Buckley and Murphy Active at Democratic Convention

Delegate at Large President Perry Buckley, elected Delegate Linda Murphy, and Assistant to the President Randy Barnette (39th Ward Democratic committeeman) journeyed to the Democratic National Convention in Denver from Aug. 25-28 to help elect Barack Obama as the next President of the United States and to do some healthy communication with the powerbrokers in Illinois’ delegation. They achieved both goals.

As Buckley noted, each morning they met with the Illinois Democratic delegation for breakfast and a political briefing. They rubbed elbows with Illinois state senators, state representatives, state officials, labor leaders and Chicago aldermen.

Labor was well represented. At Thursday morning’s briefing, which was televised nationally on CSPAN and MSNBC, Local 1600 was singled out by IFT President Ed Geppert as the first union in America to endorse Obama, a month before he officially announced his candidacy. Geppert also praised Local 1600 as the union with the highest COPE contribution, per capita, in the United States.

The high point for Buckley and for everyone else was when Obama said: “I accept your nomination for President of the United States.” As Buckley said, “It wasn’t until I saw tears flowing down the cheeks of those around me that I realized I was crying as well. There had been only three times in my life I have cried for joy. This was my fourth.”

Murphy, the new Chair of the Wright College Chapter, is a professor of Political Science, Local 1600’s legislative director, as well as an elected delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Below are some comments from her blog written during the convention:

On Hillary Clinton: My expectation is that Hillary is a Democrat first; she is first concerned about the future of our country. Hillary’s mother was born when women were not able to vote. That’s amazing to me, that we’ve made that much progress in one lifetime. I know many may think its slow, but great progress is being measured now in years instead of longer time frames.

continued on page 3
As there is so much going on this autumn, I will offer another “Odds and Odds” column…

November 4th: Without any risk of overstatement, the 2008 presidential election presents us with the most important decision in American history. After the Democratic and Republican conventions were over this summer, I was simply astonished that Barack Obama did not have a double digit lead in the polls. Obama should be winning this by a landslide. The failure of the Republicans of the past eight years should have erased any doubt in every voter’s mind. Good jobs are gone. Pensions are in peril. Banks are failing. Homes are being foreclosed. All of these things are rooted in the Republicans’ obsession with helping rich friends and businesses at the expense of the ordinary American worker. We need the change that only Barack can provide.

Then, here in Illinois, we are still entrenched in a dysfunctional legislature that continues to underfund the community colleges of Illinois.

But there is a way out of this, and that way is the ballot box. Please, for the good of our country, our state, and the schools and students we all serve, vote for Barack Obama for President, and vote for the Local 1600 endorsed candidates you will find in this issue of the Voice… and vote “NO” on the Con-Con resolution.

The New Kids on the Block: Something very exciting is happening in Local 1600. A new “generation” of leaders is emerging. In the 2008 Union elections nine new chapter chairs were elected to serve their colleges. There are also new house and executive board members in addition to new chapter officers at many of our chapters. The new chairs include: Rochelle Robinson-Dukes, Olive-Harvey College; Linda Murphy, Wright College; Thomas Dowd, Harper College Faculty; Debra Baker, Triton College Faculty; Keith Westland, Moraine Valley College Adjuncts; Mark Joseph, South Suburban College Adjuncts; Patty Lucas, Oakton College Classified; and Melissa Cabrera, Triton College Classified were all sworn into office in a ceremony at the July House meeting.

Add to this the fact that John Caderno, Triton Mid-Managers; Margie Sedano, Harper Pro-Tech; and Tim Visk, Morton Classified were mid-term chairs since 2006, as well as second term chairs Arlicia Corley, Kennedy-King, William Stewart, Malcolm X and G.A. Griffith, South Suburban all are new since the last election. Sixty-five percent of our current chapter leaders are in their first or second term. This is good for the Union, good for our members.

Local 1600 will be sending these, and other new leaders, to IFT and AFT training sessions over the next three years to help them hone their skills. We will also provide help to make sure they have all they need to best serve their members. We will provide both “hard” and “soft” skills to make their jobs easier and more effective. The excitement brought on by their fresh outlooks and enthusiasm has been palpable at our first meetings. The future of Local 1600 is bright due to what these energetic new leaders bring to all of us.

New City Colleges Structure: At the September House of Representatives meeting the House voted 117 – 1 to amend the structure of CCC representation in the City Colleges of Chicago. Since their inception, the last two organized groups, part-time professionals and security, were “stand alone” chapters serving seven colleges and three institutes. Although the leadership was excellent, what was asked of them was impossible. Alan Booker, part-time professional chair, and Jim Sullivan, security chair, were able to do an admirable job at their own campuses. It was simply impossible, however, for any one person to serve 10 sites all over the city.

The new structure has the professionals and security joining the chapter at their college. At the October chapter meetings those chapters with more than 10 security and 10 part-time professionals will elect representatives to the Union House. This will provide representation and input for all members at all campuses. This will also provide more scholarship and rebate funds to the chapters. The local will provide assistance for the extra work load, especially grievances.
**CONTRACTS**

**Financial Chaos in the U.S.A. But Not with the New Oakton Classified Contract**

Major Wall Street firms are facing bankruptcy or are selling or have sold themselves quickly, but one small group is doing fine—the Oakton Classified Chapter. Today, unions are being asked for givebacks in their contracts: the 315 Oakton sisters and brothers didn’t give up anything. That’s why 92% of them ratified their contract on Aug. 29. Check out some of the good news:

- **Salary:** Oakton has won compounded salary increases of 19.08% over four years: first year, 4.75%; second year, 4.50%; third year, 4.30%; fourth year, 4.30%.

**Local 1600 at Democratic National Convention (continued)**

*On Obama and Education:* This theme of access to education was highly visible throughout the convention speeches and is a foundation of the Democratic platform. I’m looking forward to seeing President Obama in the White House. I know he will work closely with educators to do the things we need to see in education.  

*Obama on McCain:* Key points of Obama’s speech included the fact that McCain has voted with Bush 90% of the time in the Senate. And although Obama praised McCain for his wartime service, he described him as being “out of touch” with the American people. “Now, I don’t believe that Senator McCain doesn’t care what’s going on in the lives of Americans. I just think he doesn’t know. Why else would he define middle-class as someone making fewer than five million dollars a year?” Obama said.

*Obama’s Proposed Reforms:* Obama will counter the policies that the Republican administration has put in place which have weakened America because those policies have attacked the strength of working Americans. Obama vowed to end tax breaks to corporations that ship jobs overseas, and instead provide them to companies that create good jobs right here in America. Obama will also cut taxes for 95% of all working families while investing $150 billion to develop renewable energy sources and develop 5,000,000 new jobs here in the U.S. He will get us out of Iraq in a responsible manner and thus put a stop to the hemorrhaging of $10 billion a month that continues our involvement there. Lastly, Obama set a goal of ending U.S. dependence on oil from the Middle East in ten years.

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*“The pay increases alone are phenomenal for these economic times.” —President Perry Buckley*
Legislative Director Linda Murphy, a world traveler, accepted President Perry Buckley's appointment to coordinate the events for international delegates to the AFT National Convention in Chicago, July 10-14.

Murphy, joined by Buckley, V. P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell, V. P. Suburban Jim O’Malley, V. P. Classified Jillian Verstrate, Secretary Pat Wenthold, Treasurer Don Radtke, and other convention delegates and members welcomed the guests at Lou Malnati’s Pizzeria on Wells Street for various deep dish extravaganzas followed by a Chicago River Architectural Boat Tour. The 70 guests ranged from Canada, Chile, Denmark, Republic of Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Kuwait, Netherlands, Norway, Palestine, Philippines, South Africa, Spain, UK and Zimbabwe.

Despite the heavy rain during the river portion of the tour, everyone good-naturedly waited out the downpour inside the boat, getting to know each other over wine and beer and compare notes about their respective union issues. Upon entering the lock to get into Lake Michigan, everyone’s patience was rewarded when the rain stopped, the sun came out and a rainbow greeted the visitors. Murphy, who organized the event, noted, "Although it rained our spirits weren't dampened. Everyone really enjoyed themselves. It was a great way to begin the convention weekend." Buckley concurred. "Many of our foreign delegates literally had just arrived and the boat tour was an excellent way for them to see Chicago for the first time. When the sun came out, our city's skyline was simply gorgeous," he added.

One special guest was Burmese journalist Min Zin who was accepting the AFT President’s International Freedom and Democracy Award at the AFT Human Rights Luncheon on Saturday on behalf of the 88 Generation Students’ Group. The group began as a collection of high school students. Since 1988, the Group’s members have faced long imprisonment, death and physical injury from the military dictatorship in Burma for their non-violent protests.

Contacts continued through the convention thanks to the efforts of Murphy, Voice editor and Professor of Spanish Todd Lakin, and other members of Local 1600. Buckley noted: “Every foreign guest I talked to said that they had never seen a city as beautiful as Chicago. And that was the feedback everyone else received as well.”
AFT Convention’s Opening Reception a Hit

Local 1600 delegates to the AFT Convention gathered with two thousand other delegates in the Navy Pier Ballroom for the opening reception. Below are photos of the event. For more photos, visit http://local1600.smugmug.com

Vote NO on Con Con

CCCTU Joins the IFT on Lake Michigan Cruise

On Thursday, July 10, the Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT) hosted a cruise on Lake Michigan for the Illinois delegation. While a number of the membership was hosting the international delegates on the CCC-TU boat tour, about 30 members were on the IFT cruise.

Triton Classified’s Linda Nordstrom, accompanied by her husband, Barry, had a good time on the Star of Chicago boat tour.

Legislative Director and Wright Chapter Chair Linda Murphy, aka, “Knuckles,” shows off her unofficial name tag.

Secretary Pat Wenthold rests up before a busy weekend.

V.P. Suburban Jim O’Malley, HW Chair Phil Stucky, Retiree Chair Norm Swenson, Grievance Chair Tom Kodogorgiou and Treasurer Don Radtke enjoyed a cruise on the Star of Chicago on Lake Michigan along the Chicago skyline from the twilight into the evening on July 10 before the AFT National Convention.

College Union Voice  Visit the CCCTU website: www.ccctu.com
Local 1600 Shows the AFT How Chicago Really Works

When the AFT National Convention started rolling on July 10, the Cook County College Teachers Union had already received awards for the *Voice* and the union website from the AFT Communicators Network on July 9, and Local 1600 had thrown a party at Lou Malnati’s for the international delegates of the AFT on the afternoon of July 10. The afternoon party was followed by an Architectural Tour of Chicago on the Chicago River. The same evening a group of Local 1600 delegates enjoyed a Spirit of Chicago boat tour of the lake sponsored by the IFT.

At the AFT Higher Education Divisional Meeting on July 11 on Navy Pier where most events were held, President Perry Buckley, on behalf of the AFT’s Higher Education Policy and Program Council, welcomed the college educators and support staff to Chicago.

Saturday morning’s AFT Higher Education Breakfast gave everyone a chance to network with each other and to see the outgoing AFT President Edward McElroy and the incoming AFT President Randi Weingarten as they presented awards. The general session started at 9:30 a.m. and included an introduction of the international delegates to the convention. The Local 1600 delegates noted a column in the daily review entitled “Perry’s Picks,” in which Perry Buckley listed places to go and things to do in Chicago throughout the convention.

Senator Hillary Clinton (D, NY) made a personal appearance at the general session. She thanked the AFT for its support of her candidacy, and she graciously urged everyone present to support Senator Barack Obama’s candidacy for president. Many members attended the AFT Human Rights Luncheon, which featured an address by Min Zin, the Burmese journalist who was active in fighting the junta in Burma. Zin had been Local 1600’s guest at Thursday’s party.

For the full story, go to www.ccctu.com.

“Real change is finally giving our kids everything they need to have a fighting chance in today’s world.” — Senator Barack Obama

President Perry Buckley (right) captures the attention of the speakers with his welcome to Chicago speech at the AFT Higher Education Divisional Meeting on July 11.

V. P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell, Retirees’ Norm Swenson, and an honoree at the Higher Education Breakfast on July 12, Bill Scheuerman, now president of the National Labor College, renew acquaintances. The day before Swenson had introduced a resolution that passed at the Retirement Issues Convention Committee Meeting encouraging retirees’ dues be paid via dues check off as well as urging prepaid retiree membership provisions.

After the AFT endorsed Barack Obama, Local 1600’s first-in-the-nation endorsement by a labor union, the members of Local 1600 stood and applauded Obama’s remarks to the convention over the satellite feed. Senator Obama, upon accepting the endorsement on July 13, said, “Real change is finally giving our kids everything they need to have a fighting chance in today’s world. That begins with recognizing that the single most important factor in determining a child’s achievement is not the color of their skin or where they come from; it’s not who their parents are or how much money they have. It’s who their teacher is. It’s the paraprofessionals and support staff and all of you in this room.”

Visit the CCCTU website: www.ccctu.com

College Union Voice
Celebrate Labor Day with the Chicago Federation of Labor

The McCormick Place West ballroom was filled with an estimated 1200 members of the Chicago Federation of Labor for its Labor Day Dinner on August 21. Several of the members of Local 1600 attended as well, including President Perry Buckley, Vice President Classified Jillian Verstrate, Treasurer Don Radtke and Joan Radtke, Legislative Chair Bill Naegele, Wright Chair Linda Murphy, Malcolm X Chair William Stewart, and Assistant to the President Chuck Mustari.

In the reception hour, the members chatted with State Rep. Kevin Joyce (D, 35), IFT Legislative Director Lydia Bullock, State Sen. Kwame Raoul (D, 13)—a former associate of the City Colleges of Chicago—and Alderman Tom Allen (38th Ward) who supported organized labor by voting against the big box Wal-Mart proposal.

Secretary-Treasurer Jorge Ramirez and President Dennis Gannon of the Chicago Federation of Labor opened the dinner proper at about 6:45. Perhaps the highpoints of the evening were the comments by the Speaker of the House Michael Madigan and his daughter, Lisa Madigan, the Illinois attorney general.

Michael Madigan noted that he has always had the endorsement of organized labor, and he would not run without it. Lisa Madigan concluded her remarks by saying: “We are the working men and women of Illinois, and we are going to make things better.”

Vote NO on Con Con

CCCTU Webmaster Bob Blackwood greets his state representative, Joe Lyons (D, 19), dressed alike for Lyons’ Luau II fundraiser on June 25. Lyons directed the chef at Biagio’s, 4256 N. Central Avenue, Chicago, to create a Hawaiian luau’s bill of fare and asked all of his constituents to dress accordingly. Most of them did, and, on a hot day in Chicago, most of them really appreciated it. Lyons, a hard-working legislator, often wields the gavel and chairs the debate in the Illinois House for Speaker Michael Madigan.
Legislative Director Linda Murphy, Democratic Chairman Randy Barnette of the 39th Ward (also assistant to President Perry Buckley) and Legislative Chair Bill Naegele attended the fundraiser for State Rep. John D’Amico (D, 15th) on September 10. D’Amico, one of the hardest working state representatives, was so busy in Springfield that he could not attend his own fundraiser at Monastero’s Ristorante in the 39th Ward.

Naegele, who drove up from the far south side to attend the event, said: “I respect the state representative’s devotion to duty, and the restaurant is among the best in Chicagoland.” Also present at the fundraiser were Alderman Tom Allen (38th Ward) and Alderman Patrick Levar (45th Ward).

Verstrate, Wenthold Attend Power Luncheon in Lake County

Local 1600 was well represented at the Power Luncheon for Lake County Democratic Women on Sunday, September 14. The keynote speaker was retired IFT member and former Illinois AFL-CIO President Margaret Blackshere who is currently director of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and a director of the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago. She was also a superdelegate in the 2008 Democratic Convention. Among those from the CCCTU who attended were V.P. Classified Jillian Verstrate, Secretary Pat Wenthold and Harper Pro-Tech Chapter Chair Margaret Sedano.

Buckley and Naegele Thank Rep. Howard for Stand on the Issues

Legislative Chair Bill Naegele and President Perry Buckley attended Rep. Constance “Connie” Howard’s (D, 34) 15th Annual Luncheon on Sunday, September 21, at the House of Harambee on 119th and Loomis in Chicago. Buckley and Naegele thanked Rep. Howard for her staunch support for higher education, noting that they never have to call “because [she] always does the right thing.”
Speaker Madigan’s IL Democratic Fundraiser a Hit, Never a Miss

When Speaker Michael Madigan holds a fundraiser for the Illinois Democratic Party, which he leads, the music, the cuisine and the company are the best, particularly at the Chicago Sheraton Hotel on September 16. Standing next to his wife, Shirley, Speaker Madigan shook hands with everyone, charmed the ladies and occasionally introduced the woman who really needed no introduction, his daughter, Attorney General Lisa Madigan.

The Cook County College Teachers Union turned out a good crowd for the fundraiser, though President Perry Buckley was taking care of business at the National College of Labor near Washington, D.C. Legislative Chair Bill Naegele, Assistant to the President Randy Barnette (Democratic chairman of the 39th Ward), V.P. Classified Jillian Verstrate, Secretary Pat Wenthold, Legislative Director Linda Murphy (Wright’s chapter chair), and Field Representative Brenda Pryor led the Local 1600 contingent. Fleshing out the ranks were Daley’s Mel Anderson, Triton’s Debra Baker, the Retiree’s Norm Swenson, Oakton’s Valerie Green (the new election chair), Malcolm X’s William Stewart, Voice Editor Todd Lakin and Webmaster Bob Blackwood.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan (center) joined the Local 1600 group as they waited to shake hands with the Speaker of the House. Joining Madigan are Retiree Chapter Chair Norm Swenson, Field Representative Brenda Pryor, Oakton’s Valerie Green, V.P. Classified Jillian Verstrate and Voice Editor Todd Lakin.

Retiree Chapter Chair Norm Swenson raises an issue for Legislative Chair Bill Naegele and State Rep. Greg Harris (D, 13). Harris is one of the best writers on legislative issues; Naegele often sends Harris’ analysis of issues to the Local 1600 members on his email list.

Pics were now available online at local1600.smugmug.com/. Or visit www.cccctu.com for the link.

Field Representative Brenda Pryor, Shirley Madigan, Speaker Michael Madigan, Legislative Representative Linda Murphy, Retiree Chapter Chair Norm Swenson and Daley Chapter Chair Mel Anderson enjoy the spirit of the evening at the Madigan fundraiser on Sep. 16.

Legislative Director Linda Murphy and Legislative Chair Bill Naegele pose for a photo with good friend Marlow H. Calvin (D, 33).

Oakton’s Valerie Green (left) and V.P. Classified Jillian Verstrate (right) pose with their elected officials: State Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg (D, 9) and Rep. Elaine Nekritz (D, 57).
Union House Meeting Says “Yes” to Legislators and “No” to Con Con

Triton College hosted the Sept. 26, 2008, Local 1600 House Meeting. The general election endorsements called for a “Yes” vote for a bipartisan slate of state senators and state representatives plus a vote for Anita Alvarez for Cook County State’s Attorney. Illinois Federation of Teachers President Ed Geppert also took time to join us to give us some of the many reasons to vote against the Illinois Constitutional Convention (Con Con) on the November 4 ballot.

Geppert cited a number of reasons to vote “No” on Con Con, as did President Perry Buckley during chapter visits on campuses throughout Cook County:

• A constitutional convention will be expensive, as much as $78 million.
• We can make changes in the Illinois Constitution without a Con Con; we have done it 10 times since the last Con Con.
• A constitutional convention could change the pension system for state employees (including our membership), could restrict or eliminate the 3% annual increase in payments to retirees, and could cause other problems for our union.
• Finally, it could threaten the economy by creating an unstable business climate in Illinois.

Geppert called for an organized effort to reach all of our members with this information. Visit the IFT’s website: http://www.ift-aft.org/

Most of the meeting was spent introducing endorsed candidates. Those candidates present at the meeting were as follows: Senator Lou Viverito (D, 11) and Senator Dan Kotowski (D, 33).

Candidates for the Illinois House who were present included: Esther Golar (D, 6), John Fritchey (D, 11), Beth Coulson (R, 17), Mike McAuliffe (R, 20), Will Burns (D, 26), David Miller (D, 29), Deborah Mell (D, 40), Elaine Nekritz (D, 57), Karen May (D, 58), and Mark Walker (D, 66).

Senator Ed Maloney (D, 18), a longtime ally who is not facing a contested election, came to thank the members for their support over the years.

The meeting ended with a reception where the members networked with the candidates.

For more photos, go to http://local1600.smugmug.com/
AROUND THE CCCTU

CCCTU Honors ICCTA and OAA for Billboard Campaign

Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) Executive Director Michael Monaghan and Executive Director Rose Trader of the Outdoor Advertising Association (OAA) were recognized for their contributions to the Illinois Community College Coalition for Funding’s billboard campaign throughout the state of Illinois. The campaign’s message, “Community Colleges: Illinois’ Best Investment,” had an effect as community colleges received a funding increase greater than that of the four-year public universities in Illinois from the House and Senate in Springfield. Despite the governor’s cuts in the proposed budget, both Monaghan and President Perry Buckley pledged at

ICCTA’s Michael Monaghan receives an award of merit from President Perry Buckley at the July 18 inauguration of the CCCTU House for his group’s effort on behalf of the Coalition’s billboard campaign. the meeting to work together during the remainder of the year to get enough money to help the community college students of Illinois receive a first rate education.

Judge Flannery Swears in Officers and Delegates at House Meeting July 18

At the House of Delegates July meeting, Cook County Circuit Court Judge James P. Flannery swore in all delegates, chapter chairs and officers for their three-year term, 2008-2011. Flannery, a long-time friend of President Perry Buckley, happily agreed to preside over the swearing in. Buckley noted, upon introducing the judge, that when he assumed office for the first time in 2004, he simply “sat in Norm’s chair and called the meeting to order. That was it.” For the first three-year term in the union’s history, Buckley thought that something special was in order. “What we do is important and a swearing-in ceremony certainly indicates the seriousness with which we approach our mission.”

Local 1600 officers Jim O’Malley (V.P. Suburban), Pat Wenhold (Secretary), Perry Buckley (President) and Sonia Jean Powell (V.P. CCC) repeat their oath after Judge Flannery.

Chapter Chairs John Cadera (Triton Mid-Management) and Missy Cabrera (Triton Classified) dutifully raise their right hands during the swearing-in ceremony.

Olive-Harvey delegates David Zollar and Paulette Pennington-Jones are happy to be sworn in.
ARROUND THE CCCCTU

CCCC Hears State Rep. David Miller and IFT President Ed Geppert

On Oct. 3 at the Doubletree Hotel in Oakbrook, IL, the Chairman of the House Appropriations Higher Education Committee David Miller (D, 29) was the featured speaker at the IFT Higher Education Conference (HEC) at the request of President Perry Buckley, who also chairs the Community College Constituency Council, the largest subdivision of the HEC. Miller discussed the need for new streams of revenue for education funding and many other items of concern to the members present. In addition, IFT President Ed Geppert opened the evening’s meeting with comments on the importance of Campaign 2008.

Buckley said, “As far as community colleges are concerned, David Miller is one of the most important people in Springfield. He is aware of community college needs. His committee is where the appropriation bills start. South Suburban College, one of Local 1600’s chapters, is in Miller’s district. Miller not only has been responsive to the requests of his constituents as well as to union members but also to residents from other community colleges in Illinois.”

Next morning, on Oct. 4, the Community College Constituency Council (CCCC), attended by representatives from 23 Illinois community colleges, discussed the many legislative issues in Springfield. Buckley chaired the CCCC meeting, and Legislative Chair Bill Nagele was an active participant.

Antonio Vasquez, the Wright College professor and economist who is the new appointee to the State Universities Retirement System Board, and SURS Board President Mitchell Vogel, made a presentation to the CCCC members. “We are fortunate to have such a number of active, intelligent members in our union who are willing to serve the public interest,” Buckley said.

OUR ACTIVE RETIREES

Retirees Enjoy Lunch and Show at Drury Lane

On August 27th, our active retirees were at it again at the Drury Lane, enjoying a marvelous lunch, camaraderie and the award winning play, the 1938 Rodgers and Hart “The Boys of Syracuse,” a take-off of Shakespeare’s “The Comedy of Errors.”

Local 1600 retirees enjoy catching up during lunch.

Visit the CCCTU website: www.ccctu.com  
College Union Voice
Wright Chapter Luncheon Opens Up the Semester

On Aug. 13, the Wright Chapter enjoyed a Mexican fiesta for its annual fall luncheon in the Wright Cafeteria, courtesy of Social Chair Maria Jaskot-Inclan. The new Chapter Chair Linda Murphy introduced her slate of officers including Vice Chair Henry Herzog, Secretary Norma Lugo-Guylas, Grievance Chair Chuck Mustari, and Treasurer Hermine Krysa as well as House Representatives Richard Bazile, Stephanie Battle, Jose Hernandez and Tracy Mitchell. She complimented everyone on their help with the well-attended luncheon.

President Perry Buckley explained how the City Colleges of Chicago contract was just finalized after a series of negotiations with the administration on the fine details of the contract that we locked down last year. We traded a “start date” of Oct. 15 for a “rounding off” of the pay increase on the high side of five percent. Everyone seemed happy to hear the result. Buckley noted that had we waited to negotiate the basic contract until it expired this year, instead of accepting the board’s offer last year, we would have been fortunate to receive four percent in this climate of recession. Four percent is the average increase that we have achieved this year and only after hard bargaining. He praised Sonia Jean Powell, the union’s vice president for the CCC, for her long hours spent on various grievances.

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

Daley College Chapter Welcomes V.P. Powell

On August 20 the Daley College Chapter welcomed V.P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell to the annual fall banquet. Before Powell addressed the chapter, Daley Chair Mel Anderson introduced the chapter officers and the new House Delegate, Laverne Williams. The officers are: Asst. Chapter Chair Robert Yacoub, Grievance Chair Vince Russo, Secretary Peter Malo, Treasurer Alan Gbur and Social Chair Rowena Misayah. After other housekeeping notes from Anderson, the group of faculty, professionals and training specialists peppered Powell with questions about the CCC contract, Center for Distance Learning issues and enhancement. While she was unable to give concrete answers on some of these, Powell promised to email Anderson the answers as soon as she was able. True to her word, Anderson received her response by 10:00 p.m. that night.
Harper College Chemistry Dept. Awarded $100K

On August 19th, the Harper College Chemistry Department was named as the Center of Excellence by its president and awarded a check for $100,000. Pictured from left are Secretary Pat Wenthold, V.P. Suburban Jim O’Malley, Joe Wachter, Asst. Chapter Chair Sean Noonan, Chemistry Department Chair Julie Ellefson, Andy Kidwell, Arlene Koszyk, Chapter Chair Tom Dowd, Kelly Jones, Grievance Chair David Richmond, Treasurer Linda Campbell, Roger House and President Perry Buckley. Other department members not pictured are Dan Stanford, Deepa Godambe, Jayne Wilcox and Barbara Weil who was the primary author of the grant application.

Buckley Visits Malcolm X Chapter

On Tuesday, September 2, MXC Chapter Chair William Stewart welcomed President Perry Buckley and IFT Field Rep. Brenda Pryor to its first chapter meeting of the fall semester. After presenting the local officers, new faculty and new professionals, Stewart introduced Buckley who spoke on the highlights of the new contract, explaining that it was "almost ready to print." He answered questions for 30 minutes, noting that he was "the only thing between you [the membership] and a hot meal."

TCFA Welcomes Local 1600 Leaders to Annual Fall Luncheon

On August 22nd, the Triton College Faculty Association hosted its fall faculty workshop at the College Center. Legislative Chair Bill Naegele made light of some legislative issues while President Perry Buckley provided Triton Faculty with a State of the Union address.

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Zakia Gaston, Gaby Munilla-Bell and Carleta Alston catch up on their summer activities before the luncheon.

President Perry Buckley (back, right) joins MXC Chapter Chair William Stewart (back, left) and Secretary Hope Essien (right) in welcoming new staff: Lorita Jones, Carol Heath, Sydney Adams, Douglas Taylor and Carmen Hovanec.

President Perry Buckley addresses the MXC chapter as MXC Chair William Stewart, Secretary Hope Essien, Grievance Chair Ron Grimmette and Treasurer Luc Elie smile at one of his Springfield anecdotes.

Visit the CCCTU website: www.ccctu.com

College Union Voice
Harper Pro-Tech Urged to Vote “NO” on “Con Con”

The Harper College Pro-Tech Chapter held its general meeting on September 25. A capacity crowd was on hand as Chapter Chair Margie Sedano presided over the agenda. Local 1600 President Perry Buckley stressed the importance of casting a “NO vote” to the proposed Constitutional Convention on the ballot this November. “Its impact on our retirement could be catastrophic,” Buckley noted. He also discussed the advantages of joining the Retirees Chapter including the protection of retiree benefits many of which were negotiated by Local 1600.

V.P. Suburban Jim O’Malley was also on hand. He noted that, in these difficult times, “Your job is to protect your job.” He stressed dedication to the college, one’s profession and to take additional classes to improve one’s resume.

There’s Always Discussion (and Good Food) at Truman College

On Sept. 25, Truman Chapter Chair Tony Johnston welcomed President Perry Buckley, trucking in from a trip to Harper’s Pro-Tech Chapter. Johnston assured everyone that hard copies of the 2008-2013 City Colleges of Chicago contract would be available in a month and that a copy was on the CCC website. Johnston also noted that a proposal to include part-time professionals and security personnel into each CCC faculty-professional chapter would be considered at the September 26 House Meeting.

Alan Meyers, the Communications Load Committee chair, made his report on the apparent impasse between the administrations offer that Communications professors teach three composition courses vs. the union’s offer that they teach two composition courses for their 12-credit load. The matter was left in President Buckley’s hands for future negotiation.

President Buckley urged “no” votes on Con Con. He answered several questions on such issues as pay enhancement for prospective retirees, salary issues under the new contract, strategies in dealing with the administration, and many other issues raised by the intelligent and concerned members.

For the full story, please visit www.cccctu.com.
For additional photos of this event, visit http://local1600.smugmug.com/
ENDORSEMENTS

CCCTU GENERAL ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS

Vote NO on the Constitutional Convention ("Con Con"). For more information,
go to http://www.ift-aft.org/ and click on “Vote NO on Con Con.”

Cook County State’s Attorney: Anita Alvarez

These candidates are CCCTU targeted candidates. For the full list of endorsements,
please visit our website: www.ccctu.com

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE
11th District Lou Viverito
33rd District Dan Kotowski

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
6th District Esther Golar
11th District John Fritchey
17th District Elizabeth Coulson
20th District Michael McAuliffe
26th District Will Burns
29th District David Miller
40th District Deborah Mell
44th District Fred Crespo
57th District Elaine Nekritz
58th District Karen May
66th District Mark Walker