

college union VOICE

COOK COUNTY COLLEGE TEACHERS UNION, LOCAL 1600, AFT, AFL-CIO
SPRING 2008

I-UPC Slate Sweeps All Offices Verstrate Elected Vice President, Classified

For full election
results, please
visit the website:
www.ccctu.com



Jillian Verstrate, Local 1600 classified vice president-elect, does the right thing at the ballot box on March 4 at the Des Plaines campus. Upon learning of her electoral victory Verstrate said, "I'm looking forward to being part of a team of officers and staff who have a proven work record. I am honored and humbled by the support you have shown me."

On March 7, 2008, the members of the Cook County College Teachers Union Election Committee sat down to count votes. The members were under the direction of Election Chair **Paul Janus**. They sat behind a long table where they were observed by various candidates, but without interruption, and counted ballots from noon until after 7:00 p.m. that evening.

The vice president, classified, position was the only local-wide office where there was an official contest. **Gail Wiot** from the Moraine Valley Support Chapter decided not to

run for the office. **Wiot**, however, did wage a write-in campaign against Secretary **Patricia Wenthold**. **Wenthold** won 1,463 - 141. The candidates for the classified vice president's office were **Jillian Verstrate**, the chapter chair of the Oakton Classified Chapter, and **Julius Neveles**, the chair of Prairie State Suburban Security Officers. The classified and support chapters were counted first. The tally was 396 for Verstrate; 214 for Neveles.

The counters contained members from both chapters where candidates emerged to run for the office of vice president, classified. The other seven incumbent officers were re-elected without opposition, including President **Perry Buckley**; Vice President, CCC, **Sonia Powell**; Vice President, Suburban, **Jim O'Malley**; Secretary **Patricia Wenthold**; Treasurer **Don Radtke**, Grievance Chair **Tom Kodogeorgiou**; and Legislative Chair **William Naegele**. All of the incumbents earned 90 percent or more of the total vote—e.g. President Buckley's 98.6%.

Verstrate was a member of the Independent-Union Progress Coalition, which certainly was a factor in her victory along with her own energetic campaign at her own chapter and elsewhere. Upon learning of her victory, Verstrate thanked the members of her chapter and the entire I-UPC caucus for its help in this election. She promised to be a representative of all of the classified and support chapters in the Union House and in the Union Executive Committee during the next three years.

The I-UPC swept all eight local-wide offices and all delegates to the IFT and AFT conventions.

Election results on page 4

Buckley Requests Funding Priority in Springfield

On Feb. 28, the Illinois Community College Coalition for Funding testified before the Illinois House Appropriations—Higher Education Committee. The three spokespersons before the committee of Chairman **David Miller** (D, 29) and his vice chairman, **Kevin Joyce** (D, 35), were President **Perry Buckley** of the Cook County College Teachers Union, President **Terry Bruce** of the Council of Community College Presidents and President **Kathy Wessel** of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association. Another witness, **Larry Stuffle**, legislative liaison of the Illinois Adult & Continuing Educators Association, testified as well.

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President **Perry Buckley** (second from left) called for increased community college funding before the Illinois House Appropriations - Higher Education Committee. Testifying with Buckley were (to the left) **Larry Stuffle** and (to the right) Coalition members **Kathy Wessel** and **Terry Bruce**.

Visit the CCCTU website: www.ccctu.com College Union Voice

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Perry J. Buckley

Community Colleges: Crises & Coalitions

If you have been reading the Voice, as well as the daily newspapers, over the past year it is no surprise that Springfield is still as dysfunctional as ever. We still do not have a budget. Appointments are still not being made. The state is still not paying its bills on time. Most important, the five leaders still do not work with each other to get things done.

And even though I am writing this some two weeks before it reaches you, I do so with full confidence that my words will be as true when you are reading them, as they are now when I am writing them. Stagnation remains the status quo with no relief in sight.

While this is all a nasty bit of business for all of Illinois, it is particularly dire news for the 47 community colleges in Illinois.

When you hear of any discussion of education and educational funding in Springfield, be assured they are not talking about us. In virtually every such case the state, the legislators and the press are speaking of K – 12 and, in the rare moments when higher education is mentioned, they are talking about the four-year public institutions. We not only are not on the bus... we are running to catch it.

State funding for community colleges, no matter which way you calculate it, is down drastically. The way we are supposed to be funded is simple. State funding, property taxes and tuition should each pay a third. Last year property taxes paid approximately \$750,000 of community college costs, while the state paid about \$300,000. Where is this gap made up? Tuition and fees. The result is that for the first time ever, some community colleges are coming close to the maximum permitted by law.

This academic year Illinois community college tuition per credit hour ranged from a low of \$60.00 to a high of just over \$100.00. Keep in mind, when the first community colleges (junior colleges) were formed they were an extension of the public grade and high schools. They were free. When the political arms (the state and local taxing bodies) began underfunding the colleges, the districts began first with registration fees, and then with "modest" tuition fees. While \$300.00 per course is still low compared to other public and private colleges and universities, it is still an amount far beyond what many of our students can afford. Three hundred dollars may as well be a million for many of our students.

Also remember that our ability to negotiate first-class contracts is essentially linked to the financial health of our institutions. We have been very successful in making sure

the faculty and staff we represent have been compensated fairly. We have done very well the past four years. Our ability to continue to do so could be very seriously jeopardized by the paralysis in Springfield.

So what is Local 1600 doing about this? We are active on many fronts. Through our COPE program we continue to help our friends in the legislature who share our vision and concern. Our lobbying efforts continue to expand and evolve. This April 30th we will send over 50 members to Springfield, hold a legislative breakfast in Secretary of State **Jessie White's** office, where the legislators and state-wide officials will come to us to hear what we have to say. We will follow up with lobbying efforts with the IFT and end with a legislative lunch in the "Hall of Flags." We will also testify before the Senate and House higher education committees.

The most important transformation in our attack, however, is our increasing role in various coalitions. We have reached out to various groups in order to solidify and intensify our effectiveness. The first is the Higher Education Coalition. This is a group made up of every union who has members in higher education. The IFT, IEA, AFSCME, SIEU, UPI, just to name a few, meet monthly in Springfield to carry on the fight. Local 1600 has also joined a coalition with the ICCB Presidents Association and the ICCB Trustees Association. You can read in this Voice of the press conference we held before the Governor's State of the State Address, and my testimony along with President **Terry Bruce** of the Presidents' Council and President **Kathy Wessel** of the Trustees Association before the House Higher Education Appropriations Committee. We are succeeding in getting the facts out and are receiving favorable reactions and feedback.

Finally, Local 1600 has introduced our own legislation, through friends such as Representative **John D'Amico**, Senator **Ed Maloney**, and Representative **Elaine Nekritz**. The legislation would help solve some of the funding crunch and provide new funds for our colleges. I have said many times since becoming president that my biggest surprise was seeing first-hand the impact Springfield has on our lives and the lives of our students. Becoming active and pro-active by becoming a "player in the game" is the only way to gain some control of our fates. I invite you to join us by participating in Lobby Day. Call **Randy Barnette** at 312-755-9400 to see how we can get you there.

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



- President.....Perry Buckley
- Vice President, City Colleges Division.....Sonia Powell
- Vice President, Suburban Faculty.....Jim O'Malley
- Vice President, Suburban Classified.....Gail Wiot
- Secretary.....Patricia Wenthold
- Treasurer.....Donald Radtke
- Legislative Representative.....Bill Naegele
- Grievance Chairman.....Tom Kodogeorgiou
- Special Assistant to the President.....Randy Barnette
- Editorial Chair.....Todd Lakin
- Publicity Chair.....Bill O'Connell
- Special Contributor.....Dr. Bob Blackwood

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For news you can use visit: www.cccu.com

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ELECTION 2008

Election 2008: Vote Counters Tally Final Results

On Friday, March 7, a group of union members representing different campuses and bargaining units, gathered in the basement of the union office to count the ballots. Supervisory Election Chair **Paul Janus** and Adjudicator **Brenda Pryor** opened the sealed vote boxes from a locked closet in front of non-participatory observers. Only Janus, Pryor and the vote counters were allowed to touch and sort the ballots. The bulk of the counting was completed in four hours except for the ballots for the AFT and IFT Delegates which concluded the following week.



The vote counters on March 7 included (from left): **Brenda Pryor** (back to camera), **Helen Agresti** from the Moraine Valley Support Chapter, **Valerie Green** from the Oakton Classified Chapter, **Paul Holdaway** from the Harper Faculty Chapter, **Cedric Neal** from the Prairie State Suburban Security Officers, **Bob Blackwood** from the Retirees Chapter, **Scott Ulbrich** from the Morton Classified Chapter, **Todd Lakin** (in baseball cap) from the Daley Faculty Chapter and (standing) supervisory Election Chair **Paul Janus**.



Cedric Neal, Bob Blackwood, Scott Ulbrich and Todd Lakin sort ballots before tallying them.



Wright's **Chuck Mustari** computed all of the votes in real time as they were counted and tallied. Mustari didn't leave until 10:30 pm and still had to return the following Tuesday to complete the vote count for AFT and IFT Delegates.

The 2008 Election Photos

The Voice's **Bob Blackwood** documented one day of voting at his former campus, Wright College, on March 3 and at Oakton College on March 4.



Sharon Matthews and Sharon Aagaard staff the polls on March 3 at Wright College where President **Perry Buckley** comes back to vote at his home chapter.



Parliamentarian **Loretta Laverre** and Chapter Chair **Jillian Verstrate** encourage their colleagues to vote on March 4 at Oakton.

ELECTION 2008

OFFICIAL 2008 CCCTU LOCAL-WIDE RESULTS

Office	Candidate	CCC Division	Suburban Fac./Prof.	Suburban Classified	Retirees	TOTAL
President	Perry Buckley	462	449	500	209	1620
VP City Colleges	Sonia Jean Powell	452	N/A	N/A	167	619
VP Suburban F/P	Jim O'Malley	N/A	444	N/A	39	483
VP Suburban Classified	Jillian Verstrate	N/A	N/A	394	2	396
VP Suburban Classified	Julius Neveles	N/A	N/A	212	2	214
Grievance Chair	Tom Kodogeorgiou	441	444	463	209	1557
Secretary	Patricia Wenthold	431	445	378	209	1463
Treasurer	Donald Radtke	439	443	479	210	1571
Legislative Chair	Bill Naegele	440	447	461	209	1557

***VP Suburban Classified was the only officially contested office. Verstrate prevailed: 396-214.*

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES (All except where noted received one write-in vote.)

President

Sonia Jean Powell (2)	Patricia Wenthold	Linda Murphy	Anthony Johnston	Hector Reyes	Patty Lucas
Gide Colinet (2)	Jewel Sophie Younge	Ron Grimmette	Dave Richardson	Phil Stucky	Fritz Bush
Norm Swenson	Mel Anderson	Keith Westland	Michael Harkins	Bill Naegele	John Hader
Jillian Verstrate	Cindy Forystek	Caressa Davis			

Vice President – City Colleges of Chicago

Bernard Shelton	David Zoller	Diane Davis	Robert Yacoub	William Stewart
John Hader	Corey Hall	Anthony Johnston	Judge Watkins (deceased)	

Vice President – Suburban Faculty & Professionals

Stu Sikora (4)	Felix Baratunde	Dave Burns
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Grievance Chair

Mike Moody (2)	Melissa Smith	Rosie Ingwang	Dave Richardson	Hubert Dure
Renee Skotnik (2)	Benita Hunter	Earl Costanza	Chuck Mustari	Faye Holmes
Don Stewart	Art DiVito	Ben Ortiz	Rita Silveri	Gail Wiot

Secretary

Gail Wiot (141)	Tim Visk	Geri Smith	Earl Costanza	Robin Meade	Lori Ellens
Barbara Brown	Jessica Holloway	Olu Akinbote	Deborah Terell	Norma Lugo-Gulyas	

Treasurer

Mary Hampton	Earl Costanza	Gail Wiot	Bob Russell	Jackie Johnson	Michael Swisher
Rashid Carter	Hermine Krysa	Andrew Nicosia	Seed Rihani	Terry Gork	Luc Elie

Legislative Chair

Earl Costanza	Stu Sikora	Gail Wiot	Bill Silk	Kevette Crockett
J. Roi Jones	May Guildos	Pat Rangel	Lois Britton	Sonia Delgado-Tall

For full election results, please visit our website: www.ccctu.com

CCC Security Approve Five-Year Contract

By a 131 – 47 margin (73.6% - 26.4%) the City Colleges of Chicago Police Officer Association approved a new five-year contract which will run until December 31, 2012. The City Colleges ratified the pact at its March Board meeting.

As with the CCC faculty and professional contracts negotiated and ratified last year, the pact was negotiated between City Colleges of Chicago Chancellor **Wayne Watson** and Local 1600 President **Perry Buckley**. “I agreed to the chancellor’s suggestion to have the two of us hammer out a deal,” said Buckley, “with the understanding that if we were not able to come up with a great deal, we would go to full blown negotiations. This was a great deal.”

The contract provides 23.5% compounded raises over the five years. In each of the years the officers will receive 5.0%; 4.2%; 4.0%; 4.0% and 4.25%. Buckley pointed out how the shift from a per-hour amount raise to a straight percentage also helped the members. “The last contract provided for a fifty cents (\$0.50) raise each year,” said Buckley, “What this meant was that by the last year of the contract members were only getting a 3.3% raise. By doing it this way the actual dollar amount will go up between 67 cents and 78 cents in the individual years, far more than the fifty cents last contract. It also provides compounding. A lead officer will go from \$15.47 to \$19.08 per hour over the life of the contract.”

There were no “give-backs” or “takeaways” in the contract while several improvements were secured. For the first time, members who work over 25 hours a week will get sick days. Time and a half will be paid for all federal holidays. Paid training will be available for all members, and uniforms will be provided and cleaned.

An important working condition improvement is that scheduling will take into consideration the police officer’s full time police provision. Seniority will apply to work scheduling and overtime.

Also important was avoiding “fitness for duty” language for current employees. While the City Colleges can implement fitness requirements for new employees, current employees are “grandfathered in.” “I was very worried that some of our more senior police officers would not have been able to meet strict physical tests,” said Buckley, “This way they will have their jobs secure.”

“This contract, especially how it was negotiated,” said Buckley, “once again shows that the relationship between the Union and the City Colleges administration continues to improve. The chancellor listened to the problems and concerns affecting our officers. In addition to the language we secured, we received the assurance of the chancellor that we will work together to solve problems and concerns. The City Colleges clearly recognize the important work our police officers perform for our schools.”

Wright’s Linda Murphy Candidate for Delegate to the DNC

At the Early Voting Polling Place, Local 1600 Legislative Director and candidate for delegate to the Democratic National Convention **Linda Murphy** takes a moment from her busy day on Jan. 16 to vote for herself as a candidate for delegate to the Democratic National Convention in the Fifth Congressional District. Harper Faculty’s **Dave Richmond** was also on the ballot as a candidate in the Eighth Congressional District. This is the first time in Local 1600’s history that the union has been asked to nominate delegates for a presidential candidate.



After she voted, **Linda Murphy** said: “Be sure to tell the people voting that it is not enough to indicate your preference for president—whether it is Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, or someone else. That’s just indicating your preference. The only thing that counts in the ballot box is the vote that you cast for the individual delegates pledged for your candidate at the Democratic National Convention.”



Bob Blackwood, Local 1600’s web manager, also voted on Jan. 16. “I kind of miss the Tuesday voting tradition but this sure beats waiting in line.”

Illinois Community Colleges: Illinois' Best Investment

"An investment in our students is a very quick turnaround on return on that investment."
 - Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele**

On Feb. 20, one hour before Governor **Rod Blagojevich** gave his 2008 Budget Address, an unheard of coalition of community college presidents, trustees, students and unionized college teachers and staffers held a media conference to urge the governor and the General Assembly to give the community colleges a priority when funding higher education. The Illinois Community College Coalition for Funding is starting its campaign. The Coalition's signs saying—"Community Colleges: Illinois' Best Investment"—will soon be seen throughout the state on billboards and in mailers.

As CCCTU President **Perry Buckley** said, "This coalition conference today is the first time management and labor are working together with common goals to convince the decision-makers in Illinois government to give us priority funding." Afterwards, Buckley commented, "Ninety percent of our community college students stay within the State of Illinois after their studies are completed. They continue to contribute directly to our state's economy."

CCCTU Legislative Chair and IFT V.P. **Bill Naegele** echoed Buckley's sentiments after the press conference. "The community college system needs to attain quality and must have adequate financial support to be affordable for our students. An investment in our students is a very quick turnaround on return on investment. One of the greatest strengths in the community college system is the ability to rapidly adapt to the ever-changing needs of Illinois employers. If we are to remain a player in the high-tech global economy, we must have a highly trained workforce. Inadequate funding will hamper Illinois community colleges' efforts to train students to become active participants in the global economy."



Following the media conference of the Illinois Community College Coalition for Funding on Feb. 20 but before Governor **Rod Blagojevich's** Budget Address, Senator **Dan Kotowski** (D, 33rd), President **Perry Buckley** and Assistant to the President **Randy Barnette** discussed a community college bill being introduced during this session.



President **Perry Buckley** notes the importance of the diversity of the groups supporting the Illinois Community College Coalition for Funding. From left behind Buckley: President **Kathy Wessel, V. P. Jeff May**, and **Clare Ollayos** of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association; Student Trustee **Lesliefaye Gogins** of Prairie State College and her two daughters; President **Charlotte Warren** of Lincoln Land College; IFT V.P. **Bill Naegele**; and President **Terry Bruce** of the Council of Community College Presidents.



President **Perry Buckley** discusses a community college bill with former student and now State Representative **Jim Durkin** (R, 82) in Springfield just before Governor Blagojevich's Budget Address.



The sign of the Illinois Community College Coalition for Funding, displayed at the Coalition's Feb. 20 media conference in Springfield, will soon be seen throughout the state.

Buckley Requests Funding

(continued from front page)

Wessel reminded the I I committee members that the funding in FY 2008 would be 13% less than in FY 2002. In effect, it was the same budget that the Illinois community colleges had in 1993. Bruce, a former congressman, stated bluntly that the State of Illinois has never paid the community colleges of Illinois an accumulated \$87 million for credits earned by its students with degrees. As a result of this non-payment, students are forced to provide one-third or more of the operating funds for many institutions.

Buckley called the attention of the committee to notice two factors. First, a group of community college administrators, trustees and unionized teachers and staffers were addressing them from different perspectives asking for the same thing—a priority for community college funding. Secondly, Buckley praised the many members of the committee from both parties who had praised the community colleges for doing a good job in Illinois. “We need you to go out of here and convince your colleagues to give our community colleges a priority in funding.” Buckley also reminded the legislators that while the four-year institutions have students from all over the country, “almost every student and staff of your community colleges live and vote there.”

For full story, please visit the website: www.ccctu.com



Vice President **Elaine Johnson** of the Illinois Community College Board enjoys keeping Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** up-to-date on the board's activities at the legislative reception.



At the Feb. 27 Higher Education Legislative Reception in Springfield, Senator **Maggie Crotty** (D, 19) has a skeptical response to President **Perry Buckley**'s embellishments while Local 1600's Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** chuckles.



On Feb. 27 at the Higher Education Legislative Reception in Springfield, a somber State Rep. **David Miller** (D, 29), the chairman of the House-Appropriations Higher Education Committee, nevertheless gets a laugh from Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** and President **Perry Buckley**.



Executive Director **Dan Slack** of the State Universities Retirement System updates President **Perry Buckley** and President **Marcia Boone** of the SWIC Educational Employees on the College Insurance Program (CIP) and some possibilities for the City Colleges of Chicago retirees at the Feb. 27 Legislative Reception.



At the Higher Education Legislative Reception in the Illinois State Museum on Feb. 27, a diverse group who all have a stake in the Illinois Community College Coalition for Funding gathers: from left: IEA-NEA Higher Education and Student Director **Meredith Byers**; IFT V. P. **Bill Naegele**; CCCTU President **Perry Buckley**; IFT Legislative Director **Nick Yelverton**; State Senator **Ed Maloney** (D, 18), who chairs the Senate Higher Education Committee; and Assistant to the President **Randy Barnette**.

“We need you to go out of here and convince your colleagues [the State Legislature] to give our community colleges a priority in funding.”
– Perry Buckley

Morton College Classified "Bowled" Over

The Morton Classified Chapter sponsored an after-in-service bowling and pizza party at Circle Lanes in Forest Park on Friday, February 15.



The ladies of the Morton College Classified Chapter make up a formidable team.



Chapter Chair **Tim Visk** takes a moment to pose with **Maria Acoria**. "The bowling party was great fun and the camaraderie was notable," stated Visk. "Most told me that they want to do this again, after the next in-service," he added.

Morton College Classified Raises \$500 for Berwyn Library

On February 28 the Morton College Classified Chapter presented the Friends of the Berwyn Library with a check for \$500 with proceeds from a Valentine's Day bake sale. It is the second straight year that Morton's Classified Chapter has donated proceeds from a fundraiser to an organization within the Morton College District. Last year, the union made a donation to Berwyn-based Youth Crossroads, Inc., which has assisted thousands of young people, ages 10 to 17, and their families, through individual and group counseling, delinquency prevention programs and round-the-clock emergency response services.



Friends of the Berwyn Library's **Kathy Sexton** (center), **Joan Pellegrini** (at right holding check) and **Sharon Lorenzi** (far right) accept a generous \$500 donation from Morton College Classified members (from left) **Karen Piest**, **Richie Pawlak**, **Gene Suire** (holding check at left), **Ruben Ruiz** and Chapter Chair **Tim Visk**.

Local 1600 Mourns Jessie L. Norman

On October 12, 2007, long-time Local 1600 Secretary **Jessie Lynn Norman** passed away after a brief illness. Norman's business education training and skills enabled her to be re-elected as the secretary of Local 1600 for twenty-three years. Norman also served as secretary of the IFT Community College Council for fifteen years. Her lively presence at biannual conferences of the AFT, IFT and Local 1600 meetings and banquets was warmly welcomed by the attendees.

Norman received her M.S. degree from Indiana University. She was a faculty member in the Business Department at Chicago Vocational High School before joining the Business Department at Kennedy-King College in 1968. Norman was a very active and innovative educator whose dedicated work with her students and colleagues earned her the 1992-1993 Distinguished Professor Award at Kennedy-King College. She served as an advisor to the student organization, Phi



Beta Lambda (Future Business Leaders), and served as Chairperson of the Business and Data Processing Departments' Annual Student Awards Luncheon for over ten years.

Norman was the recipient of many awards and honors, and belonged to a number of professional organizations. She always found time for her special interests as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, playing bridge, traveling, reading, and cooking. She was an active member of the Greater Bethesda First Baptist Church, serving as a member of the Sunday School, BYPU, Sanctuary Choir and the church's budget committee.

President **Perry Buckley** stated, "Jessie was not only a teacher at Kennedy-King College, she was also a teacher at the Union. When I first started at the Union it was clear she was a mentor, a teacher, and a conscience for us all. If we ever moved but an inch from our mission she was there to put us back on course."

**"If we ever moved but an inch from our mission she was there to put us back on course."
- Perry Buckley**

EVENTS AROUND THE CCCTU

KKC's Union Book Scholarship Awards More Than \$2000 to Students

The Kennedy-King College chapter held its annual Union Book Scholarship on Thursday, March 13 in the Black Box Theatre in the "U" Building of the new campus. Scholarship Committee Chair Dr. **Jacqueline Witherspoon** took the proverbial bull by the horns in her first year on the committee, raising money from both within the union as well as from corporate donors, including the brand new Subway franchise that recently opened down the street from the new campus.



Vera Barkus gives CCC V.P. Sonia Powell a Certificate of Recognition for her support of the KKC Union Book Scholarship as Committee Chair **Jacqueline Witherspoon** looks on.



The four Union Book Scholarship award winners (seated) with family members immediately behind them are surrounded by donors, committee members, KKC faculty and staff and Local 1600 President **Perry Buckley** (back, right).



Retiree **Jeanette Williams** tells **Olu Akinbote** and **Khalid Uddin** that her first two months of retirement "have been stress-free and oh-so-enjoyable."



Committee Chair **Jacqueline Witherspoon** stated in her thank-you remarks to the donors that KKC retiree **Madie Cannamore** "has donated \$500 dollars per year to the Union Book Scholarship fund since as long as our chapter has been awarding it. Over her thirty-five years at Kennedy-King, that has been thousands of dollars to our students."



Mistress of Ceremonies **Arika Anderson**, Committee Chair **Jacqueline Witherspoon** and KKC Chapter Chair **Arlicia Corley** put together a wonderful event.

SAVE THE DATE

- April 18 – Executive Board
- April 30 – Lobby Day
- May 2 – 43rd Annual CCCTU Banquet
- June 20 – Executive Board
- July 18 – House Meeting

**Address change?
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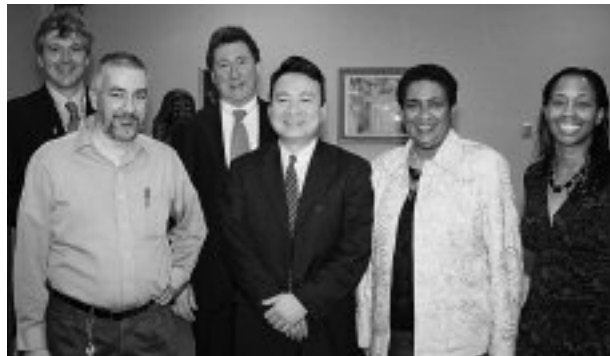
CAMPUS VISITS

Buckley, Powell Start New Year at Daley

On January 8, President **Perry Buckley**, CCC V.P. **Sonia Powell** and Field Representative **Brenda Pryor** visited Daley College's chapter during the spring semester kick-off luncheon. Buckley addressed the members on issues both in Chicago and Springfield and later opened the floor to questions.



To the happy relief of **Shirley Carpenter** and **John Majer**, President **Perry Buckley** stated, "We're not here today to sell you on contributing to COPE. We only push for contributions once every two years. But, if you're so inclined, we do have these lovely jackets..."



New math faculty member **Dr. Ming-Jer Wang** (center) is surrounded by a who's who of Local 1600: **Mel Anderson**, Grievance Chair and Daley faculty **Tom Kodogeorgiou**, President **Perry Buckley**, CCC V.P. **Sonia Powell** and IFT Field Rep. **Brenda Pryor**.



Daley Chapter Chair **Mel Anderson** welcomes his members to the beginning of the Spring 2008 semester before introducing President **Perry Buckley**.



R. Younker Chyu and **Ray Nichols** relax after a delicious buffet from Chi-Tung Restaurant in Evergreen Park organized by Daley Social Chair **Ann Dikcis**.

Buckley Updates Wright College on January 9



Legislative Director **Linda Murphy** (Wright), Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** (South Suburban) and Assistant to the President **Randy Barnette** will be bound for Springfield on Lobby Day in April.



President **Perry Buckley** (standing) responds to **Vince Bruckert's** question as **Suzanne Sanders** (right of Buckley) and others listen at the Wright Chapter lunch.

CAMPUS VISITS

CDL Courses a Hot Topic at Truman

President **Perry Buckley** and Asst. to the President **Randy Barnette** were invited by Truman Chapter Chair **Tony Johnston** to the chapter's "Welcome Back" luncheon on January 10. One major issue was the role of the Center for Distance Learning under the new CCC contract that is set to begin next fall. Currently all courses taught through CDL are for stipend but Buckley was able to negotiate a change. Beginning Fall 2008, one course may be taught for one's teaching load.



Veteran professors (l-r) **Jose Garcia**, **Amir Nour** and **George Bart** listen to Buckley's response to Bart's question about course selection for CDL classes. "Full-time faculty will be able to choose first provided that they are qualified to teach online courses," Buckley said.



It was standing-room only at the Truman College luncheon. Unable to find a seat were (l-r) **Alan Meyers**, **Christine Aguila**, **Lara Ravitch**, **Anne Close** and **Kim Steffen**.



After the meeting, Training Specialist **Pat Collins** asks **Buckley** a question about changes to the training specialists' salary schedule in the new 2008-2013 contract.



Harold Santamaria shares a laugh with Truman Chapter Chair **Tony Johnston**.



Members of the Truman chapter packed the house to welcome **Perry Buckley** (standing at front) and **Randy Barnette**.

**Pictures now available on-line at
local1600.smugmug.com/.
Or visit www.ccctu.com
for the link.**

CAMPUS VISITS

Naegele and Buckley Update Kennedy-King

President **Perry Buckley** and Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** were invited by Kennedy-King Chapter Chair **Arlcia Corley** to KK's spring semester meeting on January 11.



Local 1600 officers **Perry Buckley** and **Bill Naegele** (back row, right) and Chapter Chair **Arlcia Corley** (front row, second from left) pose for a photo with new KK hires. Pictured are (l-r) in the front row: **Jacqueline Sylvestal**, **Corley**, **Jacqueline Witherspoon**, **Gloria Jefferson**, **Karen Williams**, **Pamela Cannamore**, **Kenneth McMillan** and **Elhachmi Mouda**. In the back are (l-r): **Glenn Foster**, **Mario De La Haye**, **Alfonso Rush**, **Buckley** and **Naegele**.



Larry Ross (foreground) listens to **Perry Buckley** discuss CIP legislation in Springfield. "We are working with two separate coalitions to get CIP passed this semester," Buckley stated.



Meryl Junious and **Vera Barkus** certainly are glad to be at the new Kennedy-King College.

MX Chapter Meets on Jan. 15

After taking a moment for housekeeping notes, Malcolm X Chapter Chair **William Stewart** introduced President **Perry Buckley** and CCC V.P. **Sonia Powell**. Buckley urged people to attend the invitational breakfast with their legislators in Springfield during Lobby Day this year and welcomed all to attend the May 2 Union Banquet at U.S. Cellular Field. He also praised Powell for the work she had been doing on union arbitrations from the City Colleges of Chicago.



MX Chapter Chair **William Stewart's** good working relationship with Asst. Chapter Chair **George West**, Grievance Chair **Ron Grimmerette** and Treasurer **Luc Elie** was evident at the meeting.



While President **Perry Buckley** and **Sohee Jon** talk about salary issues at Malcolm X, Field Representative **Brenda Pryor** does some research in the college newspaper.



CCC V.P. **Sonia Powell** greets MX Chapter Treasurer **Luc Elie** while, in the background, **William Stewart** makes an announcement.

TCFA Welcomes Buckley to Spring Semester Workshop; Baker Nominated for Chair at February Meeting

The Triton College Faculty Association held its spring semester workshop at the college on January 22. President **Perry Buckley** and Suburban V.P. **Jim O'Malley** attended. After the semester began, during the TCFA February meeting, long-time chair **Maggie Hahn-Wade** reminded her colleagues that she was not going to run again and endorsed **Debra Baker** to be the next chair who was subsequently elected during the March elections.



Pictured, from left, are **Sandra Hughes**, **Joseph Stolz**, **Lesla Hildebrand**, CCCTU President **Perry Buckley**, **Debra Baker**, **Stu Sikora** and TCFA Chair **Maggie Hahn-Wade**. To Hahn-Wade's left are new faculty hires: **Adrenne Reaves**, **Marva Warren**, **Debra Kaiser**, **Jennifer Burkett** and **Rebecca Fournier**. At right is Suburban V.P. and former Triton faculty member **Jim O'Malley**.



Maggie Hahn-Wade, **Elli Chameia** and **Sandy Hughes** are stunned by the quality of the latest *Voice*.



Soon-to-be-elected **Debra Baker** receives some good advice from Chapter Chair **Maggie Hahn-Wade**: "Communicate with the membership and address any potential problems as soon as they arise to prevent them from becoming a bigger issue."

A Bright Day for New CCC Faculty

The semi-annual CCC new-faculty orientation was held on Feb. 1 in the Loop headquarters of the City Colleges of Chicago. At the very end of it all, the last speakers came on – President **Perry Buckley** of Local 1600, their union leader, and CCC V.P. **Sonia Powell**. "I'm aware that I'm the only person standing between you and going home," Buckley joked. "I'll make it brief." He noted that the administration and the union were trying their best to communicate clearly and make the system work. *For full story, please visit the website: www.ccctu.com*



President **Perry Buckley** congratulates his former student, **Amelia Lopez**, now a professor of English at Harold Washington College. Buckley praised the CCC, noting the good education it had given to several generations of Chicagoans.



New professors **Kristee Davis** and **Veronica Jackson** of Olive-Harvey respond to **Sonia Powell** who commented, "I'm so pleased to see people happy about starting a new job in a good school and to see one of my former students succeeding, too!"



A group of new CCC faculty members gather around President **Perry Buckley** after the orientation session. To Buckley's right is Harold Washington English Professor **Elisabeth Heard**, daughter of **Junemary Heard** who retired this past December from Olive-Harvey after 40 years.

CAMPUS VISITS

Oakton Classified Addressed by Buckley at Monthly Meeting

On February 4 Oakton Classified Chair **Jillian Verstrate** welcomed President **Perry Buckley** to the February meeting to discuss union issues both at Oakton as well as around the CCCTU. *Editor's note: Krunal Patel of the Oakton Classified Chapter took these photos.*



Oakton Classified members gathered for the 11:00 AM meeting, Verstrate's second meeting of the day. Earlier she met with the third shift at 6:00 AM and, after meeting with the first shift at 11:00, Verstrate would return to campus to meet with the second shift.



Chair **Jillian Verstrate** answers one of her member's questions as (l-r) **Patty Lucas**, **Marilyn Davis** and President **Perry Buckley** look on.

A Triton Two-fer: Buckley and Co. Visit Classified and Mid-Management Chapters

Before the Executive Board met later that afternoon on February 15, President **Perry Buckley**, Suburban V.P. **Jim O'Malley** and IFT Field Representative **Brenda Pryor** doubled-up their visits by meeting with both the Triton Classified and Triton Mid-Management Chapters. Chapter Chairs **Don Cragen** (Classified) and **John Cadero** (Mid-Management) were able to coordinate their members' schedules to make this double feature a reality.



Members of the Triton College Classified Association listen attentively to a presentation by IFT Field Representative **Brenda Pryor**.



Harry Torgerson, **Harry McGinnis**, **James Smith** and **Bruce Olson** listen to a State of the Union address from CCCTU President **Perry Buckley**.



Suburban V.P. **Jim O'Malley** (standing) goes over the finer points of negotiating with the administration. The Triton Mid-Management Chapter is heading into contract negotiations this spring.



Mid-Management Chair **John Cadero** and Assistant Chapter Chair **Rosa Preston** listens to **Jim O'Malley** discuss grievance procedures.

CAMPUS VISITS

MVFA Gets Update on Springfield from Buckley

Having arrived directly from Springfield, Local 1600 President **Perry Buckley** talked about the sour mood in the state capitol to the Moraine Valley Faculty Association on February 28. He noted that the times are tough in Springfield. "It's a very fluid situation right now with shifting alliances and funding woes," he stated. "This year I believe that it's very important for our membership to show up in force at our Lobby Day breakfast on April 30. Mark your calendars." He also thanked Chapter Chair **Janice Hill-Matula** for the excellent work she does in fostering camaraderie and unionism at Moraine Valley. Buckley noted that, although the faculty had been at the campus for seven hours, nearly every member stayed for the late union meeting.



President **Perry Buckley** addresses the faculty at Moraine Valley: "Two potent issues are the possibility of a Constitutional Convention and the long-term funding difficulties of the State University Retirement System."



The MVFA celebrated the awarding of tenure of eight faculty members during the faculty meeting. Pictured with President **Perry Buckley** (standing in back, at left) are, from left, the newly tenured: **Layla Khalib, Jennifer Doublin, Bonnie Straton, Colette Schrank, Nick Hackett, Lee Semmerling, Jim McIntyre** and **Mitchell Baker**.

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HOLIDAY PARTIES

Oakton Classified Chapter Celebrates the Holidays in Style

At Oakton's December 7 holiday party, retired former Oakton Classified Chapter Chair **Pat Valentino** is surrounded by current Chapter Chair **Jillian Verstrate** (at right) and future Chapter Chair, **Patty Lucas**.



HOLIDAY PARTIES

MVFA Raises \$500 for the Student Forensic Team at Holiday Party

On January 26, the Moraine Valley Faculty Association held a student scholarship fundraising party at Bourbon Street in Merrionette Park in conjunction with its annual post-holiday party. Through the generosity of its members, the MVFA was able to raise nearly \$500 in order to award two \$250-scholarships to two Forensic Team members. Chapter Chair **Janice Hill-Matula** said of her colleagues: "We were able to collect nearly \$500 so we decided to round up to be able to give two \$250-scholarships. I'm very proud of the MVFA."



Suburban V.P. **Jim O'Malley** introduces his wife **Cindy** to fellow union members **Janice Hill-Matula** (left) and IFT Field Representative **Brenda Pryor**.



Enjoying the event are, from left, MVFA officers V.P. **Troy Swanson**, Treasurer **Gary Piercy**, Executive Committee Members **Craig Rosen** and **Maryan Jatczak**, Chapter Chair **Janice Hill-Matula** and Social Chair **Chris Riola**. At right is Local 1600 Suburban V.P. **Jim O'Malley**.

Triton Mid-Management Celebrates the Holidays at Trattoria Peppino

The Triton College Mid-Managers Association of Triton College celebrated the holiday season with a much more relaxed post-holiday party at Trattoria Peppino in Elmwood Park on January 30. Chapter Chair **John Cadero** welcomed Local 1600 officers President **Perry Buckley**, Suburban V.P. **Jim O'Malley** and Secretary **Pat Wenthold** as well as IFT Field Representative **Brenda Pryor**. The theme of the party and the upcoming academic year is, "Starting in a new direction."



President **Perry Buckley** is warmly welcomed by the Triton Mid-Management Chapter.



Brenda Pryor, immediate past Chapter Chair **Kevin Miller** and CCCTU Secretary **Pat Wenthold** enjoy Triton Mid-Management's post-holiday party.



Discussing plans for the upcoming spring are long time Local 1600 members **Joe Szewculak** and **Marlene Ricchio**.



Triton Mid-Management Chapter Chair **John Cadero** updates his members on upcoming events at Triton as well as throughout the local, including Lobby Day on April 30 and the 43rd Annual CCCTU Banquet at Sox Park on May 2.

O U R A C T I V E R E T I R E E S

Local 1600 Retirees Updates on CIP and No-No for Con Con

On Friday, Jan. 25, Local 1600's Retirees Chapter Chair **Norm Swenson** presided over a discussion of key issues with 30 House delegates and alternates from the Retirees Chapter just before the Local 1600 House Meeting proper began at 4:00.

- **Illinois' College Insurance Program (CIP):**

CIP is having severe financial troubles because of escalating medical costs. The State of Illinois is talking about hiking the amount paid by active members and the recipients as well, positions that we oppose. President **Perry Buckley**, who addressed the group toward the end of the meeting with CCC V.P. **Sonia Powell**, indicated his concerns. "We are asking for a better deal in Springfield," he said. Regarding bringing in the CCC retirees into CIP, Buckley stated that he hoped for some movement with a bill in spring of this year.

- **Professors Emeriti and the CCC:**

Those professors emeriti who honored the picket lines in the 2004 strike against the CCC have been denied employment since. However, any who requested part-time work before or at the beginning of the spring semester 2008 have all received employment within the CCC. The one professor who was not re-hired was accused of non-strike related activities by the administration.

- **Illinois Con Con:**

In the November election, the ballot requires a vote on whether or not to have a new Illinois Constitutional Convention. All present noted that a Constitutional Convention could eliminate the provisions that currently insure our pensions and other benefits. We must get the word out: No No on Con Con.

- **Social Security:**

As both Swenson and former Chapter Chair **Pat Dyra** noted we can anticipate an attack upon Social Security as being underfunded, even though, as currently funded, it will go until 2047 and would still pay 70% of its obligation after that date.

- **Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision of Social Security:**

Two provisions in the current law—the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)—result in reduced benefits for public employees who earned Social Security credits through other private-sector jobs during their working lives or have spouses who receive benefits. Lately, the American Federation of Teachers has become very active in supporting attacks on these two provisions.



Pres. **Perry Buckley** (standing), CCC V.P. **Sonia Powell** and Asst. to Pres. **Chuck Mustari** update the Retiree delegates and alternates on the status of CIP legislation in the crowded union office basement.



Former Retirees Chapter Chair **Pat Dyra** (standing left) warns of an attack on Social Security via private investing at the Jan. 25 Retirees delegates' meeting as Chapter Chair **Norm Swenson** (standing right) indicates his agreement.

Retirees Chapter Election Report

Although there was no contest for officers among the Retirees Chapter this winter, 244 mail-in ballots were cast for chapter officers. The Independent-Union Progress Coalition slate of officers, led by **Norman Swenson**, was re-elected unanimously. The officers are Chapter Chair **Norman Swenson**, Assistant Chapter Chair **Frank Pokin**, Treasurer **Pier Rosellini**, Secretary **Noel Johnson** and Legislative Chair **Bob Blackwood**.

In the one contest of the election, for chapter delegates, the I-UPC slate for chapter delegates won unanimously. The high scorer on the I-UPC slate was Swenson with 230 votes. The unaffiliated candidate for chapter delegate, former Vice President Classified **Gail Wiot**, received 27 votes.

For full story, visit the website: www.cctu.com

WHAT YOUR UNION DOES FOR YOU

Editor's note: Everyone within the bargaining units of the Cook County College Teachers Union pay union dues as either dues-paying members or through "fair share." What are some of the benefits of paying these dues, aside from receiving some of the best contracts in Illinois? Beginning with this issue, the Voice will publish a quarterly report on "What Your Union Does for You."

During the 1990s and early 2000s, former President **Norm Swenson**, with the support of the Illinois Federation of Teachers, hammered out a number of benefits for retirees through lobbying the General Assembly in Springfield and through negotiations with individual community college boards. Some of those highlights include:

- **Changing the Pension Formula**

To improve the formula for computing the pension, a change was accomplished during the 1990s. Now, you can reach the maximum pension in 36 years (or less) vs. 40 years pre-1990. This change substantially improved the pension formula.

- **Compounding the Annual Increase**

Instead of each year's increase being based on your salary at the time of retirement, a compounding effect is used. Your pension is based upon your previous year's salary plus the annual 3% raise. With this compounding, you double the size of your pension in 25 years vs. 33 years under the previous pension increase plan.

- **Incentives for Early Retirement via Board-Union Negotiations**

1. In the City Colleges of Chicago and some of the suburban colleges, there is a payout for unused sick leave or a percentage of the salary or aspecial employee work project. At other colleges sick days can be used to buy additional service credit for SURS.

2. There are also health insurance benefits for retirees that vary depending on whether you are in the suburban chapters of the City Colleges of Chicago.

3. Professors emeriti have the right to teach as retirees, the right to be paid a salary and other benefits, such as an office and telephone negotiated by Local 1600.

As Swenson always says, "In no case does a community college board give you retirement benefits. In every case, the benefits are specified by state law or are the product of board-union negotiations."

PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW

Oakton's June Sproat Publishes Novel

June Sproat, a seven-year employee at Oakton, had her first book published by The Wild Rose Press on March 14, 2008. Anyone who truly knows June knows her passion for books. *Ordinary Me* is a young-adult book that explores the life of a high school girl, Kate Sterns, who, through her heroic actions, has her everyday ordinary life snatched away from her.

Sproat, a graduate of Columbia College, Chicago, majored in fiction writing. "At about age 11, after reading a Judy Blume book, I just had this really good feeling inside. That's when I knew I wanted to be a writer," said Sproat. During lunch and after work she makes time to write. This is not always an easy task since she works full-time and has three daughters, the youngest in kindergarten. Her husband Mark is very supportive and often accompanies her to book signings of authors she admires. Now he gets to attend her very own signing.

For more information about the not-so-ordinary June Sproat and details on how to purchase her book, visit June's website at www.junesproat.com.



PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW

Master Sergeant Joel Archuleta

Daley's **Joel Archuleta** is no ordinary college advisor. Since being hired at Daley, he's already left for one combat tour in Iraq and next fall will depart for Afghanistan to train and assist the Afghan National Army. He's served the United States for 27 years, the last eleven in the Illinois Army National Guard. Master Sergeant (E-8) Archuleta is part of the Training Assistance Group of the Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix of the 33rd Brigade Combat Team. His "Military Occupational Skill" is 13F (Fire-Support Specialist). In other words, he is an expert in calling in all forms of indirect fires to include naval gunfire, rockets, mortars, close-air support, and artillery. In his own words, "I look forward to a safe return from my next assignment in Afghanistan and coming back to advise and work with the students, faculty and staff here at Daley College."



Master Sergeant **Joel Archuleta** gets a handshake from Daley Chapter Chair **Mel Anderson** who earlier thanked Archuleta for his service.

New Wright Chapter Chair Linda Murphy

Linda Murphy was elected chapter chair of the Wright Chapter during the local-wide elections. Murphy has been very active in the Cook County College Teachers Union since 2006 when she became the legislative director. She has acted in concert with Legislative Chair Bill Naegele in Springfield and in representing the union at Cook County political events. Since 2006, Murphy has also been a delegate to the Union House from Wright. She has been selected by the AFT as a member of the International Labor Organization possibly because of her experiences living and working in Thailand, Guatemala and Mexico City. She also visited Chiapas in southern Mexico in 2003. In addition, for the first time, Local 1600 was asked to recommend candidates for delegates for this year's Democratic National Convention. Murphy and **David Richmond** of Harper College were asked to run, and they did. She is a graduate of Glenbrook North High School, Tulane University, and holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. from U. I. C. in Political Science and Public Policy.

When asked what her intentions were as a chapter chair, she was specific:

- A schedule of regular Wright Chapter meetings
- Newsletters informing everyone of Local 1600 news and events
- A welcoming orientation of new members to the chapter
- An active presentation of her members' concerns for future contract negotiations

- Continuing protection of her members' contractual rights

Murphy certainly has a record of accomplishments. If she were not attending the AFT President's Seminar on International Affairs in Washington, D.C., you would see her in action at the Lobby Day Breakfast for Legislators in Springfield on April 30. Then you would really know why you should know the Cook County College Teachers Union's Linda Murphy.



Linda Murphy is the new chapter chair at Wright College, replacing veteran **Clyde Walker**.

We invite you to join us at our 43rd ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET

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FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2008 • STADIUM CLUB

- Open Bar.....6pm
- Dinner.....7pm
- Awards.....8pm
- Dancing, Open Bar and Silent Auction.....9 – 11pm

Entrée Choice: ___ Filet Mignon ___ Vegetable Wellington

Charge: \$35.00 per person (Free Parking)

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This banquet WILL sell out! Reservations will be limited to the first 320 guests. If you wish to attend, please complete the form below, enclose a check payable to CCCTU, and mail both to the CCCTU Office, 208 West Kinzie Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60610

BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23rd.

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Name: _____ College: _____

Phone No: _____

I wish to make reservations for (number) _____ to attend the
43rd Annual Union Banquet. My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

SEE YOU AT THE BANQUET!



JOIN THE FUN!

Secretary **Patricia Wenthold** is surrounded by her Harper College colleagues at last year's Union Banquet: **Dave Richmond**, **Sean Noonan**, **Sam Giordano** and **Tom Dowd**.

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