IN MEMORIAM

Members Flock to Noel Johnson’s Last Social Engagement

On Jan. 24, Virginia Noel Johnson (Dec., 25, 1920—Jan. 18, 2009), who spent over 30 years as the Local 1600 social chair and many years as the Daley College Business Department chair, had her funeral service at the Hallowell and James Funeral Home in Countryside, IL. Her children, Brian and Lois Brazda, were present as were her step-daughters Nancy Johnson Stout and Karen Johnson Kelly. Retirees Chapter Chair Norm Swenson gave a eulogy. Union Treasurer and accountant, Don Radtke, said that it was Johnson who had interviewed him and recommended him for employment at Daley College. Radtke said: “If it wasn’t for Noel, I wouldn’t be here today.” As the members went to their cars, one of them tossed over his shoulder: “If there ever is a need for a picket line in heaven, Noel will be on it.”

Some of the Local 1600 members and family who attended Noel Johnson’s Jan. 24 funeral services: Lillian Buckley, Treasurer Don Radtke, Secretary Pat Wentholt, V.P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell, Frank Pokin, Ted Berg, Retirees Chair Norm Swenson, Chris Dimas, George Brixie and Jim Kennedy.
V.P. Powell A Player in the Black Caucus Conference in Springfield

Sonia Jean Powell, V.P. CCC, attended the Black Caucus Conference in Springfield on March 6 & 7. “This conference was intense and over-the-top interesting. It was also a whole lot of fun,” she said, “and the networking opportunities with the legislators, presenters and attendees were outstanding. I learned while advancing Local 1600’s issues.”

The workshop topics centered on critically important issues such as health care and educational disparities between blacks and other minorities and the rest of the state. Additionally, one of the workshops explored how the stimulus dollars, which will be available later this spring, would be used. The discussion also included planning mechanisms and the articulation between state and federal agencies which would govern the expenditure of the stimulus dollars.

Some of the legislators who participated were: Conference Chair Deborah Graham (D, 78) and moderators Marlow Colvin (D, 33), David Miller (D, 29), Constance Howard (D, 34) and U.S. Representative Danny Davis of the 7th Congressional District. Powell was impressed on how knowledgeable and engaging the moderators and panelists were. “They were active and involved in every discussion,” said Powell.

Powell commented on how hard the Caucus legislators work to advocate for an Illinois which works for all citizens. She was very encouraged by how well the legislators were versed on CCCTU pension funding, ethics, capital development, CIP and residency issued positions which impact our union members. “President Perry Buckley, Legislative Chair Bill Naegle and Asst. to the President Randy Barnette have certainly done an excellent job articulating our positions to our state lawmakers,” said Powell, “and clearly the legislators are listening.”

Much has happened since our winter issue of the Voice. We have a new president, a new governor, and a new Illinois Senate president. Challenges and adversity were waiting for them from the very moment they stepped in office. Many of these difficulties, as we would guess, have an impact on Local 1600 members and the colleges we serve.

The economy remains the principal issue facing us and all of America. While there are some signs that the worst has passed, uncertainty and apprehension still rule the day. Unemployment, housing foreclosures, depleted retirement accounts and bankruptcies are all still front page news. Our members are not immune from these threats.

(continued on page 2)
FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK...

Issues in Springfield
(continued from front page)

What are some of the issues directly related to CCCTU and our members? Here are but a few:

- **The attack on pensions:** In his budget speech to the legislature Governor Patrick Quinn laid out a course of action that, if implemented, would have disastrous ramifications on all of us… retirees, current active members and future teachers and staff. While we applaud the governor’s plan to establish much needed revenue sources, and provide more money to community colleges, we are simply astounded by his assault on pensions as a way to finance many of his programs. Part of his plan would raise our contributions by a substantial amount. We believe this is unconstitutional, but the threat is there. For new employees, the minimum retirement age would be raised from 60 to 67 while simultaneously lowering benefits, creating a two-tiered system. These would have disastrous consequences for us all.

  We pay dearly for our pensions. Over 8% of every dollar we have earned in our careers goes to provide our defined benefits. **We are not to blame!** It is the state that has underfunded our pensions at the constitutionally mandated levels, and it is the state that has created “pension holidays” to avoid funding that has brought us here today. It is the height of duplicity to blame us for a catastrophe the state has created.

- **The future of CIP:** The College Insurance Program that currently provides health care for all community college retirees, except the City Colleges, is in danger of collapsing. Here, not only has the state underfunded the program, but the state also “swept” funds from the program when it was financially healthy.

  Bill Naegele and I were on the Governor’s CIP Task Force two years ago to help propose a plan to bring CCC retirees into the plan while making the plan viable and affordable for all community college retirees. To this date our proposals have been ignored.

- **Community College Underfunding:** The basic formula for community college funding was designed in simplicity: one-third tuition, one-third property taxes and one-third state funds. Here, again, the state has failed us. Their “third” is currently less than 17%. The result has been layoffs, more part-time employees and higher property taxes and tuition. Keep in mind community colleges, at one time, were free as a “public” college system. Tuitions are now making unaffordable what was once free.

  There are other related issues, no doubt. Once again, however, Local 1600 increasingly is discovering that our main challenges and our major battles are being waged more and more in Springfield and less and less at our negotiation tables.

  The IFT’s legislative office, especially Director Steve Preckwinkle and Higher Ed Legislative Director Nick Yelverton, are monitoring developments on an hour-by-hour basis. We are working closely with them and every community college and higher education coalition to fight to “keep what we got, and get what we need.”

  What you can do to help is join us on Lobby Day to get the word out. Never have we needed our members to make their voices heard more. We have organized a dynamic Lobby Day effort which will reach key legislators and constitutional officers. We will begin Tuesday, April 28th with a pre-Lobby-Day dinner at the Springfield Hilton. Local 1600 will provide hotel rooms. On Lobby Day itself, Wednesday, we will once again host a legislative breakfast in Secretary of State Jessie White’s office. Call Randy Barnette at 312-755-9400 to assure a place at all the Lobby Day events. We need you as we have never needed you before.
Local 1600 Receives Award for Political Action at AFT Conference

Twenty-one members of Local 1600 attended the AFT Higher Education Conference in Miami, March 5-8, ten for the first time. All CCCTU colleges were presented and all attended a variety of seminars dealing with the “How to’s” of union leadership from “Academic Freedom in the Digital Age” to “Workplace Bullying.” Though the conference was held in a desirable location, the AFT schedule was so tight that there was little time for sightseeing.

The Local 1600 high point of the conference was President Perry Buckley’s acceptance of a special commendation on behalf of Local 1600’s prowess in the political action arena from AFT Executive Vice President Loretta Johnson.

One of the six opening workshops was “Incorporating F.A.C.E. into Your Contract Campaign.” F.A.C.E is a national legislative initiative dealing with wages and benefit parity for our adjunct brothers and sisters. As part-time faculty gain commensurate compensation packages, it no longer becomes beneficial to hire an adjunct instead of a full-timer.

The Opening Plenary featured members of the AFT Program and Policy Council (PPC). PPC member President Buckley introduced Local 1600 to the entire AFT body and highlighted its fourteen chapters and three institutes with a membership of approximately 4,700. This plenary focused on the AFT’s legislative priorities including efforts to promote investment in higher education, strengthen the F.A.C.E. campaign and the “Just Ask” initiative. “Just Ask” urges students and parents to ask about wages and benefit parity for our adjuncts and team-building and camaraderie amongst the leaders in Local 1600 have strengthened their bond and resolve in representing the premier educators and support staff of Cook County’s colleges.

Regenerating the AFT member support of Obama, 79 percent of the AFT membership voted for Obama.

In addition to the highly informative seminars, the team-building and camaraderie amongst the leaders in Local 1600 have strengthened their bond and resolve in representing the premier educators and support staff of Cook County’s colleges.

All workshop materials are available at www.AFT.org/higher_ed
For photos of this event, please visit the website: www.ccctu.com

“One reason we have such a difficult time getting support for Union efforts and initiatives is that our history and our battles are not taught. These programs seek to change that.”

—President Perry Buckley
PSRP Conference in Baltimore Gives Oakton Award; Weingarten Warns of “Big Lie”

At the general session that evening, AFT President Randi Weingarten told about “The Big Lie.” Self-proclaimed educational reformers are condemning the educational unions for allegedly “blocking reforms and defending the status quo.” The AFT has never blocked reform; we simply have defended our members when they are unjustly accused. Weingarten noted the White House is projecting spending approximately $100 billion for education within a year, the greatest amount for education in any federal government budget. Weingarten said to repeaters of the Big Lie: “You can’t do things to us; you have to do things with us. We are part of the solution to provide a high quality education for our children. We have the responsibility to make a real change. No cutbacks are as bad as cutbacks to our children’s future.”

Saturday brought another series of workshops. Ruiz, Reineking, Pryor, Visk, and Buckley all dropped in to refine their knowledge of “Workplace Bullying.” Lucas, Haske, Ruiz, and Boone attended “Quality Customer Service in a College Setting.” Cabrera took notes in “Controlling the Message in Times of Crisis.” Pawlak, Reineking, and Cabrera participated in “Warning Signs of Privatization in an Economic Downturn.”

With the praise of our success ringing in our ears, the members returned home to Chicagoland.

For the full story and photos of this event, visit www.ccctu.com.
INAUGURATION

Local 1600 Members Share Their Memories of the Inauguration

Editor’s note: a number of CCCTU members and their family and friends attended President Barack Obama’s Inauguration in Washington, D.C., on January 20, 2009. Below are some of their photos and recollections in addition to the CCCTU Honor Roll of Attendees. Apologies to those who went but were accidentally omitted from the roster.

“My wife Rachel and I were lucky to be able to attend many of the inauguration festivities. There were many great moments, but what most impressed me was the overwhelming feeling that everyone I met expressed: we are now on a new path and it’s the right one. It was a truly historic event.”
—Anthony Johnston, Chapter Chair, Truman College

“I met Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan at the Illinois Inaugural Gala in Washington, D.C. In addition to the Attorney General, I had the opportunity to speak with several Chicago and Illinois elected officials who were in D.C. to celebrate the inauguration of Illinois’ own . . . Barack Obama.”
—Constance Mixon, Professor, Richard J. Daley College

“The inauguration experience was far more than the expected joy of being a witness to history. It was also a cathartic close to the two-year journey that started in Springfield in 2007 with President Obama’s announcement to run. Lillian and I were lucky enough to attend many events, receptions and balls. Each was the celebration of a magic moment in American history.”
—Perry Buckley, CCCTU President

“I chartered a bus and we put President-Elect Obama (at the time!) at the helm of our trip. He guided us safely to D.C. and back as he will do the same for our country! All of America will have the opportunity to participate in the new direction the nation will take.”
—Krissie Harris, Oakton Community College

“While my wife and I were attending the party at the Mandarin Hotel, we bumped into Perry Buckley in his tuxedo on his way out. He looked great and we had a ball at Mayor Daley’s Inaugural Reception.”
—Harry McGraw, Dawson Technical Institute

Truman Chapter Chair Tony Johnston and President Perry Buckley celebrate the inauguration of Barack Obama with good friend and Ill. State Rep. Elaine Nekritz (D, 57) at the Illinois Inauguration Ball.

Perry Buckley holds up a very hot ticket item: an Inauguration Pass.

Windy City

CCCTU Honor Roll

Angelyn Anderson, Oakton
Sharonda Benson, Kennedy-King
Jane Klingberg, Triton
Mary Maryland, Malcolm X
Paulette Pennington-Jones, Olive-Harvey
Michelle Perkins, Malcolm X
J. Roi, Olive-Harvey
Jim Wright, Triton (retiree)
AROUND THE CCCTU

Jan. House Meeting at Morton College Eclipsed by “Cupid and Psyche”

After the House Meeting and dinner at Morton College, many members attended the Chicago premiere of the musical comedy “Cupid and Psyche.” From left: Director Eddie Sugarman, Producer (and Morton Chapter Chair) Dante Orfei and the talented cast.

The Jan. 16 Local 1600 House Meeting at the Jedlicka Performing Arts Center at Morton College conducted vital business and distributed important data. It was eclipsed, however, in the minds of those members who attended the Chicago premiere of the musical comedy “Cupid and Psyche” later in the evening in the same location as the house meeting.

President Perry Buckley’s comments at the opening of the House Meeting focused on the danger presented by a rush-to-judgment on the part of the City Colleges of Chicago’s Legal Department in evaluating alleged Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) charges against CCC faculty and staffers. People have been fired without a chance to have the accusations evaluated impartially. Buckley is taking this message to every CCC chapter. Also, EEO cases are being presented in chapter leadership training this spring.

All of the officers gave brief reports, but the bad news fell to Legislative Chair Bill Naegele. Naegele noted that the State of Illinois has a budget deficit of an estimated $4 billion. Naegele said: “In March, the State of Illinois will be asking: ‘Do we not pay the light bill or the heating bill?’” He also noted that the state pension funds are estimated at being over $50 million in debt, keeping Illinois Number One of the fifty states in unfunded state pensions.

After a number of serious discussions and reports from chapter chairs, the members adjourned to the cafeteria for dinner. After dinner, those fortunate enough to have a free evening, turned out for the Chicago premiere of “Cupid and Psyche.”

For a review of the musical and photos of this event, please visit www.ccctu.com.

Daley Math Prof Wins Highest Math Teaching Honor

In January 2009, Daley College’s Mathematics Professor Vali Siadat, a member of Local 1600, became the first community college professor in the U.S. to receive the highest award in his field, the Mathematical Association of America’s Deborah and Frank Tepper Haimo Award for the distinguished teaching of mathematics. In the past, this award has gone to University of Chicago, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of California and Harvard University professors.

Siadat, who has been teaching at Daley for 26 years, estimated that he has taught 10,000 students. He said this instruction was his greatest gift to our society. He also said that he received the award in the name of his hard-working colleagues in the City Colleges of Chicago. “Teaching at a two-year college is challenging. It requires lots of energy, enthusiasm and commitment,” Siadat said. The Haimo Award was not Siadat’s only triumph. In 2005, Siadat was named Illinois Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

[Sources for this story include the Community College Times article by Melanie Brisson.]
Blackwood Moderates Two CAN-TV Shows in January

Dr. Bob Blackwood, *Voice* correspondent and photographer, is a man of many talents. He also “does” television and viewers of Chicago area’s local cable channel, CAN-TV 21, know that. In late January Blackwood recorded two 30-minute Senior Network shows that were cablecast throughout Chicago on public access television in February during African-American History Month.

The first show was “African-American History in Bronzeville Architecture” which gave "before" photos of architecture in Chicago’s Bronzeville in the 1950s and early 1960s; the "after" photos were shot in 2001 by Jim Parker of the James S. Parker Collection of photographs at the University of Illinois in Chicago Library. Professor Christopher Reed, an African-American historian, commented on each building and its historical aspects. Senior Library Specialist Pia Hunter of the U.I.C. Library gave information on the type of research materials available to the public at the library.

The other half-hour show was "Your State Universities Retirement System" which outlined the problems of all Illinois pension systems in 2009, underfunding and a declining stock market. Retirement Specialist Lee Bridges commented on the big picture and answered specific questions from V.P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell and KKC Chapter Chair Arlicia Corley.

KKC Scholarship Luncheon Celebrates Freedom

The Black Box Theatre in Kennedy-King’s “U” Building was a scene of joy on Jan. 22. The Union Book Scholarship Awards Banquet brought good people together: union members and administration, students and family, people who went to Washington, D.C., for the inaugural and people who watched it on TV, and two wonderful singers.

Mistress of Ceremonies Sharonda Benson, head of the Scholarship Committee, opened the event. Arika Anderson cited the purpose of the meeting. Social Chair Pamela Cannamore recited her poem “Butterflies were birthed today” in honor of the occasion. Chapter Chair Arlicia Corley praised Benson for her initiative and energy, and she also thanked the scholarship sponsors. V.P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell complimented the faculty for giving out the scholarships and the students for their achievements.

Ted Williams of Social Science gave a spirited address calling for “leaders dedicated to greatness, leaders who are not self-interested.” He named three things to help his community: education, entrepreneurship, and re-elevating the role of the family in the community. Perhaps the most concise statement of much of the conversation at the lunch table was the message contained on the balloons behind the speaker’s podium: “Change We Can Believe In! Obama, 44th U.S. President.”

For the full story and photos of this event, please visit www.ccctu.com.
Local 1600 Supports Rep. Julie Hamos

At a packed fundraiser for State Rep. Julie Hamos (D, 18) on January 25, Voice editor and photographer Todd Lakin was able to squeeze in a moment during the meet-and-greet to get a photo with the representative. Local 1600 donated COPE funds to Hamos for the first time. Hamos, who has been a state representative since 1998, is the Chair of the House Mass Transit Committee. For more on Hamos, visit her website: http://www.juliehamos.org.

Relaxed Triton Mid-Management Holds Post-Holiday Party

The Triton College Mid-Managers Association held its holiday get-together on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at Biancalana Banquets in Elmwood Park.

Following a cocktail hour reception, Chapter Chair John Cadero greeted those present and thanked them for their collegiality and support. All enjoyed a marvelous place setting and union camaraderie.

Representing the union were V.P. Suburban Jim O’Malley, V.P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell, V.P. Classified Jillian Verstrate, Secretary Pat Wenthold, V.P. Suburban Jim O’Malley and chapter leaders John Cadero, Rosa Preston, Jackie Marx and Kay Frey.

Buckley and Naegele Ride on Madigan’s Float in Parade

President Perry Buckley and Legislative Chair Bill Naegele are glad to be riding on Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan’s float during the South Side Irish Parade on Sunday, March 15.

“It sure beats walking the entire route,” Naegele said. “Seriously, though, it is an honor to have been invited to ride on the attorney general’s float.”
HW Chapter Hosts First Scholarship Fundraiser

In the midst of an economic downturn, the Harold Washington College Chapter turned up its collective generosity and held its first-ever fundraiser for the Soglin/McBride Memorial Scholarship at Thalia Spice at 833 W. Chicago Ave. (http://www.thaliaspice.com/) on Sunday, March 22. “Thalia Spice is an excellent space to hold a fundraiser,” said Jesús Estrada, co-chair of the Scholarship Committee. “Not only is the Asian fusion food outstanding and the décor swanky, but one of the co-owners is a former Local 1600 member, Anna Makmok. It was a win-win for us to host it there,” Estrada continued.

The Scholarship Committee, co-chaired by Estrada and Natalia Zúñiga, and consisting of Anthony Escuadro, Teresita Díaz, Saed Rihani and Ellen Goldberg, decided to try something different this year. “Rather than simply hit up our colleagues for money, we thought it would be fun to host a fundraiser,” said Zúñiga. Chapter Chair Phil Stucky concurred, noting that HWC’s “younger leadership is making dynamic contributions to our chapter and I applaud their effort.”

About thirty HW members and friends attended the event, including V.P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell and Secretary Pat Wenthold. Also attending was last year’s Soglin/McBride winner, Sean Johnson, who thanked everyone at the event for the financial assistance “which helped [him] finish the Associate degree and transfer to National-Louis University.”

For photos of this event, please visit www.ccctu.com.

TR Fundraiser Raises Money for Student Scholarships

"What matters most is that we were able to sell thirty $45 tickets in the past two weeks. The chapter really came through with generous donations."

President Perry Buckley and Legislative Chair Bill Naegele donated on behalf of Local 1600 and enjoyed the festive occasion. Before the buffet meal, Naegele briefly discussed Gov. Quinn's budget proposal in which public pensions are under attack. "I don't want to bring down today's celebration," Naegele said as the group laughed, "but it is serious. The governor wants to cut your pay by 2% and create a two-tiered pension system for new hires. It is very important that you join us for Lobby Day on April 29."

But the bad news didn't dampen the mood for long. After a delicious buffet meal, Johnston had organized a team trivia contest with the winning team receiving gift certificates.
A Warm Ambience on a Bitterly Cold Day at Daley

On a day that began with a snowstorm and ended in minus 15 degree wind chill factor, the ambience was warm and the barbeque luncheon was a tangy diversion from the weather in the Daley College Faculty Lounge. Chapter Chair Mel Anderson hosted the welcome-back-from-holiday-break luncheon on January 14 and thanked everyone for being professional and diligent in getting to Daley despite the weather conditions.

After an hour lunch, Anderson began the chapter meeting by introducing Local 1600’s Grievance Chair (and Daley’s own) Tom Kodogeorgiou and IFT Field Rep. Brenda Pryor who represented the officers as President Perry Buckley was double-booked at Wright. Anderson then presented the chapter officers, making a special note of the excellent food choice by Social Chair Rowena Misaya with her selection of Chuck’s BBQ at 79th and Central Ave. The other chapter officers are Asst. Chapter Chair Bob Yacoub, Grievance Chair Vince Russo, Treasurer Alan Gbur, Secretary Peter Malo, House Delegate Laverne Williams and the newly elected Security Delegate Clinton Lowe.

Secretary Malo discussed the numerous joint faculty-administration committees that needed participation and introduced the chairs of each. He also asked that all members list their personal email addresses so that any union business can be conducted off non-CCC email accounts. Treasurer Gbur solicited contributions for the Daley College Union Scholarship fund.

For photos, please visit www.ccctu.com.

Chapter Chair Mel Anderson gets union enrollment forms for newly hired faculty members Juan Carlos Hernández and Jenny Jakob.

IFT Field Rep. Brenda Pryor, Daley Chapter Chair Mel Anderson, Local 1600’s Grievance Chair Tom Kodogeorgiou, and Daley Treasurer Alan Gbur (back row, left) welcome five newly hired faculty members: (standing) Helen Craules, Tanya Firestone and Michael Crenshaw, (sitting) Jenny Jakob and Juan Carlos Hernández.

Professor Eugene Bender and Asst. Chapter Chair Bob Yacoub smile for the camera.

Professor Connie Mixon is glad to be back teaching after a year-long sabbatical.
Linda Murphy and Perry Buckley Tell It Like It Is to Wright Chapter

Chapter Chair Linda Murphy took to the podium in the Wright College cafeteria to tell some good news to the chapter members; President Perry Buckley gave them notice of challenges to come.

Murphy noted the presence of the Wright part-time professionals’ representative Barbara Hajnos and Dennis Fitzgerald for the Wright security officers. Murphy focused upon the efforts made by our students, our members, and the officers of Local 1600 in the November election plus effective spending of our COPE funds. Locally, the election of Mark Walker to District 66 of the Illinois House was the first election of a Democrat in that district since Abraham Lincoln’s era. She cited Buckley’s volunteering for a week before the election in Dayton, Ohio, to work for Obama, canvassing union households and being a press liaison. The 67% “No” vote against another Illinois Constitutional Convention kept our retirees’ rights secure for another 20 years, when it will come up again.

Buckley opened his comments by noting that the City Colleges of Chicago were still a good place to work. He then described in vivid detail some of the challenges facing faculty and other members in the CCC. Currently, it appears the Legal Department of the CCC alone is making the decisions in the downtown office on whether to prosecute Equal Employment Opportunity cases based on information of questionable reliability. Buckley answered a series of questions from the floor and stayed afterwards to talk to various individuals.

For the full story and photos, please visit www.ccctu.com

UPCOMING DATES:

April 17: Executive Board Meeting
April 29: Lobby Day
May 1: 44th Annual CCCTU Banquet
June 19: Executive Board
July 17: House Meeting
August 28: Executive Board

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208 W. Kinzie St., Chicago, IL 60654 or;
e-mail your address to: tlakin@local1600.org

College Union Voice • Visit the CCCTU website: www.ccctu.com
Chapter Chair Tony Johnston addressed a full house at the Truman Chapter on Jan. 15. In addition to a possible textbook policy, the chapter scholarship program and fundraiser, ICCB budget cuts from then Governor Blagojevich, the need for the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), he spoke of a leadership vacuum throughout the CCC on the college and district level.

President Perry Buckley, after noting the political successes of the union in the November elections throughout Cook County in electing state representatives and state senators, went on to enhance Johnston’s standing with his constituents. “He is working hard on every major issue; you are well served by him.”

Buckley then went into the challenges that Johnston mentioned as a “leadership vacuum” throughout the CCC. The college administration has permitted the Legal Department and the Human Resources Department to direct them in most issues pertaining to disciplinary matters. If our teachers, professionals, security officers or others are faced with a disciplinary hearing at the college or the downtown office, often phrased as simply a “discussion,” you should invoke your Weingarten Rights.

For the full story and photos of this event, visit www.ccctu.com

Buckley Praises Johnston at Truman and Stresses Weingarten Rights

Chapter Chair Tony Johnston urges the chapter on Jan. 15 to support the scholarship program by attending the Trivia Night Fundraiser.

The good showing at the Truman Chapter Meeting was matched by the attention of the audience.

For an order form, visit www.ccctu.com

CCCTU’S 44TH ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET

FRIDAY, MAY 1 at White Sox Park’s Stadium Club

For an order form, visit www.ccctu.com

Visit the CCCTU website: www.ccctu.com
Oakton Classified Chapter a Smooth Operation

Why does the Oakton Classified Chapter seem to function pretty smoothly? After all, the Oakton Classified Chapter was just awarded in March the “Union Builders Award” at the AFT’s annual PSRP Conference in Baltimore. This award is given annually to chapters who have created an organization that effectively represents its members and serves all of their needs, including contract negotiations. After careful examination, here are some factors:

• In addition to a number of members who make solidarity a real part of their lives, the leadership of the chapter should take a bow. Chapter Chair Patty Lucas, Assistant Chapter Chair Jillian Verstrate (the Local 1600 Vice President for Classified), Grievance Chair Marilyn Davis, Secretary Barbara Reineking, Treasurer Anne Laurence, Parliamentarian Patty Tadda and Membership Chair Loretta LaVere.
• The chapter holds three meetings a month so that every member can have a chance to attend.
• Every member is allowed to attend a meeting each month during working hours, and food is often served. Plus, the officers and third shift steward are given a certain number of hours each week to do union business.
• The administration shows concern for their workers.
• Oakton College, as an institution, tries its best to help the members of its community, as well as its staff.

For the full list and photos of the Jan. 29 meetings, visit www.ccctu.com.

MX Hosts

CCCTU Heavy Hitters

At its annual Spring Luncheon Chapter meeting on February 10, Malcolm X College welcomed President Perry Buckley, V.P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell, V.P. Suburban Jim O’Malley and IFT Field Rep. Brenda Pryor. Powell discussed the current City Colleges of Chicago negative environment regarding residency rules and EEO complaints. “It’s a tense time in the CCC,” Powell said. In this photo, MX Chapter Chair William Stewart chats with Brenda Pryor before getting in line for lunch.
Buckley and Powell Visit KKC and Hit the High Notes

At Kennedy-King’s spring chapter luncheon on February 19, Chapter Chair Arlicia Corley welcomed President Perry Buckley and V.P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell to discuss issues throughout the City Colleges. Social Chair Pamela Cannamore organized a tasty Subway lunch that was eaten afterwards because the meeting was held in a biology lab where no food was permitted.

After brief introductions, Corley turned the meeting over to President Buckley who urged everyone to participate in three upcoming CCCTU events: the Leadership Conference, Lobby Day and the Annual Spring Banquet at Sox Park. “The 6th Annual Spring Leadership Conference is a great way to learn about becoming a union leader,” he said. Buckley singled out Corley who has become “the textbook of what a chapter chair should be. It’s people like she who the union wants to train to be future leaders.” Regarding Lobby Day, he noted, “It’s exciting to see our members interact with their state reps and senators because it does have an impact.” Finally, Buckley summed up the 44th Annual Banquet at Sox Park’s Stadium Club, “It’s the best deal in town and a lot of fun.”

President Buckley praised the efforts of two key people in the union. First, he recognized V.P. CCC Powell for her “tireless efforts on behalf of our union. She works quietly and softly yet very effectively behind the scenes.” Buckley also praised IFT Field Rep. and in-house lawyer Brenda Pryor: “We are such a better and more effective union with her on-board.”

For the full story and photos of this event, visit www.ccctu.com.
Leadership Conference Focuses on Union Issues of 21st Century; Pensions Under Attack

The 5th Annual CCCTU Leadership Conference on March 28 at the IFT Westmont Headquarters focused on ways to keep the union relevant in these modern times. V.P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell organized the conference, titled “Issues in the 21st Century.” The most serious threat facing all public employees in the state, including the CCCTU, is the attack on the public pension system.

After a buffet breakfast, President Perry Buckley welcomed the attendees: “This sacrifice of part of your weekend is testament to your dedication to the Union and the members you serve. You are what make the Union strong.” Powell began the plenary session, “Empowering Our Leaders with the Right Tools,” with a presentation on “How to Deal Effectively with Awkward People in Awkward Times.” She noted that when attempting to overcome divides such as competition for resources, childhood pathologies or social class differences, “keep in mind that the individual who is causing the problem has had years to get that way.” Powell stressed the need to understand what the union fighting tool arsenal is and how to best utilize. “Don’t go straight to the top on every issue,” she cautioned. “Utilizing informal ‘power tools’ that creatively and cooperatively problem-solve are often times better tactics than the formal ‘power tools’ of grievances, arbitration and strikes.”

After a short break, attendees broke out into three workshop sessions. In Workshop A, the Classified and Support Staff, led by V.P. Classified Jillian Verstrate and special guest, IFT V.P. Marcia Boone, discussed the “Commonalities among Classified Staff.” Verstrate stressed two important themes in the presentation: knowing and understanding one’s rights and courting a good, working relationship with the local administration. In Workshop B, Grievance Chair Tom Kodogeorgiou and Staff Attorney Brenda Pryor presented “Grievances in a Changing World” with special commentary from V.P. CCC Powell. First, Kodogeorgiou gave the attendees a Grievance Workshop 101, offering top tips for grievance preparation and underscored how critical witnesses are to the process. “The best theories are worth nothing,” he said, “if they are not supported by the evidence. Put yourself in an arbitrator’s shoes,” Kodogeorgiou advised.

President Buckley, who led Workshop C, “The ABCs of CCCTU,” presented an informative history of Local 1600 and an overview of the different bargaining units to the rookie class of attendees to the conference. “Local 1600 was born on November 1, 1965,” he said. “Originally we were a part of the Chicago Teachers Union but, when the Illinois Community College Board was founded it was only a matter of time before community college faculty formed their own bargaining units.”

Finally, in the second plenary session, Legislative Chair Bill Naegele, Asst. to the President Randy Barnette and IFT Legislative Director Nick Yelverton updated the membership on “Politics and the Union,” focusing primarily on issues in Springfield, including Gov. Patrick Quinn’s budget proposal from March 18. Naegele blasted the governor’s position on the pension: “This attack on our pensions is outrageous. We will have a 2% decrease in salary and a 2% increase in our contribution to the pension system, thus making Illinois public employees the national leaders in how much per paycheck goes to our pension funds.” Naegele urged everyone to attend Lobby Day: “This year it is essential that your legislators hear from you.”

At the conclusion of a very informative day, everyone enjoyed lunch and eagerly awaited the annual raffle organized by Powell and Secretary Pat Wenthold.

For the full story and photos of this event, visit www.ccctu.com.