Local 1600 Fights CCC Reduction in Force

At the June City Colleges Board of Trustees Meeting, Local 1600 President Norman Swenson strongly protested the proposed reduction in force of 10 professional employees, 11 security officers and five training specialists because of large cuts in state aid. Swenson said, “Since a one-day notice of layoffs did not allow our union and the administration time to consider budgetary alternatives, I propose the following alternatives to layoffs.”

- Use the $30 million in audited surpluses in CCC funds.
- Cut administrative perks, such as the board payment of the 8.5% SURS contribution, lifetime family health insurance, board payment of annuities, and other benefits not paid to other employees.
- Sell the 266 W. Jackson administration building and house the administration in unused space at many CCC buildings.
- Cut the bloated administration, which has risen in the last 20 years from 187 to 238 while our full-time faculty has nose-dived from 1,215 to 512.
- Demand a tax increase as the Chicago Board of Education has done in recent years.

Local 1600 Grievance Chair Perry Buckley immediately filed a Step II Grievance on behalf of the 11 security officers at Daley College. The grievance states seniority was ignored in regard to those laid off, at least three of whom have over 11 years of seniority. Secondly, the administration failed to negotiate the “impact” of these layoffs with the union before they were ordered, as is provided in the recently passed Illinois State law restoring Local 1600’s bargaining rights. Buckley said, “I question the negligible budgetary impact of laying off these 11 part-time employees, which amounts to a saving of only approximately $35,000 yearly. If the grievance is denied, I promise to go to arbitration to get these jobs back.”

CCC Vice President Judith Armstead is negotiating the lay off of 10 professional employees and five training specialists. One professional has been recalled until October 30, when the administration believes a grant will be renewed. Another training specialist was recalled until November 28, which will allow the specialist to retire at that time. Of the remaining, five have chosen to retire. This still leaves eight members without positions. Armstead notes that these members may apply for any open positions in the CCC.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
Chapter Elections .......................Page 2
Organizing Harper Adjuncts ........Page 3
Oakton Classified Negotiations.......Page 3
Banquet Photos .........................Page 5
LEADERSHIP TRAINING

A question sometimes raised by members concerns the training of union leadership. The concern is: “What is Local 1600 doing to train new leaders?”

What follows is a partial list of annual leadership training meetings to which Local 1600 sends its officers, chapter chairs, and other members. At these meetings, Local 1600, the IFT and the AFT conduct workshops on ergonomics, safety, health issues, legislation, political action, grievance handling, arbitrations, organizing, membership benefits, beginning and advanced negotiation strategies, winning strikes and many other union issues:

▲ IFT PSRP Conferences
▲ AFT PSRP Conferences

Local 1600 full-time professionals also mentor Local 1600 officers, chapter leaders and key chapter members as well as Local 1600 officers. Full-time professionals include Janie Morrison, Bob Brevigny and myself. We mentor leaders on a year-around basis in negotiations, organizing, lobbying, political action and servicing members in grievance and arbitration cases. Local 1600 part-time staff and part-time officers ably assist us in these efforts.

I believe that, compared with other teachers unions, Local 1600 offers one of the most comprehensive leadership training programs for new leaders. The proof of the pudding is found in the excellent contracts we negotiate, and our standing record in representing members in grievances, negotiations and in political action. If you would like more information or would like to participate in Local 1600’s numerous training programs, please call me at the union office, 312-755-9400.

Swenson Caucus Big Winner in Retiree and CCC Security Chapter Elections

On July 14, President Norman Swenson’s Independent Union Progress Coalition won eight out of nine Retiree Chapter delegates and three out of three City Colleges Police Officers Chapter delegates to the Local 1600 Union House. The special chapter elections were necessitated by chapter growth.

Among the retirees, 305 valid ballots were cast plus 16 invalid ballots. The delegates listed in order of their votes were: George Brixie, Robert Blackwood, Pier Luigi Rosellini, Romeo Munoz, Gloria Winslow, Rocco Blasi, Peter Metropolis, Noel Samuels and John Wenger. Among the alternates, the five alternates slated by the UPC accumulated the most votes followed by four independents: Rita Silver, Matthew Gross, Chris Dimas, James Berg, Ted Berg, Cynthia Hayot, Jack Gallagher and Maurice McNeil.

In the CCC Security Chapter, 48 valid ballots were cast and six invalid ballots. In ranked order, the three delegates were Kenneth Corcoran, Dennis Fitzgerald, and Richard Holub. The additional alternate delegate, William Bresingham, was also an UPC candidate.

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

President.................................................................Norman Swenson
Vice President, City Colleges Division......................Judith Armstead
Vice President, Suburban Faculty..............................Stu Sikora
Vice President, Suburban Staff.................................Gail Wiot
Secretary..............................................................Verna Anderson
Treasurer............................................................Richard Fritz
Legislative Representative......................................Marie Caronti
Grievance Chairman.............................................Perry Buckley
Managing Editor..................................................Bob Blackwood
Editorial Chair.....................................................Rochelle Robinson
Publicity Chair......................................................Jim O’Malley

All materials submitted for publication should be sent to:

COLLEGE UNION VOICE
Cook County College Teachers Union
208 West Kinzie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Phone: (312) 755-9400 • Fax: (312) 755-1030

For news you can visit: www.cctu.com

Member of AFT Communications Association and Midwest Labor Press Association.
Swenson and Harper Chapters Start Organizing Campaign for Part-Time Faculty

Local 1600 President Norman Swenson, IFT staffer Bob Breving and Harper College Faculty and Pro-tech Chapters have initiated an organizing campaign among the adjunct faculty at William Rainey Harper College. Field workers for the Illinois Education Association are also launching a campaign, insuring a hot contest.

The Harper College Faculty leadership believes that the adjunct faculty would be far better off a Local 1600 contract. Harper Faculty Chapter Chair Michael Harkins told the Local 1600 Executive Board in June: "Harper’s full-time faculty respect the tremendous contributions the part-time faculty make to the college. The leadership of Local 1600 can provide the benefits and salary these faculty truly deserve, as it has for us. Local 1600 is the only smart choice for the adjunct faculty."

At the end of May 2003, Swenson wrote each adjunct faculty member announcing the organizing campaign and pointing out why Local 1600 and the AFT would be a better choice than no union or the IEA.

Some of the key reasons for joining Local 1600 are:

- Local 1600 has represented faculty and profession-
SURS Director Hacking Praises CCC Health Benefits for Retirees

In an aside at the June 18 luncheon of the Retiree Chapter in the Parthenon Restaurant in Chicago’s Greektown, Executive Director James Hacking of the State Universities Retirement System of Illinois praised the health benefits offered to retirees of the City Colleges of Chicago. Hacking noted that the plan was superior to the plan offered to other community college employees under a state plan.

Hacking addressed the 95 SURS annuitants and retirees present at the luncheon and asked for their support. He and the SURS Board are resisting a new legislative initiative that would combine all the assets of the state contributory retirement systems, including those of SURS, and place them under the control and management of the Illinois State Board of Investment. His reasons — aside from the legal ones, which state that it is unlawful to manage pension funds assets for the benefit of the state rather than for its annuitants — were that SURS is consistently less costly and has outperformed the ISBI in the last 10 years.

Retiree Chapter Chair Pat Dyra announced that a boat tour of Chicago’s downtown architecture would take place on Thursday, August 21, starting at 10:00 AM until 11:15 from the dock at Michigan and Whacker Avenues. For more information, contact Janie Morrison in the union office.

Local 1600’s Voice Wins Prizes for Excellence

On May 22, 2003, Local 1600’s newspaper, The College Union Voice, won four awards for excellence from the American Federation of Teachers Communication Association for stories, photos and editorials from the October, December and February issues of the 2003-2004 school year.

▷ General Excellence: Third Place — contributors Bob Blackwood, Jim O’Malley, Rochelle Robinson, Janie Morrison, Norman Swenson
▷ Best News Story: Third Place — contributors Bob Blackwood, Jim O’Malley
▷ Best Editorial: Second Place — Norman Swenson
▷ Best Art or Photo: Second Place — Bob Blackwood, Janie Morrison, Jim O’Malley

Managing Editor Bob Blackwood stated, “In my first year as editor, I was very pleased to have won any award. I must thank my staff and our design artist, Mary Racila.”

Gayle Gregg New Local 1600 Office Worker

Gayle Gregg is the new part-time office worker in the CCCTU office. She helps Janie Morrison, Assistant to the President, and fills in for Local 1600 Secretary Louise Winfrey, who works half-time during her last year of employment.

On May 14, the Wright College Security Chapter met to discuss a survey of the security chapter’s issues for negotiations and other union issues with President Norman Swenson and Assistant to the President Janie Morrison. Swenson and Morrison will be visiting every CCC campus, asking City Colleges Police Association members to address and to rank 10 bargaining issues, including job descriptions, overtime, pay differential for shifts, salary, scheduling, seniority, staffing, title upgrades and uniform allowances, fringe benefits, and communication devices on the job.

From left: President Norm Swenson, Griev. Chair Perry Buckley, SURS Ex. Dir. James Hacking, and Retiree Chapter Chair Pat Dyra.

From left: John O’Brien, Swenson, Chapter Chair Tim Murphy, Pat Staunton, Morrison and George Kovac.
The 38th Annual Banquet of the Cook County College Teachers Union, held on May 3 at the Holiday Inn, Chicago Mart Plaza — drew 382 reservations for members, family, scholarship winners and friends. Following a cocktail hour accompanied by piano stylings, the Holiday Inn staff served a delicious dinner. After dinner, a 15-minute video created by Local 1600, “A Proud and Powerful Union,” was screened for the audience.

CCCTU President Norman Swenson opened the ceremonies by thanking the many members who had wished him well and assured them that he would be working with Local 1600 for many years. He praised the fact that Local 1600’s contracts are averaging about a five percent increase per year vs. anywhere from one percent to nothing in the state universities. “Whatever happens, we have to be united,” Swenson said.

Swenson then introduced Voice Editor Bob Blackwood, who presented $500 checks to both the Malcolm X Chapter and the Moraine Valley Support Chapter as winners in the Annual Local 1600 Chapter Newsletter Contest. He noted, however, that the two chapters had no competition in the annual contest. He reminded next year’s would-be contenders that no chapter may win two years in a row.

Following the chapter newsletter presentations, Scholarship Committee Chair Paul Janus presented Norman G. Swenson Scholarships to 12 students: Renard Alexander, Jamie Biederstadt, Marilee Biederstadt, Jove Castillo, Celeste Corrigan, Vicki Martorelli, Arsalan Memon, Sharon Morrys, Pandora Oliver, Kimberly Phillips, Taylor Scism and Julia Skillen.

Swenson then introduced the guest speaker of the evening — Debbie Lynch, the president of Local One, the Chicago Teachers Union. Lynch opened up by saying, “I’m proud to be a Democrat in Illinois.” She went on to praise Swenson and the members of Local 1600 for working hard to elect the Democratic leadership in Springfield and then continuing the fight to end the restrictions on collective bargaining for Local One and Local 1600 with the passage of Senate Bill 19 into law this year. In tribute to her efforts to overcome the restrictions on collective bargaining, Swenson presented Lynch with an Appreciation Award. The evening ended with a rousing round of applause for Debbie Lynch and Local One.

---

**UNION BANQUET PHOTO ALBUM**

Grievance Chair Perry Buckley (left), Local 1 President Debbie Lynch and Local 1600 President Norman Swenson.

Chapter Chair John Harris (right) of Olive-Harvey with Sonia Powell and Jim Howey.

Chapter Chair Jeannette Williams (bottom row, far right) brings good spirits to a large group from Kennedy-King.

Retiree Chair Pat Dyra (center) with Fe Abayon-Ford, Chris Ford (standing), and John Mueller.
CHAPTER LUNCHEONS

South Suburban College Faculty Chapter Chair Bill Naegaile joins Griev. Chair Karen Simac, Asst. Chair John Geraci, and retirees Erika Hartmann, Norm Warns, Doug Tweeten and Secretary Michael Schnur to complete the Spring semester at the Glenwood Oaks Restaurant on May 13.

On May 24, the Morton College Faculty Chapter of Local 1600 had its retirement luncheon at the Carriage Green County Club in Darien to honor Professor Phyllis Benson. President Norman Swenson spoke of the 5% cut in state aid that all community colleges would be facing and the need to hold fast to our negotiated contracts. From left: Swenson, Chapter Chair Gus Kotoulas, Jerry Neadly, Betty Guyer, Dorothy Becker, Kathy Stucker and Kenton Gatayas.

At the May 1 Scholarship Awards luncheon at Truman College, Chapter Chair Tony Johnston, Griev. Chair George Otto, President Norman Swenson, Scholarship Chair Kathy Hall, Local 1600 Griev. Chair Perry Buckley and Treasurer Dick Fritz helped distribute $8,750 in scholarships to 30 recipients in amounts ranging from $100-$3,000.

Local 1600 President Norman Swenson, Triton College Faculty Chapter Chair Maggie Hahn Wade, Assistant Chapter Chair Jim O’Malley, Secretary-Treasurer Judy Darst and Social Chair Mary Casey prepare for the faculty scholarship luncheon on May 12 at Villa Brunetti Banquets in Franklin Park, Il.

On May 15, the Harper Pro/Tech Chapter met for an end-of-semester luncheon. President Norman Swenson addressed the dangers of the Bush Tax Cut, which would borrow from the Social Security Trust Fund. From left: Swenson, Ron Greenberg, Pat Wenthold, Barbara Hardy, Mary Azawi, Sharon Martin, Gerri Goncher, David Dwyer, Beth Krueger and Chapter Chair Terry Engle.

On May 9, the Harold Washington Chapter met for a luncheon at the Greek Islands in Chicago’s Greektown. President Norman Swenson attended to deliver his opposition to any wage freezes in the City Colleges of Chicago. From left: Art DiVito, Chapter Chair Mike Ruggeri, Phil Stucky and Swenson.
President Norman Swenson informed the June Executive Board Meeting of action being taken to counter the CCC Board’s June 12 reduction in force of five full-time training specialists, 10 full-time professionals, 12 part-time professionals, and 11 security personnel. Swenson also reported on two new Illinois laws, which will make it easier to organize part-time faculty. He warned that the Illinois Education Association has launched a major organizing effort to woo part-time faculty at suburban colleges.

The following motions were passed:

- To send the chair and assistant chair of the Retirees Chapter to the AFT Retiree Conference September 5-7, 2003, in Washington, DC, and pay expenses of $500 for the chair and $700 for the assistant chair. (Chapter chairs receive a $200 stipend.)
- To send Sonia Powell, Don Radtke and Patricia Wenthold to the AFT Special Leadership Conference on Nov. 14-16, 2003, in Washington, DC, and pay expenses of $400 for each. (AFT will pay each participant a $300 stipend.)
- To approve the new three-year contract for Assistant to the President Morrison.
- That, since a Local 1600 political caucus opposed to the re-election of the Local 1600 president accessed without permission our data base and printed home mailing labels for a mailing to our 500 retiree members, both major political caucuses shall be given access to the mailing labels through the assistant to the president.
- That, in the future, the Local 1600 treasurer receive approval from the president and the executive board before making a change in policy.
- To congratulate the Voice managing editor and staff on the four awards received from the AFTCA for overall excellence, news story, art and editorial.
- To congratulate the Voice managing editor and staff on the four awards received from the AFTCA for overall excellence, news story, art and editorial.
- To congratulate South Suburban College support staff chapter and its negotiating team on its new contract.

Grievance Chair Perry Buckley announced that the CCC Counselors arbitration ended in May. The ruling should be available in September.

Oakton Classified Chapter’s contract expires on July 1st. On the table are health care and salary.

The Harper faculty chapter has had many gains: extended faculty sabbaticals, establishment of board retreats, organizing of adjunct faculty, etc.

The South Suburban faculty chapter has 12 new full-time faculty positions and has replaced two retirees. It has negotiated an extra optional overload in the fall.
The story of Local 1600’s President Norm Swenson’s serving two terms in jail for leading the members of Local 1600 in a series of strikes between 1966 and 1978 was retold and illustrated with his Cook County Jail photo in the newly published American Federation of Teachers’ book “Fighting for the Profession: A History of AFT Higher Education.”

On April 25, Pat Wenthold of the Harper Pro/Tech Chapter and Kurt Neumann and Jessica Walsh of the Harper Faculty Chapter held a daylong symposium on “Plagiarism and the Digital Age.” Professor Richard Kaplan was moderator.

Bruce Chapman, formerly of Washington College, and Judith Cambell, formerly of Truman College — both members of the Retiree Chapter — drowned in a freak accident on July 4 at Cherry Beach, Michigan. The Retiree Chapter extended thoughts and prayers to the friends and family.

Retiree Dr. Randall Morris Johnson, administrator and teacher within the CCC, died on July 11 at Northwestern Hospital. He established the Kennedy-King Community Chorus and the St. John Church-Baptist Performing Arts Center.

Editorial Note: “Personal Glimpses” is the place for publishing good news about life-significant wedding anniversaries, commendations from your employer or college chapter, awards won, etc. Send your typed “personal glimpse” with a photo of your face (a suggestion, not a necessity), address, chapter and your college and home phone numbers to:

Managing Editor Bob Blackwood
Cook County College Teachers Union
208 W. Kinzie St.
Chicago, IL 60610

For news you can use www.ccctu.com