Just 42 hours before the Harper College Faculty was set to take to the picket line in what would have been their second strike in four years, a settlement was reached between the two negotiation teams. The strike was set to begin on Monday, October 9. But after meaningful movement by the board on Saturday, October 7, on Wednesday, October 11 the faculty voted to accept the contract.

The Harper negotiation team consisted of: Perry Buckley, chief negotiator; Jim O’Malley, assistant chief negotiator; and Harper faculty members, David Richmond, Greg Clemons, Trygve “Trig” Thoreson, Linda Campbell, and Michael Vijuk. Buckley cited the presence of “some of the most respected faculty in the building” on the team as a key to getting the attention and ear of the administration team and ultimately “getting the deal done.”

“After seven long months of negotiations, and a year’s worth of hard work, we reached a deal we can be proud of,” said Richmond. “Every one of the attacks on our academic freedom was fought off. We also delivered a solid financial package.”

Although it was salary and retirement benefits remaining at that last negotiation session, it was egregious academic freedom issues that held up a contract for so long. Many of these issues were also not settled until the week before the scheduled strike.

“Sadly,” said Buckley “there still seems to be truth in the old adage: Nothing happens until crunch time. In this case ‘crunch time’ was the real and palpable threat of a strike.”

When the teams first met in March the administrative team presented outlandish proposals. These ranged from giving deans powers traditionally afforded only academic chairs, to mandatory meetings, to simplifying the dismissal of tenured faculty, to class and office hours being assigned by the administration.
This issue I am faced with a “tri-lemma.” There are three equally significant, major stories being reported this issue in the Voice. All have implications, of one sort or another, for all members of Local 1600 even though they, at first observation, appear only a local college issue. So in somewhat of a “Hobson’s Choice” I will briefly touch on all three, and close with a pitch for our endorsed candidates.

City Colleges of Chicago to Pay Local 1600 $764,469

I was at the AFT Higher Education Meeting when Gil Feldman called me with the news that we had won the fired adjunct arbitration and had been awarded almost three-quarters of a million dollars. By the time I got back to the meeting the room was already buzzing. It is not the money that is so important; it is what the ruling says. It says that Local 1600 was correct all along when we made the simple statement: It was a violation of our contract and a violation of one’s right in Illinois to be a “sympathy striker” when the City Colleges fired all the adjuncts and professors emeritus who honored our picket line.

This will have ramifications on any strike we may ever conduct. It also will have ramifications far beyond Local 1600. Never again will a college administration be able to seek retribution from people who exercise the legal right to stand in unity with their brothers and sisters on the picket line. Oh yeah, and when we get the money (which was based on the amount of lost wages of those fired), we will turn over every penny to those who lost their jobs for standing with us and doing the right thing.

Harper College Faculty Avoids Strike

I will not add to our front-page story of how we not only avoided a strike, while keeping our academic freedom, at Harper College. Avoiding strikes and keeping academic freedom are both good news. I am overjoyed how things turned out.

But in many respects the real “feel good story” had nothing at all to do with the negotiations or me. It, rather, has everything to do with the remarkable, incredible, brilliant faculty union members who worked tirelessly the past seven months preparing for what, thank God, was never needed. Whatever we asked of them was done with thoughtful care. Better yet, they did what needed to be done without even being asked, almost knowing what needed to be done even before the need was there.

We use often in this “union business” words like solidarity, unity, and camaraderie. We speak as often of how these qualities are vital to our success. At times, perhaps, we tune out the words, the message. But not at Harper. When we asked faculty to attend the Board meeting for informational picketing, every single member showed up. They showed up with children, grandchildren, and even a few grandparents. So many showed up that the Harper Board chair moved the meeting to the auditorium to accommodate them all. (A far cry from 2004 when the CCC faculty were turned away from the City Colleges Board meeting during the strike.) This was just one small example of what they did... Harper is a magic place, and the Harper faculty are an inspiring group of remarkable people.

Oakton Classified wins 4.99% Parity with Faculty

Part of me wants to say this should not even be a “news” story. Classified and staff receiving the same percentage raise as faculty should be a “no-brainer” formality.

However, when the Oakton College Board agreed last month to a 4.99% raise each year for a two year contract, the Oakton Classified Chapter became the fifth classified/support staff chapter in the past 18 months to receive the same salary as faculty (Triton and Prairie State received more). This has not always been the case.

It is no secret that there are times when our classified members, as well as our pro-tech, mid-management, professionals, training specialists, security, and even adjunct professors express the attitude “the Union treats us like second-class members compared to the full-time faculty.” I hope this is not true. I would hope that we would remove every instance where possible inequities exist. But I know this for certain: Making sure everyone receives at least the same percentage raise as the faculty is a tangible first step.

Remember to Vote!

Finally, this issue will arrive right before the November General Election. Please review our recommendations in this issue and support the legislators who support us. We “tend to our own garden” in Local 1600. Every one of our endorsed candidates has direct influence in the districts, which serve our schools. Please help them so they can help us.

[See back page for endorsements.]
Briggs agreed. The award was based on the research of Local 1600 Grievance Chair Tom Kodogeorgiou and Presidential Assistant Chuck Mustari who presented detailed analysis of damages. What they proved to Briggs was that the amount would have been what the adjunct would have earned had they not been fired.

“We showed a history of what had been taught and what could be reasonably assumed would have been taught if they had not been fired,” said Kodogeorgiou. “We did our homework well.”

Local 1600 Vice President Sonia Powell praised Feldman for his efforts. “He was just superb,” said Powell, “his arguments, his preparation, his presentation was something to behold.”

A key element presented by Feldman was the fact that although adjuncts cannot violate a “no strike pledge” in their own contract, they can be “sympathy strikers” in Illinois.

However, the non-reprisal language was critical. In his opinion Briggs cited how at the very end of the negotiation session which ended the strike, Chancellor Wayne Watson fought to eliminate the non-reprisal clause.

Buckley, Powell, and then chief negotiator Norm Swenson said without the clause there would be no deal. Watson said that he wanted the ability “to go after those who had broken the law.” Buckley said, “No clause, no deal!” The chancellor finally relented and the clause stayed. But what was clear was Watson “knew the language meant something.”

Said Briggs in his decision, “Against that backdrop [Watson and Buckley’s clash over the language] the Employer then deliberately violated the very Article it had unsuccessfully attempted to remove from the contract. In doing so, the Employer broke its word to the Union twice.”

“We fully expect the City Colleges to fight this every possible way they can,” said Buckley, “and it will take some time. But eventually we will get that check and we will pay those who had the courage to honor our line at peril to their own careers. We talk often about brotherhood, unity, and solidarity in Unions. But these people proved it in action. That is why we fought for them. That is why this is their money.”
Oakton Classified Staff Receives 4.99% Raise

The Oakton Community College Classified Staff Association (OCCCSA) successfully negotiated a two-year, hard-fought contract. Negotiations began in April and continued through the end of August, two months after the previous contract expired. As a result, each of the 300 members will receive a 4.99% raise each year of the contract, the first time ever to equal the raise that the faculty negotiated. The pay raise is retroactive to July 1, 2006.

“We had a very strong, smart and cohesive negotiating team led by [CCCTU President and Chief Negotiator] Perry Buckley,” reported Chapter Chair and negotiating team member Jillian Verstrate. “Our team [VP Marilyn Davis, Treasurer Jim Kosteki, Membership Chair Sue Moser and Secretary Barb Reineking] is grateful to have been guided by Perry who, from the get-go, insisted on the OCCCSA receiving the same raise as faculty.”

Buckley concurred and added, “We also had great support from OCCCSA members who spoke at the Oakton Board of Trustees meetings throughout the summer to support us and to urge the Board to finalize a contract.”

Moraine Valley Support Staff Approves Big Gains

By a vote of 136 to 3, the Moraine Valley Support Staff agreed to a five-year deal featuring raises of 5% per year for 5 years or the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the last year, whichever is greater. The insurance increase will only be $2 per pay period per year. The contract was certified on June 15.

The negotiations team was comprised of IFT Staffer and Chief Negotiator Jennifer Marsh, Chapter Chair Rose Sakanis, Local 1600 Classified VP Gail Wiot, Renee Skotnik, Helen Agresti, and Julie Poulos.

“This is the best contract that we have negotiated,” said Wiot. “Our insurance stayed intact with Blue Cross/Blue Shield with very minimum increases.” The increase, however, will not take effect until 2007.

The team also negotiated five personal days that had been lost in the last contract due to the Medical/Family Leave Act. Additionally, the Support Staff will have half-day Fridays in the summer, bringing the total to eleven half days each year. Additional gains include a half-day in-service with a $2,000 honorarium from the college to pay for in-service clinicians, additional monies for classification upgrades, ergonomic improvements and wellness language.

“Five-year contract plus 5% for four years and 5% or the CPI (which ever is higher) in the last year is unprecedented,” said Marsh.

Sakanis concurred, stating, “Negotiating this contract for our members was a great experience. Both teams came to the table ready to work together to get the process done. The result was a great contract that we were proud to present to our membership. We are very fortunate at Moraine Valley to have an administration willing to work with us.”
Harper Pro-Tech
Inks a Four-Year Deal

The Professional-Technical Chapter of Harper College landed a four-year contract effective fall 2006 with raises of 4.7% in the first year, 4.5% in the second and 4.3% the final two. Ratified on July 11 by a vote of 61 to 2, this contract was high on gains and low on givebacks. It was also “unprecedented,” stated Chief Negotiator and Local 1600 Suburban VP Jim O’Malley. “Harper Pro Tech is the first suburban chapter in Local 1600 history to negotiate released time for chapter officers.”

Along with O’Malley, the negotiating team consisted of Local 1600 Secretary Pat Wenthold, immediate past Chapter Chair Terry Engle, newly elected Chapter Chair Dave Dwyer and members Alice Blomquist and Ron Greenberg. The team was “pleased to present the four-year deal to the Pro-Tech members,” Dwyer stated. “This is a very good contract and our members overwhelmingly ratified the agreement. Also, there were no increases in health care premiums for the life of the contract.”

Other contract highlights include 100% premium reimbursement for retired members and 80% for spousal/family support. In addition, professional development expense aggregation also increased to 150%. Wenthold stated, “Most members felt the settlement was fair and reasonable with no increases in health insurance premiums or reduction in health benefits. Overall, we’re very pleased.” The team received additional counsel from IFT Staffer Jennifer Marsh.

Newly elected Harper Pro-Tech chapter chair David Dwyer (right) and President Perry Buckley discuss the upcoming senatorial elections with Democratic candidate for State Senate (33rd) Dan Kotowski (center) at the August 31st meeting.

Prairie State College
Support Staff Ratify New 4-Year Contract

On June 29, 2006, the Prairie State College Support Staff overwhelmingly ratified a successor four-year agreement. Sue Braasch, PSCSS’ Chapter Chair and a member of the negotiating team thanked her colleagues for “all the time and hard work involved in creating a fair and equitable agreement. [Chief Negotiator] Janie Morrison and [Asst. Chapter Chair] Carissa Davis were dynamite.”

The four-year contract calls for annual across-the-board raises at 4.4% the first year, 4.3% the next two years and 4.25% in the final year in 2010. Also, if the Consumer Price Index is higher than the contract raises of 4.3% and 4.25% during the final two years, then members would receive the CPI up to 5%. Other highlights include a “Retirement Stipend” of $3,500 after ten years of service, increased tuition reimbursement and monetary stipends for advanced degrees and a one-time longevity payment in the third year of the contract. A new Job Classification System was introduced as unclear provisions were clarified such as the prorating of benefits, affirmative action, military leave, layoff procedures and expanded the definition of “immediate family” which now includes domestic partners, grandparents and grandchildren.

PSCSS Chapter Chair Sue Braasch (center) leans in to explain new contract language to keep health insurance equal to or greater than existing coverage to her colleague Kathleen Hazlettter (left) as Jack Mosher looks on. To Braasch’s right are Fran Enochs and Sharyn Jones.

Chief Negotiator Janie Morrison (right) shares a laugh with Sarah Ridder after the PSCSS contract was ratified by a vote of 78-13. Morrison said: “This agreement reflects many hours of hard work which will improve working conditions and salaries for all members in the bargaining unit. [Local 1600 IFT rep] Jennifer Marsh contributed background information and kudos to the administration’s team. [VP of Business and Services] Robert Tenuta and [IHR Director] Debbie Allen, who negotiated in good faith, It was a team effort.”
Strong and United Faculty Deliver at Harper College

Almost from the beginning, as President Perry Buckley writes in his “From the President’s Desk” on page 2, the keys to negotiating the successful contract were an excellent and dedicated negotiation team and the “Harper faculty [who were] an inspiring group of remarkable people.” The photo album contain images from the Unity Rally on August 18 and the Harper Board of Trustees September 26 meeting.

Harper Faculty and their supporters pack the hallway outside the regular meeting room at the Board of Trustee meeting. In fact, there were so many people attending the meeting that the Board moved the meeting into the auditorium.

Local 1600 Legislative Chair Bill Naegele, Harper Chapter Chair Michael Harkins, Local 1600 Secretary Pat Wenthold, President Perry Buckley and IFT President Jim Dougherty attend the “Unity” rally on August 18.

A crowd of Harper faculty supporters gathered underneath the pavilion near Harper College holding signs proclaiming, “UNITY.” Despite the inclement weather, more than 100 attended.

President Perry Buckley addresses the crowd at the Unity rally on August 18: “Harper Works Because We Work.”

Harper Faculty Veronica Mormino and Jennifer Bel demonstrate their unified solidarity to “stop the bleeding” by wearing the color red at the Harper Board meeting.

Harper Chapter Chair Michael Harkins, Local 1600 President Perry Buckley and Harper faculty member Peggy Kazak hold signs reading “Let’s Go Forward Together” at the Harper Board meeting.
Harper Faculty Avoids Strike
continued from Front Page

Perhaps the most obvious example was proposed language which would have afforded the board of trustees the right to determine “who would teach, when they would teach, where they would teach, what they would teach, and how they would teach.” In the end every one of these administrative proposals was gone.

“I kept saying over and over and over,” said Buckley, “we would never be the first college in the nation, let alone the local, to give up these sacrosanct faculty rights.”

In the end there were concessions in several retirement plans. Post retirement payouts of 125% over five years were lowered to 105% in year one graduating down to 45% in the last year of the contract. The pre-retirement payment of 20% for two years would continue only in the first two years of the contract. However, even with these compromises, Harper’s retirement plans are the most generous in the local. No other contract provides such payouts to all retirees. The team was also able to fight off “sunset” provisions which would have eliminated all plans at the end of the contract.

“We still can negotiate retirement issues next time,” said Local 1600 VP for Suburban Faculty, Jim O’Malley. O’Malley, the assistant chief negotiator, pointed out how it is easier to keep what is “still in the current contract.”

Another key victory was keeping the faculty promotion policy. At Harper, promoted faculty receive both lane and step movement. This realizes a 17.2% raise. The administration wanted this gone. In the end, the team saved the promotion bumps and still secured a compounded 4.3% raise all four years of the contract. The actual average was 4.55%. Where the original proposal would have given those at the top of the lane about $200, the final proposal added a step and assured at least 1.5% each year to those members during this contract. There were also improvements in pay in distance learning, overload, independent study, substitute pay, and professional expense benefits.

“We are most proud of defending our academic freedoms and our promotion policy,” said Thoreson. “We remained unified and steadfast. It worked.”

At the October 9th informational faculty meeting, Buckley praised the unity and solidarity of the 217 faculty members as critical to the team’s success. “You were simply magic,” he said, “From the excellent team that [Harper Chair] Michael Harkins put together, to the work of the Unity and Strike Committees, to the 200 plus who participated in the informational picketing at the board meeting, to the 199 – 9 strike authorization vote, to your hundreds of hours of preparation, you were the reason we were listened to at the table. You gave all our words credibility and strength.”

One faculty member at the meeting asked Buckley, “What got them to move on Saturday?”

“The fact that you were going to be on strike on Monday,’ was Buckley’s reply.

PERSONAL GLIMPSE

Truman Professor Inducted into Prestigious Academy

Truman College Assistant Professor in nursing Polly Gerber Zimmermann, RN, MS, MBA, CEN, FAEN, was inducted as a Fellow into the Academy of Emergency Nursing in September. Fellows are selected based on their enduring and significant contribution and visionary leadership in emergency nursing. Ms. Zimmermann is a contributing editor for the American Journal of Nursing and previously was an assistant editor for the Journal of Emergency Nursing. She served a Director for the national Board of Directors for the Emergency Nursing Association in 2004-2005 and is the editor of the books Nursing Management Secrets and Triage Nursing Secrets.
Local 1600 Endorsed Candidates Attend September 15th House Meeting

At the September 15 House meeting, twelve candidates for the Illinois House and Senate spoke to House delegates and thanked Local 1600 for its continued support prior to and during this campaign season. Candidates received COPE funds in the amount of $5,000 for the House and $10,000 for the Senate. “This is not your typical House meeting,” President Perry Buckley before introducing the candidates. “Our ‘business’ tonight is to hear from our endorsed candidates.” Each candidate was introduced by Buckley or Legislative Chair Bill Naegle, who stated, “We [Local 1600] wouldn’t support these candidates if they were not outstanding individuals who truly cared about education and the issues we face.” After the meeting the candidates mingled with Local 1600 members to, in the words of Sen. Ed Maloney (D, 18), “get to know the fine people of the Cook County College Teachers Union.”
Rep. JJimm  DDuurrkkiinn(R, 82) poses with his former Fenwick high school English teacher PPeerrrryy  BBuucckklleeyy. Said Durkin, “We’ve both come a long way since Fenwick but Perry still is the same as he was then: dedicated, caring and hard-working. I’m honored to be here tonight.”

Legislative Chair BBiillll  NNaaeeggeellee introduced Rep. Marlow Colvin (D, 33), stating “He was instrumental in helping Local 1600 prevent the CCC’s attempted end-around with CIP [College Insurance Program] in Springfield.”

Rep. Jim Durkin (R, 82) poses with his former Fenwick high school English teacher Perry Buckley. Said Durkin, “We’ve both come a long way since Fenwick but Perry still is the same as he was then: dedicated, caring and hard-working. I’m honored to be here tonight.”

Barbara Norman gives her support to Sen. Candidate Dan Kotowski as Cas Kotowski, Dan’s father, looks on.

Sen. Don Harmon (D, 29) and President Perry Buckley discussed the plight of underfunded pensions. Harmon sits on the Pensions & Investments Committee.

Rep. Connnniiiee  HHoowwaarrdd(D, 34) accepts a campaign contribution from Perry Buckley. Bill Naegle (center) introduced Howard, noting that her “annual fundraising picnics always serve the best food because Connie makes it.”

New Legislative Director Linda Murphy (right) chats with Rep. Beth Coulson (R, 17) about legislative issues in Springfield. Coulson has been a representative since 1997.

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Legislative Chair Bill Naegle was pleased to present Rep. John D’Amico (D, 15): “He’s a regular guy who understands working people and unions.” In his presentation, D’Amico noted, “I am a proud member of Journey Plumber’s Union, Local 130 and I believe in the union’s mission.”

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College Union Voice http://il.aft.org/local1600/
CAMPUS VISITS: CCC

Buckley Addresses Malcolm X Chapter

At the Malcolm X chapter meeting on August 16, 2006, Assistant Chapter Chair William Stewart welcomed returning veterans to the fall semester and took a moment to welcome the newly hired faculty members who introduced themselves to their colleagues. Stewart then warmly introduced President Perry Buckley. He began by stating that in the City Colleges of Chicago there had been a “thaw” in the relationship between the Union and the Administration. Faculty members questioned Buckley on initial lane and step placement for new hires. Buckley promised to send an update to each MX faculty member.

Wright College ‘Homecoming’

President Perry Buckley shares a laugh with long-time colleagues Judy Reiser and Marc Schwertley. At the meeting professor Marc Schwertley was unanimously elected as the chapter Grievance Chair.

President Perry Buckley and Wright Chapter Chair Clyde Walker listen to part-time professional Devin Love-Andrews’ comments on August 16.

Malcolm X chapter officers listen to Assistant Chapter Chair William Stewart (far left) introduce Local 1600 President Perry Buckley. To his left are newly elected Grievance Chair Marc Schwertley, Secretary Marietta McDuffy and Treasurer Luc Ellie.

Bob Rogers raises his hand to ask a question of President Buckley about rising property tax rates in the City of Chicago.

Stephanie Battle, Arlene Weaver and Rathel Walker show positive union attitudes at the Wright Chapter luncheon.

Oleh Hanowsky and new Local 1600 Legislative Director Linda Murphy listen to Local 1600 Grievance Chair Tom Kodogeorgiou’s response to their question.
Kennedy-King Chapter Holds Successful Breakfast Meeting

KK Chapter Chair Arlicia Corley chats with Local 1600 Legislative Chair Bill Naegeli on August 18.

Social Chair Verna Anderson double-checks the attendance roster during the August 18 KK breakfast meeting. She regretfully announced that this would be her last year in this position.

Distinguished Professor Joseph Kyle thanks the members of the Kennedy-King Chapter for their support on August 18. Kyle, the KK 2006-07 Distinguished Professor, sponsored the breakfast.

New KK Chapter Chair Arlicia Corley asks Local 1600 President Perry Buckley about some of the challenges she’ll face.

New KK Chapter Chair Arlicia Corley asks Local 1600 President Perry Buckley about some of the challenges she’ll face.

Radtke and Buckley Visit Truman Chapter

Local 1600 President Perry Buckley (seated on table) and Truman Chapter Chair Tony Johnston (right foreground) update the Truman Chapter on September 5.

Local 1600 Treasurer Don Radtke updates Truman Grievance Chair Rick Przybranowski on the current political atmosphere in Springfield and Chicago.

New HW Chapter Chair Phil Stucky Welcomes Buckley

New Harold Washington Chapter Chair Phil Stucky (facing audience) introduces the local leadership at the chapter meeting.

Jennifer Meresman enjoys meeting her new colleagues at HW’s fall chapter meeting.
VP Sonia Powell Discusses Key Arbitrations at Olive-Harvey

At the Sept. 19 chapter meeting CCCTU Vice President-City Sonia Powell introduced her new research assistant Rashid Carter as “a tireless worker and all-around good guy.”

Gide Colinet, Olive-Harvey’s new Chapter Chair, welcomes the faculty and professionals to the first chapter meeting of the semester.

Buckley Updates Daley Chapter on Professors Emeritus

Adam Martinez showed Perry Buckley a letter from the CCC stating that Professional employees were eligible for overtime pay.

Daley chapter officers pose with new hires (and one transfer from Kennedy-King) after the luncheon on August 22. Standing, l-r: Michelle McQuade-Dewhirst, Alexander Herzog, Dr. Barbara Norman (from KK), Mike Held, Ana Aradondo, Michael Maine, Joy Heams, Assst. Chap. Chair Maria Kossakowski, and Chap. Chair Mel Anderson. Seated, l-r: Kevin McSweeney, Treasurer Ann Dikcis, Janice Tuck-Lively and Grievance Chair Bob Yacoub. Buckley welcomed the new faculty members, stating, “This is a great place to work in spite of some of the negative issues you may hear about.” He noted that in a year a new bargaining team will need to be in place to begin negotiating the next contract but “this time every chapter chair will be on the negotiating team and three of them, Daley’s Mel Anderson, Truman’s Tony Johnston and Dawson Tech’s Rausan Tamir will lead the negotiations of the Professionals’ contract.”

New CCC Faculty Hires Attend Orientation

President Perry Buckley addresses a packed faculty lounge at Daley College on August 22. In the front row is Local 1600 Treasurer Don Radtke.

President Perry Buckley addresses 72 faculty of the City Colleges of Chicago at the Sept. 8 New Faculty Conference. He reminded them they had three responsibilities: to be good teachers, to do a great job for the CCC and to help their students.

Darnell Cloud (left) and John Majer (right), from Daley Chapter, ask President Perry Buckley about contract provisions.
C A M P U S  V I S I T S :  S U B U R B S

Buckley to Triton Faculty: 
“COPE Funds Go to Triton Board Members Who Support Local 1600”

All of Triton’s new faculty signed up to join Local 1600 at Triton’s Faculty Workshop on August 25. The new faculty are pictured with (at left) Salary Welfare VP Debbie Baker, Triton Faculty Chapter Chair Maggie Hahn Wade and CCCTU President Perry Buckley. At right are Grievance Chair Stew Sikora (back row) and Secretary-Treasurer Judy Darst.

Wiot and Buckley Address Morton Classified

At the September 14 Morton Classified meeting, Chapter Chair Tim Visk (back center) addressed various campus and employee group issues. Additional speakers included Local 1600 Classified VP Gail Wiot, IFT Staffer Jennifer Marsh and CCCTU President Perry Buckley (at left). Buckley discussed various state and local issues. Pictured with Buckley and Visk are (l-r) House Delegate Richie Pawlak, Secretary Karen Piest, Grievance Chair Eric Porod, Vice Chair Joe Messina, and Treasurer Ruben Ruiz.

Harper Faculty Prepare to Authorize Strike Vote on September 20

Harper Faculty Chapter members file in while their chapter chair, Mike Harkins, begins to call the chapter meeting to order in the late afternoon of September 20. Harkins is leading 217 full-time teachers at William Rainey Harper College. On September 21 and 22, the members took a strike vote by secret ballot. The result was 190-9 in favor of a strike.

Harper faculty negotiating team leader, President Perry Buckley, addressed the members of the Harper Faculty Chapter on September 20 at their meeting. Buckley noted: “Faculty salaries make up only 12% of the Harper budget. If the board needs more money for the faculty, the board can find it elsewhere.” Buckley also noted the 4.9% annual pay raises at Cook County’s South Suburban College as an example of how a board can find the money if it wants to do so.

Moraine Valley Faculty Welcome New Chapter Chair

CCCTU Suburban VP Jim O’Malley and President Perry Buckley pose with new Chapter Chair Janice Hill-Matula and Assistant Chapter Chair Troy Swanson at the Moraine Valley faculty meeting on September 28. Hill-Matula summarized current campus issues. Buckley spoke of Local 1600’s involvement in local and state elections and COPE’s importance. Following his talk, there was a bumper crop of new COPE registrants.

College Union Voice  http://il.aft.org/local1600/
Local 1600 Supports Leadership Training

Being in a Union is much more than attending monthly meetings. Active membership involves training, networking and attending workshops and conferences locally and nationally. This past July Local 1600 sent a record number of delegates (30) to the biennial AFT Convention in Boston, MA, where the Local was recognized as a national leader [see story page 3]. At the August 25 Executive Board meeting, a number of motions were passed to continue leadership training for Local 1600 members by paying their travel expenses. These include:

• Send Truman Chapter Chair Tony Johnston and Harper Pro-Tech Chair David Dwyer to the AFT Higher Education Training Conference in Washington, D.C. in November. Past leadership participants include Local 1600 President Perry Buckley (2001), Sub.VP Jim O’Malley (2004), City VP Sonia Powell, Classified VP Gail Wiot (2004), Grievance Chair Tom Kodogeorgiou (2004), Legislative Chair Bill Naegle (2001), Treasurer Don Radtke (2003), Secretary Pat Wenthold (2003), Triton College’s Maggie Hahn-Wade (1999) and Stew Sikora (2002) and Daley College’s Mel Anderson (2005), among others.

• Send up to ten (10) chapter officers to the three IFT Union Leadership Institute workshops at the IFT Robert M. Healey Center in Westmont.

• Send the president, classified VP and the all suburban classified and support staff chapter chairs to the IFT PSRP Conference in Springfield on October 20-21.

CCCTU Supports Striking Union

At the August 25 Executive Board meeting Local 1600 unanimously voted to send $500 and a letter of support to the K-8 teachers of Wolf Branch Local 6117 who were on strike for six days in late August. Legislative Chair Bill Naegle made the motion: “Our brothers and sisters at Local 6117 are in unchartered and hostile territory. They’re a small union outside of Belleville who only joined the IFT seven years ago. This is their first strike and, like the many unions big and small who have supported us during our strikes, we need to return that support to them.” The strike formally ended on August 30 when the school board ratified the contract.

http://il.aft.org/local1600/
Big Luncheon and Serious Retirees’ Business in Greektown

On Wednesday, June 14, 112 retirees joined Executive Director Dan Slack of the State Universities Retirement System, Local 1600 President Perry Buckley, Secretary Pat Wenthold and Retirees Chapter Chair Norm Swenson to discuss the funding of pensions in Illinois and other retirees’ issues in the Parthenon Restaurant, Chicago, on June 14.

Swenson noted the large number of retirees in attendance in the largest chapter in the Cook County College Teachers Union (CCCTU). He noted the protection of pensions by the Illinois constitution that “can’t be impaired or diminished.”

Buckley vowed to continue the fight to have professors emeritus back teaching in the City Colleges’ classroom despite the administration’s counsel’s pledge to never let them back in the classroom.

Regarding health care for City Colleges’ retirees after 10 years of retirement, Buckley notes he has been assured that the governor will appoint him to a task force to look at the inclusion of CCC retirees and its effect on the College Insurance Program (CIP) as well as means to stop the mounting annual premium increases in CIP.

Slack’s message focused on means of funding the retirees’ pension funds. He noted the laws and provisions that have been in place to fund the pensions have been avoided at times by governors of both parties as well as by their legislatures. His board has directed him to study the history of these activities in his first phase.

His second phase is to study the history of all of the Illinois pension systems. The Springfield legislature wants the big picture.

Slack’s third phase is to study the options of funding the pension system. The governor and the legislatures have found the funding ramp to be too steep at times; other means must be found to lower that ramp. For example, if a lease of some long term asset such as the Illinois tollway system takes place, any funds raised should first be used to lower long term debts—such as the pension systems. Another option would be the issuance of pension bonds, though that is dependent on market conditions. Thirdly, a level percentage of payrolls could be used as a funding source.

Slack anticipates much discussion next spring on these issues before the budget for fiscal 2008 is adopted. “We must get back on the 50-year funding program. We must offer our perspective,” he noted, “and the retirees should be active in reaching their individual state representatives and state senators to make them aware of their concerns.”
IFT Retirees Chapter’s Social Security and Medicare Seminar

On August 22, the IFT Retirees Chapter held a seminar in their Westmont headquarters to cover Social Security and Medicare information. Dr. Bob Blackwood, Pension Committee Chair, attended from Local 1600 and 13 other members from the local signed up for the seminar along with 60 others from across the state.

IFT Field Director Tom Smith opened the meeting at 10:00 AM. Thomas Keough, a field representative for Social Security, spoke for an hour and a half on Social Security retirement income and the aging of the U.S. He noted that by 2030, 20 percent of the population would be 65 or over. Furthermore, at that time, there would be only two full-time workers per each retiree. By 2040, therefore, the government would need to cut benefits unless other funding could be found. He also noted that if you are covered by an employer’s plan, Medicare Parts B and D might not be good choices for you.

For more information, contact www.medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE (a 24-hour service).

Education Specialist Angelia Parker from the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP), a division of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, spoke after a tasty lunch in the building. SHIP handles a wide variety of questions about Medicare, Medicare Prescription drug Plans, Medicare supplemental insurance, Medicare Advantage plans and long-term care insurance. SHIP also has volunteer counselors throughout Cook County and can give one-to-one counseling for free without selling you any insurance products. Call 1-800-548-9034 for more information from 9:00-5:00 on weekdays.

Parker, for instance, reminded the retirees present to apply for Medicare at least three months before they turn 65. Medicare is usually the prime health care provider in various health insurance plans for those 65 and over. She urged those planning on retirement to contact Social Security to determine their Social Security retirement income after the application of the Government Pension Offset provision.

An Afternoon at the Theatre

Retirees Chapter Chair Norm Swenson (second from right) cracks up Local 1600 President Perry Buckley while (seated) Frank Polak and Andy Nicosia hand out tickets to Donald Stokes, Grace Russell and Doris Stokes. The chapter members were at Drury Lane’s matinee production of Agatha Christie’s “Ten Little Indians” on September 20 in Oakbrook Terrace. Fifty retirees from many Cook County community colleges dined in style and sampled a classic murder mystery at a bargain price.
POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS

Strong Local 1600 Presence at Madigan Reception

Barbara Norman (center) poses for a picture with Shirley Madigan and Speaker Michael Madigan at the Chicago Sheraton Hotel on September 26.

From left: Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Jillian Verstrate, Local 1600 Legislative Director Linda Murphy and Phil Stucky meet at the Sept. 26 Democratic Reception.

From left: Jillian Verstrate, Local 1600 Legislative Director Linda Murphy, Shirley Madigan, Phil Stucky, and Speaker Michael Madigan are all smiles at the Sept. 26 Democratic Reception.

From left: Rusan Tamir gets a smile from Reggie Bishop, Rep. David Miller (D, 29) and Jillian Verstrate.

From left: MWRD Commissioner Theresa Meaney, Senator Louis Vivetto (D, 11) and Local 1600 Legislative Director Linda Murphy enjoy the Sept. 26 Democratic Reception.

From left: Retirees “Cas” Kotowski, Chap. Chair Norm Swenson, Shirley Madigan, Noel Samuels and Speaker Michael Madigan meet again at the Sept. 26 Democratic Reception.

Devine’s Fundraiser at the Library Club

President Perry Buckley and Cook County State’s Attorney Richard A. Devine take a moment to pose for a photo at Devine’s fundraiser held on August 16.

Cook County State’s Attorney Richard A. Devine enjoys an anecdote from President Perry Buckley.
COPE Works for You

Every dollar that Local 1600 gives for political reasons comes from the voluntary COPE fund. Not one dollar in COPE comes from union dues although, legally, it could. Below are the names of the faculty members who donate more than $20 per pay period the COPE fund.

COPE Honor Roll

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daley:</th>
<th>Olive-Harvey:</th>
<th>Washington:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Don Radtke $30</td>
<td>Sonia Powell $25</td>
<td>Myra Cox $20</td>
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<td>Tom Kodogeorgiou $20</td>
<td>Jacqueline Anderson $20</td>
<td>Phil Stucky $20</td>
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<td>Todd Lakin $20</td>
<td>John Harris $20</td>
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<th>Kennedy-King:</th>
<th>South Suburban:</th>
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<td>Ronald Davis $45</td>
<td>Noah Hamilton $20</td>
<td>Perry Buckley $50</td>
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<td>Marian Franklin $30</td>
<td>Bill Naegele $20</td>
<td>Paul Janus $40</td>
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<td>Arlicia Corley $25</td>
<td>Steven Vivian $20</td>
<td>Patricia Rangel $35</td>
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<td>Ruby Reese $25</td>
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<td>Clyde Walker $30</td>
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<td>Verna Anderson $20</td>
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<td>Reggie Bishop $25</td>
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<td>Madie Cannamore $20</td>
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<td>Karen Jeffries $25</td>
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<td>Benita Hunter $20</td>
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<td>Dennis King $25</td>
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<td>Alfonso Rush $20</td>
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<td>Joyce Wandel $23</td>
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<td>Audrey Turner $20</td>
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<td>Lillian Fleming $20</td>
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<td>Malcolm X:</td>
<td>Maggie Hahn-Wade $20</td>
<td>Oleh Hanowsky $20</td>
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<td>Marietta McDuffy $20</td>
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<td>Keith McCoy $20</td>
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Malcolm X:           | Truman:             | Edward Mogul $20    |
| Marietta McDuffy $20 | Mike McCloskey $80  |                     |
|                     | Patricia Murphy $25 |                     |
|                     | George Bart $20     |                     |
|                     | Marta Hidegkuti $20 |                     |
|                     | Al Hijjawi $20      |                     |
|                     | Leone McDermott $20 |                     |

Special thanks to these new faculty union members who signed up for COPE this fall semester at $10. From Daley, Ana Arredondo, Joy Heams, Michael Held, Janice Lively, Michael Main, and Michelle McQuade-DeWhist. From Malcolm X, Claire Stuart-Quintanilla and, at $11 from Wright, Ernesto Rueda.

Lisa Hernandez Fundraiser at Lalo’s a Hit with Local 1600

AFT Local 1600 President Perry Buckley, State Rep. Candidate Lisa Hernandez (D, 24) and Legislative Chair Bill Naegele strike a pose before the fundraiser begins at Lalo’s, 500 N. LaSalle, Chicago on Sept. 27.

SEIU Local 73 President Christine Boardman takes a moment to renew an old alliance with AFT Local 1600 Legislative Chair Bill Naegele.

Legislative Chair Bill Naegele and President Perry Buckley welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Tony Diaz to Lisa Hernandez’s fundraiser; Diaz is a Local 1600 member from Morton College which is in Hernandez’s district.

Legislative Chair Bill Naegele, Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn and President Perry Buckley get reacquainted at Lisa Hernandez’s fundraiser.
Volunteers Requested for Kotowski

Dan Kotowski, son of Local 1600 retiree Casimir “Cas” Kotowski, is a Democratic candidate for state senate in the 33rd District (including Park Ridge, Elk Grove, Des Plaines, Mt. Prospect, Arlington Hts., Niles, Norridge and parts of Chicago). Kotowski, who remembers his father going off to the picket line many times, pledges his support for quality higher education. Though volunteers are pouring in, any Local 1600 member should contact Janie Morrison at 847-268-4281; volunteers earn $10 an hour. Kotowski’s campaign office is at the O’Hare Corporate Center, 1300 W. Higgins Rd., Park Ridge, Il., just two blocks west of Cumberland.

The $80 Man

Truman College Social Science Professor Michael McCloskey, PhD., is not only a 33-year faculty veteran of City Colleges of Chicago but he also is a strong supporter of unions and unionism. And the proof is in the proverbial pudding: every two weeks, like clockwork, $80 is withdrawn from his paycheck and directed to the COPE fund. “Every year I increase my donation by $5 and I always challenge my colleagues to do the same,” McCloskey said. “It is vitally important to Local 1600 that our voice be heard in Springfield and the COPE fund makes this possible.”

Aside from his tireless teaching at Truman McCloskey has worn many hats, including Coordinator of Service Learning, Phi Theta Kappa Advisor, Chair of Social Science Department, Director of the Phoebe Chen Asian Memorial Scholarship, and, interestingly, as a donor of “Harry S. Truman” bronze coins from the U.S. Department of Treasury Bureau of the Mint to all Truman college grads. He has numerous degrees, including two M.A.s, one from Loyola University in Chicago and an M.Div. from the Catholic Theological Union of Chicago, and is a candidate for a Doctor of Ministry from St. Mary of the Lake University, also in Chicago. He has been recognized by the American Association of Women in Community Colleges and the Truman College Student Government Association and has been a finalist in the Kathy Osterman Award for Superior Public Service.

“Looking at his accomplishments and his generosity to his students, I’m not surprised about Mike’s dedication to the Union,” stated Local 1600 President Perry Buckley. “Nonetheless, $80 per paycheck is quite generous and we are very grateful to Mike for his commitment to the CCCTU. Each fall semester when I visit Truman’s campus, there is one sure thing: Mike always increases his COPE contribution.”

To McCloskey, though, there is nothing unusual about his generosity. “The Union has been there for me throughout my 33-year career and, having taught at other colleges and universities, I have seen first hand how important having a union is. Donating a small portion of my pay to COPE is just my way of saying ‘Thanks.’”

Mike McCloskey, aka, “The $80 Man,” poses for a picture with Local 1600 President Perry Buckley outside the CCCTU office at 208 W. Kinzie. McCloskey, who composes a poem each spring for the student awards banquet, is Truman’s resident poet punster. For the Voice he composed this: “Don’t be a mope, give to COPE.”

SAVE THE DATE

HOUSE DELEGATE MEETING 11/17/06
HOUSE DELEGATE MEETING 1/19/07
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 2/16/07
HOUSE DELEGATE MEETING 3/16/07
Get Out the Vote: CCCTU’s Endorsed Illinois Legislative Candidates

**Illinois Senate:**
- Maggie Crotty (D, 19)
- Candidate Peter Gutzmer (D, 39)
- Debbie Halverson (D, 40)
- Don Harmon (D, 29)
- Candidate Dan Kotowski (D, 33)
- Edward Maloney (D, 18)

**Illinois House of Representatives:**
- Marlow Colvin (D, 33)
- Elizabeth “Beth” Coulson (R, 17)
- Candidate Fred Crespo (D, 44)
- John D’Amico (D, 15)
- Jim Durkin (R, 82)
- John Fritchey (D, 11)
- Candidate Lisa Hernandez (D, 24)
- Constance “Connie” Howard (D, 34)
- Robin Kelly (D, 38)
- Karen May (D, 58)
- David Miller (D, 29)
- Elaine Nekritz (D, 57)

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Please send us your new address:
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City/State/ZIP
Home Phone:
College (or former college):

Mail to:
College Union Voice • Cook County College Teachers Union
208 W. Kinzie St., Chicago, IL 60610
or: e-mail your address to: tlakin@local1600.org