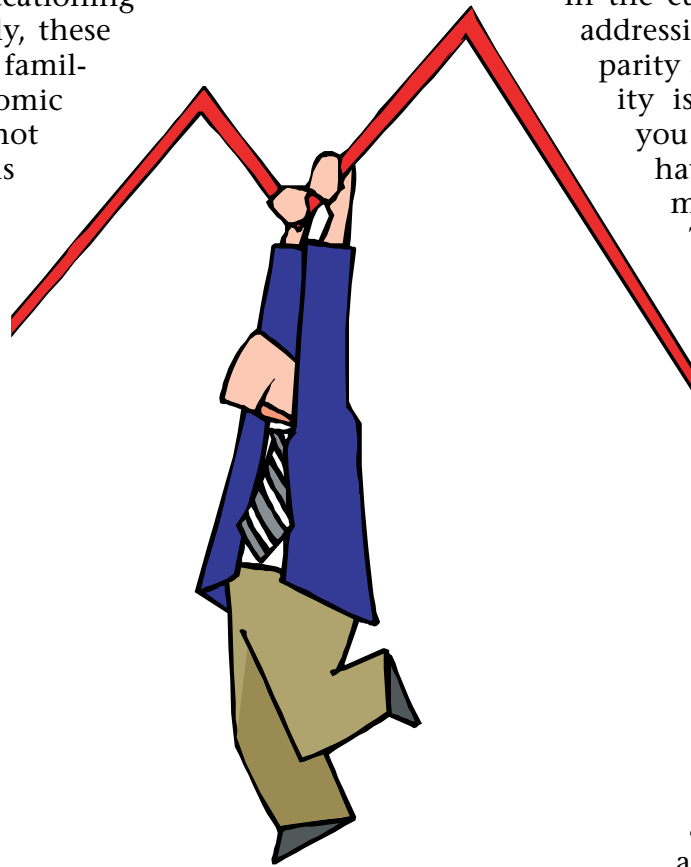
Part-Time Faculty Association of Allan Hancock College • Parity & Fairness Through Advocacy



HANG IN THERE!

Hang in there. Bite the bullet. Tough it out. Unless you've been vacationing in a parallel universe lately, these idioms are distressingly familiar. We are amid an economic melt down that, while not unprecedented, threatens the well-being of all but the few. Coupled with world turmoil that makes matters even less certain, it's no wonder that confidence levels have plummeted.

Yes, as before, we will endure this, but success will require perseverance, cooperation, and collaboration. This is where the PFA comes in. As a collective bargaining unit we can accomplish that which an individual cannot. We not only need to move forward, but also need to protect what we have by preventing any "take backs." With the present California budget cuts to



education, this is a genuine concern. In the current negotiations, we are addressing, among other items, parity and assignment rights. Parity is vitally important, but if you think about it, if you don't have an assignment it doesn't matter what your pay rate is.

That's why we're negotiating for some measure of job security, some measure of assurance that part-timers will have the maximum number of assignments they are entitled to.

Tough times or not, parity, assignment rights, working conditions and other part-timer issues will continue to be works in progress. They are certainly more difficult to address during harsh times, and likely will require bold and innovative solutions, but together we can do it.

So hang in there, keep your suggestions and comments coming, and know that the PFA is working for you.

— DORRAN NADEAU

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President's Report

MARK JAMES MILLER, PFA President

Our New Look

Earlier this fall, the newsletter committee (Roberto Armstrong, Susan Case, Dorran Nadeau and I) set several goals. One was to publish *The Voice* eight times a year. Another was to make our newsletter the equal, in content and presentation, of any local's newsletter in the state. We think we are succeeding, and with each new edition we receive many compliments. But we always want to hear from you, our readers, so if there is anything you particularly like (or don't like) about *The Voice*, we would appreciate knowing about it.

Community College Council

On October 10 I attended the California Federation of Teacher's Community College Council meeting at the Oakland Convention Center. These council meetings are held quarterly, and attended by representatives from locals like ours that represent community college instructors from across the state, both full and part-time. Among those present were CFT President Marty Hittelman, Council President Carl Friedlander, and CFT Treasurer Dennis Smith.



Gary Aston (L) and CFT Representative Mike Terman at the Tri-Counties Central Labor Council's Labor Leader of the Year Dinner.

There were reports from locals around the state and I gave a summary of what is going on with the PFA. I am pleased that our Association's accomplishments are being noticed and admired by the leaders of other locals. In a short time we have gone from an up-and-coming, struggling local to one that others are looking to for guidance and inspiration. The hard work and dedication of our people are paying dividends.

Our CFT Area Representative, Mike Terman, was elected president of The Field Representatives Union, the group that represents the area representatives, lobbyists, staff workers and others employed by the CFT throughout the state of California. We want to extend our congratulations to Mike (pictured in this issue with Gary Aston), whose leadership and bargaining skills have done so much for us and will certainly be an asset to his fellow staffers.

State Executive Council

On October 11 I attended the state executive council meeting. This gathering, also held every three months, includes all groups within CFT—Early Childhood Educators, K-12 teachers, Community College instructors, university instructors, and the classified employees represented by our union. Among the highlights of this all-day event was an appearance and speech by Jack O'Connell, the state superintendent of public instruction. Mr. O'Connell is a staunch friend of education, labor, and the CFT. He spoke of the need

to solve the state's ongoing budget problems rather than remain in an ongoing budget crisis, and of the need for more cooperation and less partisanship in Sacramento.

Mr. O'Connell was followed by State Assembly Member Loni Hancock, another friend of education and labor. "Next year will be all about the budget," she said, for there is much speculation that the next fiscal year will be worse than this one.

There were reports by our state lobbyists (CFT has three lobbyists working full-time in Sacramento: Judith Michaels, Dolores Sanchez, and Jeff Freitas),

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Negotiating Team

Gary Aston

Susan Case

Mark Miller

Dorran Nadeau

Mike Terman, CFT Representative

Publications Director/Editor-in-Chief

Dorran Nadeau

Direct correspondence to:

The Voice

910 E. Stowell, Suite 112

P.O. Box 1257

Santa Maria, CA 93456

Telephone 805 352-0145

Fax 805 352-1318

E-mail ahcpfa@verizon.net

Web www.ahcpfa.org

Member's daughter wins CFT scholarship

In an historic first for the Part-Time Faculty Association, Lynn Torbert, daughter of Local 6185 member George Torbert, has won a \$3,000 Raoul Teilhet Scholarship from the California Federation of Teachers.

George Torbert, who teaches ESL at Allan Hancock College, saw an advertisement for the scholarship in a recent edition of *The Voice*. He and daughter Lynn, 20, completed the application just before the deadline expired, and both are delighted that Lynn, a communications major at Cal State San Marcos, is the recipient of the award. Lynn is a graduate of Righetti High School and also attended Allan Hancock College before transferring to San Marcos. George's day job is as a 6th grade teacher at Taylor Elementary School in Santa Maria. He has taught at Allan Hancock College

for three years. "I enjoy teaching here," he says. "I feel as if I am making a difference in the lives of the people I teach." George also had high praise for the Part-Time Faculty Association. "I've heard so many good things about what you've done for part-time instructors," he said. "I hope you continue."

The Raoul Teilhet Scholarship program was established in 1997 to honor former CFT President Raoul Teilhet, who led the union from 1968 to 1985. The awards are based on academic achievement, financial need, special talent and skills. They are awarded to high school seniors and continuing college students who are children or dependents of CFT members. More information is available at the CFT Web site at www.cft.org. You can also call the CFT Burbank Office at 818 843-8226.

— Mark Miller



Lynn Torbert, recipient of Raoul Teilhet Scholarship.

State Council

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and a report from the California Labor Federation. There were also reports on organizing—CFT has successfully organized Early Childhood Workers in Sunnyvale, and Charter Schools in Richmond and Ukiah.

We have gone from an up-and-coming, struggling local to one that others are looking to for guidance and inspiration.

Labor Leader of the Year

On October 18, Gary Aston and I attended the annual Tri-Counties Central Labor Council's Labor Leader of the Year Dinner, held (as in past years) at the Marriot Residence Inn in Oxnard. (See picture in this issue.) This year's honoree was Martel Fraser, of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local Union #1036, in Ventura. Special awards were also presented to the fired workers from the Santa Barbara News Press. Among the many people in attendance were Congresswoman Lois Capps, Art Pulaski, Executive Director of the California Labor Federation, and Hannah-Beth Jackson, candidate for the State Senate, 19th District.

Bargaining Update

We have met for bargaining on the following dates: September 9, September 23, and October 7, and November 11. Office hours, evaluations, assignment rights and compensation are the articles being discussed. With the state budget in flux, bargaining is especially

challenging. While no agreements have been reached yet, we feel confident that we are moving in a positive direction and that the negotiations are going well.

Have You Voted?

No, not those elections (President of the United States, Congress, and so forth), but the one required every three years by our Association Bylaws, where officers of our local are elected. Ballots have been mailed, and must be returned by November 30. The current members of the Executive Board are running for re-election (unopposed): Mark James Miller, President, Noel Warffuel, Vice-President, Gary Aston, Secretary-

Treasurer, and Members-at-Large Roberto Armstrong, Vivian Bryan, Susan Case, Matt Hiding, Joan Mahony, and Dorran Nadeau. We will announce the official results in our next newsletter.

Do You Have A Story To Share?

As I said at the start of this, we want to hear from you. Do you have a story to share? Do you have an experience that our readers would enjoy or should know about? Something I have discovered since becoming president of our Association is that we (the part-time faculty) are an extremely interesting, talented, and diverse group, many of whom have many wonderful talents and experiences that need to be told. If you or someone you know fits this description, please contact us.

New Members

- Vanessa Ballam
- Alexandra Bell
- Richard Crain
- Henry Davis
- Michael De Jesus
- John Fritsche
- Craig Hendricks

Focus On: Anna Davies—Woman on the go

BY SUSAN CASE

Anna Davies is a woman on the go. Having grown up in Puyallup, Washington and graduating from Fife High School with a class of 85, Anna took her beloved Aunt Joane's advice and jumped into life. She became the first member of her family to pursue a college education. Coming from a small town she chose to start at Tacoma Community College which she says "made all the difference in being a success." Looking for a way to serve others, Anna earned her BA in Social Work. Her education led her to working with disadvantaged communities and the homeless, and she began a life long interest in diversity. "I've always been in the people business," says Anna whose ambition took her to City University where she earned her Masters in Education.

organize human endeavor" inspire Anna's drive and resiliency.

I asked how work on her PH.D. was coming, and the answer was "A.B.D. All But the Dissertation." Anna believes that in the future community colleges are going to need more financial support from private sources and her dissertation looks at what these college foundations will need to be successful.

Having now been a college administrator for 7 years, Anna is impressed with how well respected Hancock College is in the community. She is inspired by recently meeting a mother of 3 who finished our nursing program and for the first time will earn a living wage. As Vice President of Instruction she says "you always have to

As Vice President of Instruction she says "you always have to look at the long vision and consider the consequences of your choices."

She started her career in education at Clover Park Technical College as a teacher, then as a dean.

When she arrived at Cuesta College 4 years ago, it was as "Dean of Everything"—math, science, nursing, athletics and P.E. Her many responsibilities led to the discovery that "each discipline has a unique personality that promotes diversity of thought." An admirer of author and thinker Margaret Wheatley (*Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future*) Anna believes that "organizations are living systems; without diversity any ecosystem will die." Ms. Wheatley's ideas on a "finer way to

look at the long vision and consider the consequences of your choices."

Anna jokes about the planets aligning with her arrival at AHC that coincided with the beginning of the compressed calendar, accreditation and strategic planning. There were immediate decisions to be made with the difficult reality of choosing between legitimate needs and critical needs. "No one enters administration unless they really want to help," says a woman who is sensitive to frustration. "I personally care for the people I work with. We need to be committed to stay together and move forward."



Anna Davies, Vice President of Instruction

In her role as an administrator Anna has been exposed to most areas—except for Fine Arts. This semester she was asked by fine arts instructor, Bob Nichols, to participate in his recent one man show in the AHC art gallery. She now has a beautiful piece of ceramic art in her office, and this "learning experience" has inspired her to enroll in a ceramics class next spring.

Despite the demands of her job, Anna enjoys hanging out with her dogs, a pug and a Boston terrier and has a great time on the weekends with a local group of golfers. A woman with an easy laugh, Anna is committed to leadership, diversity, humanness and forgiveness. Anna Davies is still "very much in the people business."

Part-Time Faculty Association
P.O. Box 1257
Santa Maria, CA 93456

