

VOICE

COOK COUNTY COLLEGE TEACHERS UNION,
LOCAL 1600, AFT, AFL-CIO
FALL 2010

Local 1600 at the IFT Convention: "We stood up!"

*"The IFT
does not need
another
high-priced
administrator;
the IFT needs
more resources
in the field."*

—Bill Naegele



The fifty-one Local 1600 delegates "stood up" for what was right at the IFT Convention.

Many times conventions are pro-forma affairs. The proverbial "t's" have already been crossed and the "i's" dotted well before the event has begun. However, at the IFT Convention on October 15-17 at the St. Louis Renaissance Grand Hotel, it was anything but pro-forma.

Going into the convention there were a number of issues up in the air. First, both offices, President and Secretary-Treasurer, were vacant with no clear front-runners. Secondly there was a proposed constitutional amendment to make an executive position full-time and to create a brand new position, Executive Vice-President (EVP), which was quite controversial.

The reason why Local 1600 brought its full contingent of fifty-one delegates was to oppose the amendment. Both President **Perry Buckley** and Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** spoke to the convention in opposition. "As both [current President] **Ed Geppert** and [Sec.-Treas.] **Marilyn Stewart** have shown, the IFT can function well with two part-time positions," Buckley said. "The IFT does not need another high-priced administrator; the IFT needs more resources in the field," Naegele added.

Despite Local 1600 opposition, the amendment narrowly passed with a two-thirds majority and nominations for officers were taken. Running

unopposed were **Marcia Boone** of Local 6600 for Sec.-Treas. and **Karen Lewis** of Local 1 for EVP. Both won by acclamation. However, there were two candidates nominated for IFT President: Buckley and Local 1274's **Dan Montgomery**.

After a lunch break, each candidate was allowed to make a campaign speech. Buckley, who went first, used his speech to mention his concern for the direction of the IFT before graciously stepping down in the name of unionism to give unanimous support to Montgomery.

"Every time that we [the IFT] change our leadership, we have also changed the constitution to suit individuals. The main reason for my running," Buckley continued, "is simply cost. For the last term, we had only two officers receiving part-time salaries,

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...



Perry J. Buckley

“Any life, no matter how long and complex it may be, is made up of a single moment — the moment in which a man finds out, once and for all, who he is.” — Jorge Luis Borges

I am writing this column less than 12 hours after the conclusion of the 2010 Illinois Federation of Teachers Convention in St. Louis. In anticipation of “floor fights” over conventional changes, policy votes, as well as the general business that is the nature of conventions, Local 1600 sent a full delegation of 51 CCCTU members.

We went to the convention with positions we thought good for the IFT and our members. We went as part of a coalition of several like-thinking Locals who agreed to stand together.

Politics often is a bemusing, fascinating, yet also a frustrating, even exasperating business. And make no mistake: union business is politics on myriad levels. Union conventions and federations, as well, are exercises in the same political intrigue you would expect of any body politic. Wheeling and dealing, backroom deals and threats, coalitions and alliances, promises and broken promises all come with the territory. It is not a place for the timid or weak. The key is to never take it personally; try and work for the common good of your members; stick to your word and your principles. Most importantly, when the battle is over, and votes have been cast, you come together for the good of the organization and the people it serves.

You can be proud of the 51 IFT Local 1600 delegates you voted to represent you in St. Louis. When the one defining moment presented itself they distinguished themselves with honor. When a “division of the house” required delegates to stand and be counted, literally, to a controversial and unpopular position, every single one of them stood. They did on that floor what they said they would do. They stood, as one, for their principles. It was a sublime “single moment” that defined them and our Union. They stood when others sat.

For the next day and a half other delegates, many who had never met us before, congratulated our delegates with respect, admiration, and even envy. Many said: “I admire the unity and solidarity in your local. I wish we had what you have.” There is not greater compliment in the “Union business” than that. I am so proud of every one of our delegates.

This respect and deference to Local 1600 was made palpably evident in the election for IFT vice-presidents. Forty-seven people ran for IFT vice-president. Local 1600’s two candidates, Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** and Harper Faculty President **Tom Dowd** placed first and second. This was a cathartic moment that helped reunite us with our brothers and sisters with whom we disagreed on matters of policy and principle. Bill and Tom will both represent and fight for us on the IFT Executive Board for the next three years.

Election Note:

There is an old political adage: “There are no permanent enemies, no permanent allies, just permanent interests.” This year Local 1600 neither endorsed nor contributed funds to a single representative or senator that voted for the two-tier pension plan. This also was applied to Governor Quinn who signed the bill. Since then the IFT has endorsed the governor, but not the representatives and senators.

So what should we do on November 2nd? We should be pragmatic. We should vote for our “former” friends who we have put “on the naughty step” for their ill-conceived vote. This includes Governor Quinn. If Senator Brady and the Republicans get in, we won’t be worrying about a two-tier pension plan. We will be worrying about a three-, four-, and five-tier pension plan. As I told one legislator who lamented our position due to “a single vote” in an otherwise solid record: “That is just like a husband saying he should be forgiven for ‘just one indiscretion.’ But the good news is we are not divorcing you. You are just sleeping on the couch until you realize what you have done and earn our trust back.” I think he “got it.”



COOK COUNTY COLLEGE TEACHERS UNION, LOCAL 1600, AFL-CIO

- President.....Perry Buckley
- Vice President, City Colleges Division.....Rochelle Robinson-Dukes
- Vice President, Suburban Faculty.....Jim O’Malley
- Vice President, Suburban Classified.....Jillian Verstrate
- Secretary.....Patricia Wenthold
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- Legislative Representative.....Bill Naegele
- Grievance Chairman.....Tom Kodogeorgiou
- Special Assistant to the President.....Randy Barnette
- Editorial Chair.....Todd Lakin
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- Special Contributor.....Bob Blackwood

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Professionalism in the Workplace - Friendship



By
Brenda D. Pryor, Esq.

Dear Union Brothers
& Sisters,

I am writing to you today to make you aware of an issue that is coming up more and more at your colleges: workplace friendships and “professionalism.” As the colleges have become fearful of lawsuits they have become more aggressive in their policing of behavior in the office and the classroom. Here are some tips to hopefully keep you out of trouble at the job in this new era of hypervigilance and intense scrutiny.

The first thing that you should be aware of is that while professionalism involves a person being “friendly” in the workplace, it does not mean that everyone is your friend. Coworkers **must** keep workplace relationships professional. The goal at work for most people is advancement, so a friend today can be a foe tomorrow as everyone seeks to be noticed by the right players within their organization. Remember that while you may love your job and enjoy your co-workers, at the end of the day you are in a professional environment and the goals of your department or college are driven by business decisions, not personal ones.

Boundary issues are another thing to be concerned about when navigating friendship in the

workplace. Employees who become friends on the job may share too much personal information about themselves, which can then come back to haunt them if a colleague is promoted or shares the personal details with others. Don’t forget human nature: a colleague whom you upset may become vindictive and use things you’ve shared with them against you. Please realize that the fallout from some disclosures can be devastating to your career if they reach the wrong ears, so I advise caution when sharing personal information with a “friend” at work.

The key here is **balance**: finding a way to establish amicable acquaintances with the people you work with while avoiding the pitfalls of friendship gone wrong. The first step is to not get so emotional. Your office interactions have to proceed according to the goals of your department, not what you “feel” is right or wrong. When employees allow their emotions to get involved, it is difficult to separate the personal from the professional. Another tip is to clearly outline goals and objectives in writing – this way no one can “stab you in the back” and misrepresent your position or actions on a particular project. Also, while on the college’s time focus on your tasks, projects and assignments; this way, you can’t be accused of not fulfilling your job duties because of socializing. Lastly, remember to be respectful of your co-workers, supervisors or subordinates when they let you know they want to keep their relationships with you professional.

It doesn’t matter if you are male or female, supervisor or subordinate, the stakes are just too high to risk ignoring the personal/professional boundaries of others in your workplace.

IFT Convention (continued from Front Page)

and they did a good job. I fear, however, that the compensation will rise with three officers.”

“Nonetheless, if you had asked me who we would most likely support of the 40 IFT vice-presidents, I would have said, ‘Dan Montgomery,’ and we support that choice today,” Buckley stated. “So I withdraw my candidacy in support of Dan, and only ask that you support our two Local 1600 candidates for IFT vice-president: Bill Naegele and **Tom Dowd**.” Both were elected the next day with the most and second most votes of all 47 candidates for vice president.

With that announcement, Buckley sat down to a standing ovation. Out-going President Geppert praised Buckley for his “unselfish act” while new President Montgomery thanked Buckley for his “unionism.”

Later, at the Saturday night dinner after the voting, Buckley thanked the members for all being there for the important vote and for giving him their support.

For more information on the IFT Convention, including resolutions, committee reports and recorded speeches, visit the IFT website at www.ift-aft.org. For Local 1600 photos of the event, visit [SmugMug](http://local1600.smugmug.com/) at <http://local1600.smugmug.com/>.

Kennedy-King Chapter Honors Prof. Meryl Junius, Founder of the Kennedy-King College Women's Center

At 8:30 a.m., Chapter Chair **Arlicia Corley** welcomed the Local 1600 Kennedy-King Chapter members and the new Local 1600 CCC Vice President **Rochelle Robinson-Dukes** and Legal Counsel **Brenda Pryor** to the KKC Distinguished Professor's Breakfast on Aug. 9 in the "U" Building's Black Box Theater. English Professor **Meryl Junius** was this year's honoree as "distinguished professor." Junius, who has been at KKC since 2002, rising from adjunct to tenured professor in the English Department, has been a busy woman during the last eight years:

- She founded the **Mary McLeod Bethune Women's Center**. Junius developed it as a tenure project. She raised money to give scholarships to men and women both for community involvement as well as academic achievement. She was assisted by her sister—**Iris Ade**—who serves on the board of the women's center.
- She also is the chief advisor to the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.
- In addition, Junius has been active in the Union Scholarship Committee.

Corley also introduced our union's new CCC V. P. **Rochelle Robinson-Dukes**, who hardly needed any introduction, as she worked as an adjunct at KKC from 1993-96. In fact, she sat down after the event was over to chat with her former mentor, English Professor **Martha Vertreace-Doody**. That climaxed with Robinson-Dukes sharing photos of her young son, **Scott**. As Robinson-Dukes said, "Kennedy-King was my first home in the CCC, and I'll never forget the people I've met here."



Iris Ade, Women's Center board-member, Distinguished Prof. **Meryl Junius**, KKC Chapter Chair **Arlicia Corley** and CCC V. P. **Rochelle Robinson-Dukes** show their solidarity to the chapter.

In addition, Corley noted the Local 1600 Jazz Fest, which she and others were working on, is to be an informal Local 1600 event to bring people together from different campuses to socialize in a pleasant environment. The jazz fest concept was only one outgrowth of the work done at last summer's union retreat by Corley and many others in a variety of social networking areas.

KKC President **John Dozier** joined the group, introduced himself to most of the people present and did his best to start off the new school year with a friendly welcome to the full-time and adjunct faculty and the professionals present at the breakfast. At 9:50, Dozier also led them to the Great Hall for the start of the morning's discussion to open the semester



Union House Representative **Lonnie Hall**; Chapter Chair **Arlicia Corley**; KKC President **John Dozier**; CCC V.P. **Rochelle Robinson-Dukes** and Legal Counsel **Brenda Pryor** strike a pose for the chapter members.



It was a packed breakfast in the Black Box Theater at KKC.

Illinois Community Colleges: Disaster Now, Recovery Tomorrow?

On Aug. 18, three knowledgeable analysts gathered to create a TV show at the CAN-TV studio to analyze the causes of the State of Illinois' fiscal disaster and the chances of recovery with a sharp focus on Illinois community colleges. **Tom Ryder**, legislative counsel of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) and a former Republican member of the Illinois House for 18 years; Democratic Candidate **Thaddeus Jones** (running for state representative in the 29th District, and a former South Suburban Community College Student Trustee); and **Bill Naegele**, Legislative Chair of the Cook County College Teachers Union participated in a one-hour show hosted by CCCTU Webmaster **Bob Blackwood**.

Blackwood, who has hosted a number of shows on this problem, said: "These gentlemen know how the legislature works. Ryder is an experienced lobbyist and a former legislator with a very good record. Thaddeus Jones has been lobbying for years, first as a student trustee and later in issues dealing with his responsibilities as alderman of Calumet City's Third Ward. Bill Naegele is a very active legislative chair



Tom Ryder, Bill Naegele, Thaddeus Jones and Bob Blackwood talk money, jobs and education.

for the CCCTU. He is downstate throughout the year, and knows both the players and the issues thoroughly. As a math professor, he knows when people are using more fantasy than accuracy in their budgets."

A third of the show dealt with the bipartisan nature of the threats to the pension system and the underfunding of the community colleges. Another third dealt with the revision in the pension system. And the final portion covered what can be done when the new governor and the General Assembly meet in 2011. The show was broadcast on Chicago Cable Channel 19 in early September. It was also broadcast in some suburban and downstate areas due to the efforts of Jones and Ryder's ICCTA.

Dowd Becomes a Grade School Teacher in Commercial

It was a sultry Aug. 23 when **Tom Dowd**, the chapter chair of Harper College's faculty chapter, played a grade school teacher in an AFL-CIO commercial for TV and/or Internet distribution around Labor Day.

As Dowd noted, "It must have been a well-financed effort. At one point, I counted 11 people in the room, not counting you and me."

Dowd patiently and with spontaneity, responded to every request that **Melissa Costello**, the director, made. He worked math problems with a first-grade girl for almost an hour, keeping her amused and on-track. He posed at a desk as if he were recording grades or planning a lesson. He stood at and also near the doorway and recited lines, such as:

- "Hi, my name is Tom. I love to golf. I love to teach. And I am the union."
- "I'm a teacher. And I am the union."
- "We work to give your kids a better life."
- "We work to make our community safe."
- "We work to build our country."

When it was all finished, Tom enjoyed a spritzer of carbonated soda with a splash of cranberry juice. "I have a relative in the business. Two hours is actually pretty short, they usually go for eight hours," he said.

Dowd had given up an afternoon when he might have been playing golf to sweat under the lights for no pay. "I'm glad to get our Union's message out to Mr. and Mrs. Chicagoland," he added.



Tom Dowd has a discussion with **Nora Frederickson** and **Karen Lynn** (makeup) before the shooting begins.

Governor Appoints Barnette to ICCB

"Randy Barnette's service both to this union and to the State of Illinois has been remarkable and successful."

—Perry Buckley



Chairman of the College and University Credit Union **Randy Barnette** guides the board of this 40-year-old business with union board members **Tony Johnston**, **Chuck Mustari**, Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele**, Treasurer **Don Radtke** and CUCU President **Kevin Barrett** which met on Aug. 20, 2010, in the union's downtown office.

Governor **Pat Quinn** has appointed Assistant to the President **Randy Barnette** to the Illinois Community College Board. The eleven members of the board appointed by the governor are confirmed by the Senate for six-year terms. A student is selected by the ICCB Student Advisory Committee for a one-year term. The ICCB utilizes the advice and counsel of all constituent groups of the community college system in establishing policies necessary to implement state statutes. **Guy Alongi** chairs the ICCB.

Barnette will continue as assistant to President **Perry Buckley** of the Cook County College Teachers Union, while doing his public service on the ICCB. Barnette has a history of successful service with both management and labor in the community college environment as well as in his service to the Democratic Party.

In 1999, Barnette became Intergovernmental District Director of the City Colleges of Chicago.

He frequently travelled to Springfield to lobby legislators for over four years. Then, he came to the Illinois Community College Board for three years as Vice President of Public Affairs, again, functioning as a liaison between his institution and the General Assembly.

In March, 2007, Barnette accepted the position of assistant to the president of the CCCTU. Buckley noted, "Randy Barnette's service both to this union and to the State of Illinois has been remarkable and successful."

Barnette's thoughts on his appointment were brief: "I think my appointment reflects the governor's confidence in my history of working with community colleges, particularly my working for the Cook County College Teachers Union. I will be working with the General Assembly seeking to increase funding and for other favorable legislation.

"We must fight for more resources for Illinois community colleges. Sixty-three percent of the students in higher education in Illinois are in community colleges, yet they receive only 13% of the higher education funding. A re-evaluation of priorities is necessary here. I think the ICCB can be more aggressive here. I hope to bring new energy and focus to the board."

Barnette has not only a history of public service but also a successful history as the Democratic Chairman of Chicago's 39th Ward. His wife, **Margaret Laurino**, is the alderman of the 39th Ward. His nephew, State Representative **John D'Amico**, represents the 15th District, which includes the 39th Ward. On election days, Barnette can be found working a precinct in the 39th Ward and greeting most of his voters by name. Barnette always knows the players in any game and how to get their best efforts.

Robinson-Dukes and Mustari Attend ULI

CCC V.P. **Rochelle Robinson-Dukes** and Wright Grievance Chair **Chuck Mustari** attended the Union Leadership Institute in Lake Delavan, Wisconsin from August 1-5. They were nominated by President **Perry Buckley** to be Local 1600's representatives this year. "Rochelle and Chuck are definitely part of the next generation of leadership," Buckley stated. "Every year we send two individuals whom we believe will be outstanding leaders so that they begin to get the proper training."



Posing with Rochelle and Chuck at the "Effective Grievance Administration II" seminar are instructors **Dick Schwartz** and **Sharon Teefey**. Teefey is an IFT Legislative Director and Schwarz is the Oregon AFT Executive Director.

Sept. 17 House Meeting a World of Work for Local 1600



Perry Buckley and **Rochelle Robinson-Dukes** participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Union Facebook page at the House Meeting.

Friday, Sept. 17, was as busy an afternoon/evening period as Local 1600 has created for awhile. Retirees Chapter Chair **Norm Swenson** met with the House members of the union to discuss threats to their pensions and life-styles. President **Perry Buckley** explained to the retirees gathered in the basement and to the Union House, afterwards, that we would not be endorsing any candidates who voted for the diminishing of retirement benefits for persons hired on Jan. 1, 2011 or afterward. At the same time, upstairs in the union office, Harper's **Dave Richmond**, who chairs the Retreat's Negotiations Committee, was meeting with Harper Faculty Chair **Tom Dowd**, Triton Faculty Chair **Debra Baker** and Moraine Valley Faculty Chair **Jan Hill**.

Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** assembled five candidates for the union's endorsement, which means a check plus other "in kind" assistance for their campaigns.

State Senator **John Mulroe** (D, 10), an accountant, was appointed to the office previously held by State Senator **James DeLeo** a month ago, hence Mulroe had not voted on the two-tier retirees' bill. State Representative candidates included **Thaddeus Jones** (D, 49), who had appeared on the most recent CAN-TV show calling for increased funding for community colleges; **Ann Williams** (D, 11), a lake-front resident who has a history of supporting consumer issues; **Daniel Biss** (D, 17), a former math professor; and **Matt Flamm** (D, 54), who believes in quality education for students in state-supported schools, including his two daughters, graduates of Palatine High.

At the beginning of the House Meeting, V. P. CCC **Rochelle Robinson-Dukes**, who chairs the Retreat's Technology Committee, set up a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Perry Buckley for the CCCTU Facebook Page, which has **Jennifer Visk** as its editor. Please check out the new social media contact page.

The meeting continued with the election of additional delegates to the IFT Convention in St. Louis next month. The IFT informed us about a month ago that we were entitled to more delegates, so we did our best to find people to serve and elected all that we could.

At the end of a long meeting, **Dennis Fitzgerald** of the Wright College Security Chapter was given an award for having a union chapter that was 100% union—no "Fair Share" members. Since "Fair Share" members pay as much as union members, it is a wonder that there are not fewer of them. The meeting ended with a round of applause for Fitzgerald and a motion to conclude by the Retirees' **Frank Pokin**.



Wright Security's **Dennis Fitzgerald** receives a commendation from **Perry Buckley** for a 100% Union chapter—no "Fair Shares."



Ann Williams (11) speaks as candidates **Matt Flamm** (54), **John Mulroe** (10), **Thaddeus Jones** (49) and **Bill Naegele** listen.

CAMPUS VISITS

Faculty Development Week at MXC



Olive-Harvey



Wright



Daley



TCEA



CAMPUS VISITS

Truman



Triton Mid-Managers



Malcolm X



Harper Pro-Tech



CAMPUS VISITS

MVEA



MVEAO



South Suburban Faculty



*For photos of all events visit
<http://local1600.smugmug.com/>*

Chuck Mustari: A Busy Man with a Big Family

Special Assistant to the President **Chuck Mustari** started teaching mathematics at Wright College in 1995 with a Master's Degree in Mathematics from DePaul University. Soon, Mustari was serving as the Wright Chapter's secretary. From 2000 on, he served as a Union House member for the chapter.

Mustari ran the Wright College picket line during the Strike of 2004, since then-Chapter Chair Clyde Walker was on the negotiating team. For the last six years, he served as the Wright Chapter's grievance chair: dealing with grievants, the chapter's leadership, the CCC administration and the union leadership downtown. Concurrently, Mustari has been serving as a special assistant to President **Perry Buckley**.

Working for Buckley can involve anything. "Design and print me 5,000 strike posters in two days," was one request," Mustari said. Verifying the pay scale for any contract, determining the actual value of a health insurance program, driving a shuttle to Springfield, and, even, catering an event can all come under the job description of the special assistant to the president.

During the last semester, Mustari was asked to take on an awesome burden—serving as the acting grievance chair for the CCCTU. **Tom Kodogeorgiou**, the elected grievance chair, was on a much-deserved sabbatical. Mustari picked up the burden from Kodogeorgiou and carried the ball well.

Fortunately, at the IFT Great Lakes Institute at Lake Delavan, WI, Mustari had taken the Grievance I training program in 2009 and the Grievance II training program in 2010. As Mustari puts it, "You have to learn the difference between a 'gripe'—a minor complaint you may have about the personality of a particular supervisor, which probably will never change—vs. a 'grievance'—a violation of a collective bargaining agreement."



Chuck Mustari is a friendly man in a tough business.

Lately, Mustari has been busy making presentations: at Triton College on bullying in the workplace for the classified chapter, at the 2010 retreat on the "Legal and Grievance" panel with Brenda Pryor, Esq., covering "Legal" and Mustari covering "Grievance." Buckley's comment on Mustari bodes well for his future: "The more work I give Chuck, the more work he gets done."

What you may not know about Chuck Mustari is that he and **Jennifer Mustari** have a big family. **William**, 12, is in the seventh grade; **Sara**, 9, in the fourth; **Marissa**, 5, in kindergarten; and **Nicolas**, 4, in pre-school. Although Mustari says he hasn't had a real vacation in about nine years, he has found time to coach both his son and daughter's soccer teams in the Southside Conference and serves as the treasurer of Queen of Martyrs' Holy Name Society, at 103rd St. & Central Park, Chicago. And though he has a 20' fishing boat, he hasn't been fishing on it for at least eight years, though he has had a rod and reel in his hands whenever the occasion permitted him to do so.

Although his favorite restaurant is Capri's at Harlem Avenue & 120th Street, he often prefers to cook himself with recipes he learned from "The Frugal Gourmet" television shows and from his mother. "My wife thinks I should have been a chef," Mustari says.

We all appreciate what Chuck Mustari has done, but some of us wonder whether he will ever take a vacation. Chuck, it is never too late.

Vote November 2!

Rose Sakanis



“Our members work hard to service all our students.”

—Rose Sakanis

We have had a Moraine Valley Support Staff Chapter since October 1984, for as long as we have had public sector bargaining sanctioned by Illinois legislation. For the last 13 of those years, **Rose Sakanis** has been chapter chair and assists about 225 members.

Rose works in the Academic Initiatives and Accountability division of the college as a secretary and curriculum assistant. For the past year, Rose has been busy working with teams of others at Moraine on implementing a new business system. Her members work in a variety of jobs: groundskeepers, financial aid expeditors, secretaries, bookstore clerks, payroll clerks, custodians, and maintenance mechanics, among other jobs. "Our members work hard to service all our students."

Rose said: "I think our members are happy for the most part. Our summer workweek program is one of the most popular benefits that we have. We work an extra 15 minutes four days a week during the school year proper; in return, we get Friday afternoons off from Memorial Day to the second week

of August. We have a very good contract. The members, both full-time and part-time, have excellent healthcare coverage. Everyone is glad to have that today, and not every contract offers the health insurance option to part-time workers.

"Part of the reason we've been successful is our wonderful executive committee: **Renee Skotnik, Helen Agresti, Julie Poulos, Karen Crofton and Lynn Doulas**. They all help out here. I couldn't possibly do without them. And we get along well with both the faculty chapter and the adjunct faculty chapter. There is real solidarity among all the chapters."

"And, over the years, we've had a good relationship with our administration. Yes, we won a few grievances and lost a few grievances, but we don't hold any grudges. We are fortunate to have President **Vernon Crawley** and his administration. He is a very fair man and we all work together to solve our problems."

Sakanis comes from a union family; her husband has been a member of Local 73, Sheet Metal Workers for over 40 years. Her daughter, **Dawn**, holds a master's in Curriculum and Instruction and a bilingual education certificate. She is a sixth grade science teacher in Local One who recently earned tenure. Her grandson, **Johnathan**, is the joy of her life. "I love spending time with him; he is so bright and creative."

Sakanis says, "I really like what I do." She enjoys working with the members and helping solve their problems. Her chapter is working under a five-year contract that expires on June 2011. Like everyone else in the chapter, she is hoping that the economy will pick up before they head to the negotiating table.

You should know Rose Sakanis.

Have you moved? Please send us your new address:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/ZIP _____
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 College (or former college): _____

Mail to:
 College Union Voice • Cook County College Teachers Union
 208 W. Kinzie St., Chicago, IL 60654 or;
 e-mail your address to: tlakin@local1600.org

UPCOMING DATES:

November 2:

Election Day

November 19:

House meeting at Triton College

January 21:

House meeting

February 18:

Executive Board

March 18:

House Meeting & Election Certification

Gov. Quinn Praises Buckley & Teachers at Harper; The IFT Endorses Quinn

Tuesday, Oct. 5, was a busy day for **Perry Buckley**. He had been requested by two different sources to attend Governor **Patrick Quinn's** visit to Harper College, where the governor would announce about \$8 million in state capital funds to enable the college to begin designing the renovation of the Engineering and Technology Center, as well as the replacement of the Hospitality Facility. The funding is the first step in projects that are expected to generate around 225 jobs.

Buckley arrived early accompanied by Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele**. Harper Faculty Chapter Chair **Tom Dowd** and House Rep. **David Richmond** came for the ceremony. Harper President **Ken Ender** took the microphone and opened the press conference in the welding lab on the second floor of the college's "D" Building with students working in the background.

Ender praised the governor for making an appearance, thanked State Senator **Michael Noland** (D-22, Elgin) for being there and for voting for the appropriation, unlike other senators, and praised Buckley for coming out from Chicago. Then he gave the microphone to the governor. Quinn stated that he believed in investing in people, in creating jobs for the future. "We need human infrastructure. I taught at a community college at night. I was impressed by the students who wanted to improve their skills." He praised Business Manager **Jim Buchanan** from Pipe Fitters Local 597 as a man concerned about jobs for his members. Quinn noted 12 veterans just back from Afghanistan, whom he had met. They were welding students in southern Illinois. "Welding is a good middle class job. It gives people enough money to raise a family," the governor noted.

Then the governor introduced: "the faculty's spokesman, President Perry Buckley of Local 1600" and began to praise both him and his members: "Teachers are our heroes. You have to learn important things. It is a lifelong process, just understanding the world around you. The most important thing in the world is education." Buckley's comments were very brief, praising the faculty, staff and students of Harper College for working together with the administration to provide a college where people could learn a variety of skills to make a living and prosper. If the students choose to go on to achieve an undergraduate degree and beyond, that is their choice, too, and their teachers are happy to help and inspire them.

Senator Noland noted the pleasure it gave him to support state funding which would create jobs both in the community immediately and would educate others to find good jobs in the near future. After Noland's remarks, **Adam Phan**, a young welder who received training at Harper College beginning in 2007, spoke, a living example of Nolan's concerns. Phan noted he had doubled his hourly rate at his firm when he completed his welding training. The welding students in the back of the welding lab pricked up their ears at his remarks.

The meeting ended with some photos and some expressions of good fellowship all around. Later that day, the Executive Board of the IFT met with Buckley and Naegele in attendance. They gave their support for Quinn as the IFT-endorsed candidate. The race is on.



Special Assistant to the Governor on Labor Affairs **Jeff Crabtree**, **Bill Naegele**, and **Perry Buckley** chat about politics and the election before the speeches begin at the Harper College Welding Lab.



State Senator **Michael Noland** (D-22, Elgin), Harper Pres. **Ken Enders**, AFT Local 1600 Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele**, Governor **Patrick Quinn**, Local 1600 Pres. **Perry Buckley** (at podium), Harper Faculty Chapter Chair **Tom Dowd**, and **Adam Phan**, welder, at the Welding Laboratory.

The Pension Fund Remains Secure

By: William Mabe, Executive Director, SURS



Bill Mabe is the new executive director of SURS. He spoke to the Retirees Chapter on June 23 at the Parthenon restaurant in Chicago.

Contrary to the headlines, the pension fund remains secure. However, in order to remain secure, the annual required contribution must be paid in full. Employer contributions and investment re-turns are not enough; therefore, it is important that we vigorously continue our efforts to get the required state contributions. SURS advised the Governor and the State Comptroller of the fiscal year 2011 state contribution amount required by the 50 year retirement system funding program (Pub. Act 88–593) that has been in effect since FY’96.

The required amount, which is determined actuarially based on the System’s June 30, 2009, fiscal year–end results, is \$888.1 million. Although an estimated \$40 million will be received by SURS from non–state funding sources, the remaining \$848.1 million will come from the state’s General Revenue Fund and the state’s unclaimed property fund, which is called the State Pension Fund.

SURS and the other four state contributory retirement systems have now been operating under the statutory funding program for 15 years. This funding program is designed to assure that each of the systems will have assets sufficient to cover 90% of their liabilities for present and earned future benefits no later than the end of state fiscal year 2045. In the

aggregate, the total state required contribution for the five state systems is approximately \$3.7 billion for FY’11. In addition, the state is obligated to pay the debt service on the \$3.5 billion of pension obligation bonds (POBs) that were issued January 7, 2010, and used to fund the FY 2010 contributions.

Although the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget indicated that it is too early to tell what the state’s revenue situation will be in state FY’2011, the current forecast is certainly not encouraging with little evidence of a near term improvement, but we remain hopeful. The General Assembly adjourned without appropriating the SURS certified contribution. The System’s continuing appropriation authority is still in effect, but the state may lack the revenue to make any General Revenue Fund contributions.

SURS actuaries estimate over \$1.6 billion in benefits will be paid in FY 2011. Planned revenues total \$1.17 billion, which includes \$848 million in planned employer contributions from state appropriations, of which \$125 million will come from the state pension fund (unclaimed funds) and \$723 million will come from general revenue funds or borrowing, \$285 million in member contributions, and \$40 million in employer contributions from federal and privately funded grants. This results in an operating loss of \$427 million. Failure by the state to fully fund the employer contribution will require SURS to liquidate additional plan assets, further eroding the solvency of the pension fund.

Editorial Comment by Bob Blackwood: The SURS staff under the new Executive Director, William Mabe, is continuing to do wonders with its investment strategy. The 2010 fiscal year-to-date investment return was 15%, net of fees. Fifteen percent return in this economy is wonderful. In the past, SURS has led the other Illinois state retirement systems in its investment return and is continuing to do a professional and reliable job.

The problem, outlined in the very last sentence of Mabe’s report, is that if the state does not come through with full funding now and in the future, the well-managed SURS system will be drained of its investment funds to pay for our pensions. Your union leadership—specifically Perry Buckley and Bill Naegele—is aware of this problem as is Retirees Chapter Chair Norm Swenson, who organized the luncheon. Furthermore, as Mabe said this summer at our June 23 retirees’ luncheon: “I’m here to protect the assets of the SURS fund and to get what I need to sustain the fund.”

OUR ACTIVE RETIREES

Retirees Dug "The Hot Mikado" at Drury Lane

Retirees Chapter Chair **Norm Swenson** welcomed a good crowd of retirees for the "Hot Mikado" at Drury Lane Theater, Oakbrook Terrace, on Sept. 15. President **Perry Buckley** was there with retirees V. P. **Jim O'Malley**, Treasurer **Don Radtke**, Secretary **Pat Wenthold**, Hispanic Legislative Chair **Patricia Rangel** and famous science fiction author **Betty Anne Hull**, who was plugging her new book from Tor: *Gateways*.

After a delicious lunch, the retirees trooped in to see and hear an update of Gilbert & Sullivan's "Mikado" by **David Bell** and **Rob Bowman** called "The Hot Mikado." Bell directed the Drury Lane version, and Bell and Bowman created their own swing, rhythm & blues, Gospel and Big Band music in this score. The joint was jumpin'. Bell was no stranger to Drury Lane, and the critics and the audiences have been most kind to his efforts. Remember, retirees, these events are subsidized by your union, the Cook County College Teachers Union, a swinging group of guys and gals, dudes and dudettes, ladies and gentlemen.



While **Norm Swenson** talks Harper College with Retiree **John Eliasik**, **Frank Pokin** digs out tickets for **Darlene Eliasik** for "The Hot Mikado."



Patricia Rangel and **Perry Buckley** exchange rumors on upcoming events in Springfield at "The Hot Mikado" luncheon.

NOTICE OF LOCAL - WIDE ELECTIONS

Cook County College Teachers Union, Local 1600, AFT, IFT, AFL-CIO will hold local-wide elections March 1, 2, 3, 2010 for local-wide officers, delegates and alternate delegates to the 2012 AFT Convention and the 2013 IFT Convention.

Elected will be the Local 1600 president, three vice-presidents, secretary, grievance chair, legislative chair, and treasurer. Delegates and alternate delegates will be elected in the number authorized by the AFT and IFT. The CCCTU Constitution & Bylaws (Article VI) as well as the AFT & IFT Constitutions will dictate the nomination and election process.

To be nominated:

1. At the House of Representatives meeting on **Friday, January 21, 2011** nominations will be accepted from the floor for all offices. Nominations at this meeting may only be made by members of the House. For the nomination to be accepted at this meeting, the nominated member must either be present to accept, or have submitted in writing to the elections chair a formal acceptance letter which contains the signatures of two members as witnesses.

2. Every Candidate for Union office, including delegates and alternate delegates to conventions must have been a full member in good standing for at least four (4) years, including the election year.

3. Additional nominations may be made by petitions carrying the signatures of at least 100 members of the Union. At least five (5) signatures must be obtained from each of the chapters in the respective division (City Colleges; Suburban Faculty; Suburban Classified) to which the nominee is a member. These petitions / nominations, accompanied by written acceptances, must be submitted to the Elections Committee no later than **February 15, 2011**.

4. Elections shall take place by secret ballot at the campuses / chapters. At the discretion of the election committee, the election may be conducted by mail secret ballot pursuant to the Constitution provisions.

5. In the event that by the February 15, 2011 deadline there are no contested elections for local-wide officers, the House of Representatives may elect, by acclamation, the duly nominated candidates at the **March 18, 2011** House of Representative meeting. The delegates and alternate delegates to the IFT and AFT Conventions may also be voted by acclamation in the event that the number of candidates is the same as the number of delegates permitted.

E N D O R S E M E N T S

CCCTU GENERAL ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS

State-wide:

U.S. Senate: **Alexi Giannoulias** (D)
Governor: **Pat Quinn** (D)
Lt. Governor: **Sheila Simon** (D)
Attorney General: **Lisa Madigan** (D)
Secretary of State: **Jesse White** (D)
Treasurer: **Robin Kelly** (D)
Comptroller: **David Miller** (D)

Illinois State Senate:

10th District: **John Mulroe** (D)

Illinois House of Representatives:

11th District: **Ann Williams** (D)
17th District: **Daniel Biss** (D)
29th District: **Thaddeus Jones** (D)
54th District: **Matt Flamm** (D)

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 2ND!



Cook County College Teachers Union
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Chicago, Illinois 60654