Local 1600-backed Candidates Win 17 of 18 Races in 2006 Election

On Wednesday, November 8, 2006, Local 1600 members awoke to some astonishing news: 17 of the 18 Local 1600-endorsed candidates had won their elections, including three of four first-time candidates who upset their rivals. CCCTU President Perry Buckley was elated, stating, “I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again: we not only support good candidates but also good people. I’m proud of our membership for how hard they worked to get them elected.” Legislative Chair Bill Naegle agreed: “While we contribute COPE funds to our candidates, our most important support that we can provide are the members who volunteer to get signatures, canvass neighborhoods, make phone calls, hang up signs and work in candidate offices. It’s a team effort.”

In four races the CCCTU supported first-time candidates who were not expected to win: Senate candidates Peter Gutzmer in the 27th and Dan Kotowski in the 33rd and Representative candidates Fred Crespo in the 44th and Lisa Hernández in the 24th. In Gutzmer’s, Kotowski’s and Crespo’s cases, they were running in predominantly Republican districts and, in Hernández’s instance, her toughest race was in the Democratic primary where she first had to defeat a Democratic incumbent who had received the support of the Democratic party before handily defeating her Republican candidate in November (nearly 4-to-1).

The two biggest surprises were the victories of Kotowski and Crespo, who both ran in districts that traditionally vote Republican. However, with changing demographics, both felt that the time was right for a change and they were proven correct. Kotowski won the 33rd with 51.3% of the vote while Crespo carried the 44th with 52.3%. Only Gutzmer did not prevail, losing by less than five percentage points (52.6% to 47.4%) in a very Republican-leaning district in the near northwest suburbs that include Harper College.

Randy Barnette: A Man Who Knows Springfield

On Feb. 16, the Executive Board of the Cook County College Teachers Union ratified the contract of Randy Barnette for Assistant to the President. He began on March 1. Barnette will work with President Perry Buckley and Legislative Chair Bill Naegle in lobbying efforts for Local 1600 in Springfield and Chicago. “Randy is a legislative expert,” stated Buckley. “One thing that becomes clearer every year is that the legislature impacts our members’ lives as much as the contracts we negotiate. Randy’s main job will be to ‘have our back’ in Springfield.”
Another issue with much to report. It has been a busy four months since our last issue, and for the most part we have much good news to report. In many respects it has been “happy days” indeed!

**November and February Elections**

Local 1600’s success in the November General Election and the February 27th Chicago Municipal Elections was nothing short of astonishing. “Wondrous strange,” as Shakespeare would say.

In November, 17 of our 18 endorsed Illinois Representatives and Senators who attended our September House of Representatives meeting all won!

Three of these were “Local 1600 Projects” as IFT Legislative Chair Steve Preckwinkle likes to call them. We entered “long shot” races long before the primary last year and provided COPE funds and campaign workers. New Senator Dan Kotowski in the 33rd; and new Representatives Lisa Hernandez in the 24th and Fred Crespo in the 44th shocked the state. For Kotowski we also sent Janie Morrison to help run his office in the primary and general election. (See related news below.) The efforts of officers and members also helped us all to victory. (See pgs. 10-12.)

Then on February 27th Local 1600’s “adopted” candidate, Brendan Reilly, scored a remarkable upset victory in the 42nd Ward over long serving Burton Natarus. We sent workers to the phone banks all the way up to fifteen minutes before the polls closed. Brendan’s upset victory was front page news. Once again Local 1600’s “Winners Window” produced nothing but victors. Virginia Ruggai in the 19th and Ricardo Muñoz in the 22nd both won with our support. And in the 21st Local 1600-backed Leroy Jones forced incumbent Howard Brookins to a run-off on April 17th.

The genesis of this movement to get involved in Chicago aldermanic races was Chicago Federation of Labor president Dennis Gannon. Dennis forged a united coalition of all the Unions from the police, to carpenters, to Teamsters and SEIU. Local 1600 played its modest roll in the elections by standing with Denny in his mission to fight for respect and a labor place at the table. With labor’s hard work this was the first time in Chicago history that 11 aldermen were forced to a run off.

**College Insurance Program Taskforce Finishes**

Both Bill Naegle and I were in the Capitol for the last meeting of the Governor’s Task Force (See p. 17). We voted to approve the four recommendations, with one recorded reservation. The panel recommended that 1. The City Colleges of Chicago retirees be admitted to the program; 2. The state could not “sweep” money from the funds as it had in the past; 3. The funding by actives, employers, and the state would raise to 3.15% and 4. The City Colleges would pay the buy-in rate as the other colleges had done at the plans inception. I had entered into the minutes that we would not approve a raise of active members more than a quarter of one percent. The issues are now before the Illinois legislature and the Governor. The hard work of lobbying will now begin. We will inform retirees by mail the progress of legislation.

**Randy Barnette New Assistant to the President / Morrison Hired as Kotowski Staff**

Elsewhere in the Voice you will find a story of my new assistant, Randy Barnette. Within the next six months you will all get to know Randy as he comes out to your campus to assist in improving our political activities in our districts. Randy’s entire political life has been involved in external affairs (lobbying). He is known and respected in Springfield and City Hall. In only 10 days on the job he is already making impact with our legislative program. His primary duties will center on Local 1600’s political and external affairs.

Related, former assistant Janie Morrison, seen below during Kotowski’s campaign, accepted a job with newly elected Senator Kotowski’s office. Janie impressed Dan and his staff as someone who could help the “K Team” as Dan begins his job in Springfield. Janie will work in the Park Ridge office.
Local 1600 Teachers Union Is First in the Nation to Endorse Obama for President

The CCCTU announced at the Union House Delegate meeting on January 19 its unanimous endorsement of Barack Obama for President of the United States, three weeks prior to Senator Obama’s official announcement in Springfield, Illinois.

Encouraged by the Illinois senator’s launch of a presidential exploratory committee, CCCTU President Perry Buckley said, “Even though Senator Obama has not officially announced his candidacy, we are so enthusiastic about him that our union’s endorsement is our way of saying, ‘Run for President, Senator Obama.’”

CCCTU continues its long history of political activism and support for Obama. Since Obama’s first state-wide election, CCCTU has endorsed his bids for the Illinois Senate and even broke tradition by endorsing him for his run for the U.S. Senate before the Democratic primary election in 2004.

“We’ve supported Obama from the beginning and we will continue to do so now. He is a one-of-a-kind candidate,” added Bill Naegle, the union’s legislative chair.

Mark Your Calendar

While every Voice issue includes “Important Dates,” these dates are worth planning for and marking your calendar:

- March 24: CCCTU Leadership Conf. in Westmont, IL
- March 29 – April 1: AFT Higher Ed Conf. in Portland, OR
- April 13: Executive Board
- April 17: Suburban Board of Trustees Elections
- April 19-22: PSRP Conf. in Las Vegas, NV
- April 25: Higher Education Coalition Lobby Day in Springfield
- May 4: CCCTU Spring Banquet at Sox Park (see back page for flier)
- May 9: Illinois Federation of Teachers Lobby Day in Springfield
- June 15: Executive Board
- July 20: Union House Delegates

✔ The 3rd Annual CCCTU Leadership Conference will be held at the IFT office in Westmont on Saturday, March 24. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Contact your Chapter Chair for details.
✔ DON’T FORGET TO VOTE on Tuesday, April 17, in the Suburban Board of Trustees elections as well as the City of Chicago’s Aldermanic Run-off election. Local 1600 will be sending information to members in early April. Please contact your Chapter Chair to volunteer for our candidates.
✔ There will be two Lobby Days this spring: Wednesday, April 25 and Wednesday, May 9. The first consists of the entire Higher Education Coalition which includes the IFT, AEA, UPI, AFSCME, SEIU, ISAC, ICCTA, IBHE and the IFT Comm. College Constituency Council. The second is the IFT’s Lobby Day. Lunch at the Governor’s Mansion will be offered at the May 9th Lobby Day.
✔ The 42nd Annual CCCTU Spring Banquet (see back page to reserve your seat) will be held at U.S. Cellular Field, also known as “Sox Park.” Send in your check early as this event will sell out.
Local 1600 Officers Elected to IFT Posts

At the Illinois Federation of Teachers Biennial Convention held on March 2-4, 2007, at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, Local 1600 President Perry Buckley (standing) was re-elected as Chair of the IFT Community College Constituency Council while Local 1600 members Jillian Verstrate and Pat Wenthold were also re-elected as Vice-Chair, PSRP and Secretary, respectively. At the afternoon General Session on March 3, both Buckley and Bill Naegle (seated, center) were elected Vice-Presidents of the IFT. To Naegle’s right is the newly hired Asst. to the President Randy Barnette.

Marilyn Stewart, the president of the Chicago Teachers Union, was also unanimously elected as IFT secretary-treasurer. She, too, sought the Council’s support as IFT Community College Constituency Council Chair Perry Buckley looks on.

Daley’s Mel Anderson, Oakton Classified’s Jillian Verstrate and Triton’s Maggie Hahn-Wade discuss the 2007 proposed legislative program at the Council meeting on March 2.

Ed Geppert, Jr. (standing), who was running to become the new IFT President, visited the Council to discuss his platform. The following day Geppert was elected by proclamation to a three-year term beginning on July 1. In the photo are (l-r) Bill Naegle, Perry Buckley and Council Legislative Chair Leo Welch.

Have you moved?
Please send us your new address:

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<th>Address</th>
<th>City/State/ZIP</th>
<th>Home Phone</th>
<th>College (or former college):</th>
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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
2007 Community Colleges Constituency Council Legislative 12-Point Program

- Increase state aid to community colleges (CCs) to at least 50% of the operating costs.
- Restore the right of SURS recipients to receive service credit for up to 2 years of unused sick leave.
- Continue to pursue, via national legislation, the decoupling of the social security offset provision from state pension benefits.
- Adequately fund SURS without increasing employee contributions and oppose any decrease in benefits for current or future annuitants.
- Introduce legislation to require that 75% of college credit courses in each department shall be taught by full-time faculty.
- Oppose any legislation which would undermine or remove teacher tenure.
- Amend the SURS statute to require the election of the SURS Board of Directors by SURS participants.
- Introduce legislation to prohibit community college residency rules.
- Restore state funding of public community colleges to at least the FY 2002 levels.
- Oppose any legislation or resolution to establish an “Academic Bill of Rights” for Illinois public higher education.
- Support legislation to remove employees of Illinois public community colleges from requirements of the “State Employees Ethics Act.”
- Participate with and support efforts of the Illinois Higher Education Legislative Coalition.

Important Changes to the IFT

At the biennial Illinois Federation of Teachers’ Convention in Chicago on March 2-4, three important changes to the IFT Constitution were adopted: 1) elected terms are now three-year terms as opposed to two; 2) the IFT convention will be every three years; and 3) the President and Secretary-Treasurer posts are now part-time positions. Also, the chief of staff position and two other high level staff positions have been eliminated in a cost-saving effort.

Contract Update

Moraine Valley Adjunct Faculty to Begin Early Negotiations

The Moraine Valley Adjunct Faculty Association have requested of President Vernon Crawley to begin early negotiations for the contract which expires in July 2007. President Crawley has agreed to begin “sometime in April” when the administration team is selected.

The MVAFAs team has already begun preparations. Two separate surveys were distributed to the faculty and evaluated. The team of Chapter Chair Theresa Raines, and adjunct professors Dennis Ziemann, Jehad Matariyeh, Tom Dascenzo, John Hendron and Delphine Lytell will be assisted by Local 1600 President Perry Buckley, who will serve as chief negotiator. The team has met several times preparing for the bargaining sessions.

“Our goal is to get a fair contract for our members that reflects our value and importance to the educational well being of our students at the college,” said Raines.

On Thursday, February 22, the leadership of the Moraine Valley Adjunct Faculty Association met to discuss their upcoming contract negotiations. Pictured from left are: Dennis Ziemann, Local 1600 President Perry Buckley, Jehad Matariyeh, Chapter Chair Theresa Raines, Tom Dascenzo, and John T. Hendron.
Oakton Classified Gets Head Start on Holiday Parties

The Oakton College Classified Association held their annual pizza party on November 16 at Riggio’s Restaurant in Niles. CCC Vice President Sonia Powell and Suburban Vice President-Classified Gail Wiot joined in on the fun.

Harper Faculty Gather for Festive Holiday Fun

CCCTU Suburban Vice President Jim O’Malley (right) celebrates the holiday spirit with Harper Faculty members Michael Vijuk and Becky Curtin at Marlowe’s Restaurant in Palatine on December 6.

Harper Pro-Tech Celebrates the Holiday Season in Style

Sam Barbaro, Barbara Hardy, new Chapter Chair Margaret Sedano, former Chapter Chair David Dwyer, Sharon Martin, Doris Howden, CCCTU Suburban VP Jim O’Malley, CCCTU Secretary Pat Wenthold, Heidi Scheuer, Beth Krueger and Terry Engle pose for a group photo at Harper’s Conference Center on December 7.

South Suburban College Support Staff Raises $715 for Students

Officers and members of the South Suburban College Support Staff celebrate the holiday spirit at the Warsaw Inn in Lynwood on December 8. The SSCSS raised $715 in raffle ticket sales toward the SSCSS student scholarship fund. Berdy Kuiken, front and center, said, “I’m proud of my members who stepped up to help our students.”

Local 1600 officers Bill Naegle (at left), Perry Buckley (back center) and Gail Wiot (third from right) helped the SSC Support Staff kick off the holiday season in style. Pictured are (l-r) Naegle, Donna Sands, Yolanda Blair, Gerry Smith, Jackie Fuller, SSCSS Chapter Chair Berdy Kuiken, Buckley, Marge Horan, Cathy Boniecki, Bob Pinkerton, Wiot, George Lempeotis and Irene Ramirez.

http://il.aft.org/local1600/
Morton College Enjoys Good Holiday Cheer

The Morton College Classified and Faculty Chapters came together to celebrate some holiday cheer at Salerno’s in Berwyn on Friday, December 8. Pictured are MCFA Chapter Chair Dante Orfei, CCCTU Legislative Chair Bill Naegele, CCCTU President Perry Buckley, Morton College President Brent Knight and MCCA Chair Tim Visk.

Morton College Union Voice http://il.aft.org/local1600/

Moraine Valley Classified Celebrates Holiday Season

Local 1600 officers Secretary Pat Wenthold, Treasurer Don Radtke, Grievance Chair Tom Kodogeorgiou, and Legislative Chair Bill Naegele enjoy the MV Classified party at the Garden Chalet on December 8.

MVFA’s Holiday Party Raises $500 for Student National Forensics Team

The Executive Committee Members of Moraine Valley’s Faculty Association (MVFA) pose for a photo at the Association’s annual holiday party held December 9 at Bourbon Street Bar in Marionette Park. At the last minute this year’s event turned into a fundraiser to honor the student National Forensics Team winners by awarding money for scholarships. Chapter President Janice Hill-Matula was elated: “Next year we hope to get more people to come out and raise more money!”

Triton College Faculty Ring in the Holidays at Villa Brunetti

The Triton Faculty celebrated the holiday season on December 14 at Villa Brunetti Banquets in Franklin Park. Pictured from left are: Triton retiree and CCCTU Suburban VP Jim O’Malley, Judy Darst, CCCTU Legislative Chair Bill Naegele, Lesa Hildebrand, Debra Baker, Stew Sikora, Chapter Chair Maggie Hahn-Wade, Joe Stolz, Sandy Hughes and CCCTU President Perry Buckley.

College Union Voice http://il.aft.org/local1600/
HOLIDAY PARTIES: CCC

Kennedy-King Kicks off the Holiday Season in Style

Clockwise: Vera P. Barkus (in glasses), Arika Anderson, Paula Akinbote, Bonnie Harrison and Julie Thomas take a break from dancing to pose for a photo at KKC’s holiday party at Harambee House Banquets at 11901 S. Loomis on December 8.

Former KK Chapter Chair Jeanette Williams and KK Social Chair Verna Anderson welcome CCCTU President Perry Buckley to Harambee’s on December 8.

Retiree Audrey Turner (right) receives a gift bag she won in a raffle from KK Social Chair Verna Anderson (center) and Chapter Chair Arlicia Corley.

Retiree Robert Cruthird (left) renews acquaintances with fellow retiree Jim Moore (right) and Derrick Smith at the KKC holiday party.

Daley Chapter Enjoys Casual Holiday Party

As President Perry Buckley looks on, Daley Chapter Chair Mel Anderson holds up his AFT membership card at Nick & Vito’s Pizzeria on December 6: “Don’t leave home without it!”

Marta Mutis, Marwan Amarin, and Abolhassan Taghavy await a fresh, piping hot pizza at Nick & Vito’s during the Daley chapter’s holiday party on December 6.

Felicia Baldwin, CCCTU Treasurer Don Radtke and Alan Gbur (seated) pose for a photo beneath the portrait of the founder of Nick & Vito’s, Nick Barraco.
Kennedy-King Chapter Invites Buckley to Discuss Contract

In response to a question from KK Chapter Chair Arlicia Corley, Perry Buckley makes a reference to the CCC-union faculty contract.

Perry Buckley discusses with the KK LPN instructors their transitioning into faculty status.

Verna Anderson (left) poses a question to Perry Buckley (right) about professors emeritus at the KK Contract Discussion meeting on Feb. 15.

Morton College Classified Raises $365 for Youth in Crisis

On November 29, the Morton Classified staff held a bake sale to benefit Youth in Crisis, a local charity in Berwyn. The event was held on Morton’s campus. Chapter Chair Tim Visk states, “It was a resounding success. We are pleased to have raised this money for such a worthy charity.”

Prairie State Hosts Nov. 17, 2006 House Meeting

Local 1600 CCC VP Sonia Powell took the podium to preside over the November 17 House meeting at Prairie State College to replace President Perry Buckley who was fulfilling his responsibilities at AFT’s national office in Washington, DC.

Prairie State Security Chapter Chair Julius Neveles addresses the House Meeting.
Chicago Federation of Labor Rally at Plumbers’ Hall on Nov. 6, 2006

On September 15, 2006, twelve of the eighteen Local 1600-endorsed candidates attended the Union House meeting to meet the membership and to thank Local 1600 for its support. All who attended won their races on November 7th.

Illinois Senate
- Maggie Crotty (D, 19)
- Debbie Halvorson (D, 40)
- Don Harmon (D, 29)
- Dan Kotowski (D, 33)
- Ed Maloney (D, 18)

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

Local 1600-backed Candidates Win

Dan Kotowski: From Candidate to State Senator

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ELECTION 2006

CCCTU Actively Campaigns for Candidates

Valerie Green, Dorothy Olson, and Chapter Chair Jillian Verstrate of Oakton Classified prepare to walk a precinct for state senator candidate Peter Gutzmer (D, 27) at his headquarters in Palatine on Oct. 28.

Local 1600 Secretary Pat Wenthold Legislative Director Linda Murphy (Wright) and Daley College Chapter Chair Mel Anderson consult a map before leaving state senator candidate Peter Gutzmer’s (D, 27) headquarters to work a precinct on Oct. 28.

Daley College’s Todd Lakin, state senator candidate Peter Gutzmer (D, 27), Oakton College’s Krunal Patel and Local 1600 Grievance Chair Tom Kodogeorgiou gather at Gutzmer’s Palatine office to prepare to work some precincts on Oct. 28.

Randy Barnette (continued from Front Page)

Barnette will work not only with the legislators but also with the IFT and AFT legislative directors as well as the community college trustees and presidents. Barnette has other responsibilities, but this is his prime area of action. “This is a coup for Local 1600,” said Naegle. “Randy is respected and well-regarded by legislators on both sides of the aisle. He also knows keenly the issues facing community college teachers and professionals in Illinois.”

Barnette is no newcomer to this field. From 2004-2007, Barnette worked as the vice president of external affairs for the Illinois Community College Board in Springfield and Chicago. For the previous four years, he worked for the City Colleges of Chicago as district director of intergovernmental affairs in both cities. But all his work has not been on the administration or governmental areas; from 1986-1992, Barnette acted as director of communication for the Illinois Education Association.

In addition to his lobbying expertise, Barnette has served as the Democratic committeeman of Chicago’s 39th Ward and is the husband of its alderman, Margaret Laurino. When asked how he felt about his new position, Barnette said: “I’m looking forward to working with the members of the Cook County College Teachers Union in every community college in Cook County.”

Kevin Joyce Fundraiser

At the fundraiser for State Rep. Kevin Joyce (D, 35) in The Parthenon, Chicago, on Oct. 18, Grievance Chair Tom Kodogeorgiou, President Perry Buckley, Rep. Joyce and Legislative Chair Bill Naegle re-affirmed a longtime friendship.
CCCTU Helps Elect Brendan Reilly in 42nd Ward

Editor’s note: On Tuesday, February 27, Brendan Reilly defeated long-time 42nd Ward Alderman Burt Natarus 54% to 46%. The CCCTU’s union office is in the 42nd Ward of Chicago, and Reilly was endorsed by the Chicago Federation of Labor. Reilly thanked the CCCTU for campaigning on his behalf, noting, “Your support [was] important to our success. Together we can make downtown Chicago’s 42nd Ward an even better place to live and work.”

Forty-Second Ward Aldermanic Candidate Brendan Reilly prepares to take the podium as President Perry Buckley of the CCCTU answers a question from the audience at the union’s executive board meeting on Feb. 16. The following day, CCCTU volunteers made phone calls from the offices of the Chicago Teachers Union, Local One.

Linday Murphy and Chuck Mustari of Wright work out a problem as they call residents of Chicago’s 42nd Ward to push for Aldermanic Candidate Brendan Reilly.

APRIL 17TH SUBURBAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS

While our membership in Chicago cannot elect the City Colleges of Chicago Board of Trustees, our suburban members can elect theirs. It is vitally important that everyone who is able to vote in the upcoming Board of Trustees elections do so. Your contracts depend upon it. In early April members will receive information regarding Local 1600-backed candidates in the mail. In the meantime, contact your chapter chair to find out who is running and who Local 1600 is supporting in your local race.

PERSONAL GLIMPSE

Kennedy-King Librarian Ruth A. Inman was recently inducted into Pi Kappa Lambda, the National Music Honor Society. Inman is in the finishing stages of a Master of Music degree at Northern Illinois University. She was nominated for this recognition by the NIU music history faculty. Inman has been at Kennedy-King since 1996, “quietly doing what librarians do,” she said. “One of my most enjoyable responsibilities has been building our local humanities collections,” she added. Inman visited the original Detroit “Hits factory,” (now the Motown Historical Museum) where visitors are invited to sing along with The Four Tops soundtrack in Recording Studio A, and do the motions, too. “Just the thought of all the famous singers who had been in that room was so exciting! I was almost ‘dancing in the street,’” exclaimed Inman.
South Suburban Support Staff Enjoys Fall Luncheon

Though they had to meet in two shifts because of different schedules, the South Suburban Support Chapter met for a scrumptious Fall Luncheon on Oct. 18. Chapter Chair Berdy Kuiken announced that the Christmas Party would be on December 8 at the Warsaw Inn. On a serious note, she observed that she would be seeking suggestions for a new contract in January and that negotiations would begin in spring.

Local 1600 President Perry Buckley stated simply: “Our job at Local 1600 is to give you whatever you need to get a good contract—to get what you need and to keep what you got.” Buckley and Legislative Chair Bill Naegele asked union members to please vote and to support political office holders who have helped us in their area, such as Senators Debbie Halvorson and Maggie Crotty, as well as Representatives David Miller and Kevin McCarthy.

Triton Workshop a Success

The Triton Faculty Workshop was held on Triton’s campus on Friday, January 19. Two new Triton faculty members, Joe Beuchel and Natasha Morris (front row, left), pose with Triton chapter and CCCTU leaders. To Natasha’s left are Triton’s Salary Welfare Director Debra Baker and Secretary Judy Darst. In the back row (from left) are Chapter Chair Maggie Hahn Wade, CCCTU Suburban VP Jim O’Malley, Grievance Chair Stu Sikora and CCCTU President Perry Buckley.
C A M P U S  V I S I T S :  S U B U R B S

Suburban VP O’Malley Visits Harper Faculty

The Harper Faculty negotiating team, who practically lived together during the long and tense contract negotiations last summer and fall, reminisce about those experiences at the spring semester luncheon on Wednesday, January 10, at the college. From left: David Richmond, Greg Clemmons, Local 1600 Suburban VP Jim O’Malley (standing), Linda Campbell, Tryg Thoreson, and Mike Vijuk.

Harper Faculty Senate President Michael Harkins distributes copies of the newly printed contract that was negotiated late last fall to his colleagues Michele Robinson, left, and Kirsten Matthews at the start of the spring semester on January 10 at the college.

Oakton Classified Welcomes Legislative Chair Bill Naegle

The Oakton Classified Association met on campus on Wednesday, February 21. Seated are Oakton leaders Secretary Barb Reineking, Membership Chair Sue Moser, Parliamentarian Loretta Laver and Treasurer Les Pauls. Behind them are Local 1600 President Perry Buckley, CCCTU Legislative Chair Bill Naegle, Chapter Chair Jillian Verstrate, Grievance Chair Patty Lucas and Vice President Marilyn Davis.

MV Faculty Award Scholarship

The Moraine Valley Faculty Association Treasurer Gary Piercy hands a scholarship check to Jaclyn Quintana, one of Moraine Valley’s Forensic Team 2006 National Award Scholarship winners. Next to her is faculty member and Moraine’s Forensic Coach Krista Appelquist.

The Moraine Valley Faculty met on February 22 on their campus in Palos Hills. Chapter Chair Jan Hill-Matula recognized the newly tenured faculty as well as those whose contracts have been renewed. Pictured are (l-r): Nick Shizas, Kevin Navratil, Amy Hansen (in back), Amani Wazwaz, Mike Shannon, Chris Riola (tall guy in back), Joe Mullarkey (grayish beard), Kevin McWoodson (in back), Ali Riphagen, Lissette Alvarado (wearing glasses), Mark Derdzinski (behind her), Mitch Baker, Lee Semmerling, CCCTU President Perry Buckley and Jim McIntyre.

http://il.aft.org/local1600/ College Union Voice
Buckley Discusses Arbitrator’s Ruling at Olive-Harvey

President Perry Buckley noted that during this past election season the CCCTU donated more than $135,000 from its COPE fund to support the election campaigns of Local 1600 allies in Springfield.

CCC VP Powell Updates MX Chapter on Arbitrations

At Malcolm X College on January 9, VP Sonia Powell holds up a copy of the contract urging all members to “read it and reread it because it is vital that you know your rights.” In the background are Chapter Chair Alta Williams and MX Grievance Chair Marc Schwertley.

George West, Boniface Ekpenyoung and Luc Elie take a break from lunch to pose for a photo at MXC on January 9.

Carleta Alston and Gladys Y. Harris listen to V.P. Powell talk about the “importance of cultivating new leadership for the union.”

Sharon Tolliver (right) and Raenette Guly share a laugh after lunch.

OH Grievance Chair David Zoller updates OH members on local step-one grievances.

Eloise Balark, Gwendolyn May (in hat) and Jada Anderson take a moment to pose for a photo. It was Anderson’s first union meeting.

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At Malcolm X College on January 9, VP Sonia Powell holds up a copy of the contract urging all members to “read it and reread it because it is vital that you know your rights.” In the background are Chapter Chair Alta Williams and MX Grievance Chair Marc Schwertley.

Jenny Gustavson, Megan Marie and Gail Grabczynski are all smiles at the start of the spring semester at MXC.

Carleta Alston and Gladys Y. Harris listen to V.P. Powell talk about the “importance of cultivating new leadership for the union.”
VP Powell Addresses Wright and Truman Chapters

Chapter Chair Clyde Walker, Paul Janus and Local 1600 VP CCC Sonia Powell prepare for the Jan. 10 Chapter Luncheon at Wright College.

Kim Knutson asks a question of Sonia Powell while Susan Grace and others listen at the Wright luncheon.

Kennedy King Welcomes VP Powell

On January 12, KK Chapter Chair Arlica Corley and CCC Vice President Sonia Powell discuss the progress of the new Kennedy-King College currently under construction.

Abe Mendez, Gloria White and Melissa Smith pose for photo before sitting down to enjoy a scrumptious lunch at KKC.

Corey Hall, right, shares a laugh with, (l-r), Angela Young, Eleanor Harrison and, standing, Khalid Uddin.

Michael Kazarinov stresses that union members should fill out the pre-contract negotiation survey as CCC VP Sonia Powell looks on.
CAMPUS VISITS: CCC

Buckley at Daley College: “C.I.P. Legislation Close to Passing”

Matthew O’Reilly (center) and Robert “Bob” Yacoub discuss the January House Delegate meeting with President Perry Buckley at the Daley College Chapter’s Spring Luncheon on January 18.

Rita Vidal and Rochelle Zimblter enjoy the food from Chi Tung Chinese and Thai Restaurant at Daley’s Spring Luncheon on January 18.

Hot Off the Press

Community College Insurance Program Task Force Submits Report to General Assembly

On March 14, the College Insurance Program Task Force submitted its report to Governor Rod Blagojevich and the Illinois General Assembly. President Perry Buckley, an appointee of Blagojevich, and Legislative Chair Bill Naegele, substituting for Illinois Community College Board Chairman Guy Alongian, served on this task force to represent Local 1600’s interests.

The CIP Task Force made four recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly:

- To create an advisory board to monitor and oversee the fiscal health of the Community College Insurance Program in the future.
- To exempt CIP from fund sweeps/administrative charge-backs.
- To urge the total revenue to CIP from active employees, community college districts and matched by the State’s General Revenue Fund shall be in total 3.15% of the annual salary of participating employees, as certified yearly by SURS.
- To allow the City Colleges of Chicago to participate in CIP. Inclusion in the program is contingent upon a buy-in based on the same formula applied to all other community colleges at the inception of the program.

President Perry Buckley noted, “We have made our recommendations. Now, we all must be active in urging their adoption by the Illinois General Assembly.”

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Legislative Chair Bill Naegele, CIP Task Force Chair Roland Burriss and President Perry Buckley confer before the March 14 meeting at Governor Blagojevich’s office in Chicago’s Thompson Center.

http://il.aft.org/local1600/
OUR ACTIVE RETIREES

Social Security: Check It Out at 62; Medicare: Inquire Before You’re 65

Editor’s note: Retiree Dr. Bob Blackwood researched and wrote this story. All kudos should be directed to him.

When you are approaching 62 years of age, there are things you should know about Social Security. Most of all, you should remember that every person’s Social Security status will differ slightly from another person’s status—depending upon such factors as when you retire, how much you paid into Social Security, the public pension offset, and the year in which you were born. For example, some people can start receiving early retirement benefits at 62; others cannot receive full retirement benefits until they are 66 (those born in 1943-1954).

First, if you have Social Security, you should start talking to a Social Security representative when you are 62. Check out if you can receive early retirement benefits. At that time, you may discuss at least two issues:

• If you are not receiving a monthly Social Security benefit, go to your local Social Security office before you are 62 to get basic information from a representative on what kind of benefit you will receive when you decide to retire. Remember, the “windfall elimination provision” or the public employees offset, a federal law, will diminish your benefit as opposed to those who were employed in the private sector.

• You must begin the discussion with your Social Security representative about Medicare before you are 65 regardless of when you retire. Go in about six months before you reach 65, the date when you will qualify for Medicare. If you wait until after you are 65, you may be facing a penalty for your Medicare coverage. It takes some time to fill out forms and get answers to questions.

Finally, if you need more information on your Social Security retirement benefit, try the website at www.socialsecurity.gov and print out the 14-page publication: “Retirement Benefits.” Also, you can call the toll free number 1-800-772-1213. If you need more information on Medicare, consult the 107-page handbook “Medicare & You 2007” from your local Social Security office or call 1-800-MEDICARE for the most current information.

Be smart. Talk to a Social Security representative. The rules are so complex and may change that no source, including this one, can be absolutely authoritative in your individual case. Thanks to Mayra Salazar at the Chicago Metropolitan Social Security Administration and Rosetta Sexton of Congressman Rahm Emanuel’s office for their help with this article.

“Forever Plaid” Retirees Luncheon at Drury Lane on November 15

While Andy Nicosia and Pat Dya sort out theater tickets for “Forever Plaid” and luncheon choices, Retiree Chapter Chair Norm Swenson greets Jeannette Williams and Bob Cuthred at the Drury Lane Theater on Nov. 15. Thirty-five retirees enjoyed luncheon and a play thanks to their chapter. Local 1600 Suburban V.P. James O’Malley and CCC V.P. Sonia Powell attended the event as well.

CCC VP. Sonia Powell listens as Retiree Chapter Chair Norm Swenson makes a point at the Drury Lane Theater luncheon on Nov. 15. Local 1600 Suburban V.P. James O’Malley also attended the event.
Sonia Powell Advises New CCC Faculty How to Thrive and Survive

At the new faculty orientation session at the central office of the City Colleges of Chicago, Local 1600 Vice President CCC Sonia Powell gave some good advice to 25 new faculty members on January 11. She took as her bible the written comments of President Perry Buckley and salted it with knowledge of her own. Such comments as “Be on time for class,” “Earn those 15 hour class requirements early,” and “Be active in your chapter” were among them. In addition, Powell urged the new faculty to get to know their colleagues who would be recommending them for tenure and to make a point of meeting their union chapter chair early. Powell also invited the new faculty and any new professionals to a Feb. 2 event at the Parthenon Restaurant.

Union Officers Greet New CCC Faculty at Greektown Lunch

On February 2, the officers of Local 1600 greeted some of the new faculty in the City Colleges of Chicago at a special luncheon at the Parthenon in Chicago’s Greektown. The officers present included President Perry Buckley, Vice President CCC Sonia Powell, Treasurer Don Radtke, Secretary Pat Wenthold and Legislative Chair Bill Naegele. The luncheon gave the new faculty members the opportunity to ask about procedures in the CCC, financial planning for their future and the best way to work with the departments and the administration to gain tenure.
42nd ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET
U.S. Cellular Field • 333 West 35th Street • Chicago, Illinois 60610

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2007 • STADIUM CLUB

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

Entrée Choice: ___Filet Mignon ___Vegetable Wellington

Charge: $35.00 per person (Free Parking)
$25.00 for new members and new retirees who join SURS Check-Off

This banquet WILL sell out! Reservations will be limited to the first 320 guests. If you wish to attend, please complete the form below, enclose a check payable to CCCTU, and mail both to the CCCTU Office, 208 West Kinzie Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60610 BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25TH.

(please cut and send form back with check)

Name:___________________________ College:____________________Phone No:_______________

I wish to make reservations for (number)___________to attend the 42nd Annual Union Banquet.

My check for $__________ is enclosed.

SEE YOU AT THE BANQUET!