City Colleges Contract Negotiated 14 Months Early Five-Year-Pact First in CCC-Union History

It came as an amazing surprise, then, when President Perry Buckley assembled the CCC Negotiation Team to tell them of the possibility of an early deal. Within five days a five-year deal was sent to the membership for a vote. Two weeks later the ratified contracts were approved by the CCC Board of Trustees.

For faculty and training specialists the contract provides for raises ranging from 25.4% for those at the bottom five steps to 22.6% for those at steps 30 – 34. For the first time ever there will be a “minimum wage” of $45,000 with all steps under that amount being eliminated. By the end of the contract the minimum will be over $56,000. Any faculty member with a doctorate not making $55,000 a year will move to the nearest step making that amount. For some faculty this will result in a raise of as much as 30.9% in one year.

Full-time professionals will receive an across the board 24.2% compounded raise over the five years. The part-time professional “minimum wage” will rise from $9,000 to $13,45 (the US Urban “Living Wage”). All other part-time professionals will receive $3.75 per hour raises over the five years.

continued on page 18

South Suburban Support Staff Contract Settled

The South Suburban College Support Staff Association voted 96 – 2 to approve a new five-year contract which will provide almost 30% in raises over the length of the deal. The pact provides a 5.35% compounded raise each year.

The contract was negotiated by Local 1600 President Perry Buckley and SSCSSA President Berdy Kuiken for the Union and SSC President George Dammer and SSC Attorney Stanley Kusper for the college. The four met five times to hammer out the deal. Buckley and Kuiken had met with the Union’s executive board before the negotiations to assure the important issues would get to the table.

continued on page 8

Moraine Valley Adjunct Faculty Wins New Contract

The Moraine Valley Adjunct Faculty Association (MVFA) ratified their new five-year contract 86% - 14%. The contract was ratified at the June MVCC Board meeting. The contract will run from July 2007 to July 2012.

This is the second contract for the group and the contract contained several significant improvements. Salary improvements, as usual, were the most important. The key change was a move from the usual “set dollar amount” to a percentage raise. In the past at Moraine the adjunct professors simply received an “across the board” $25 per credit hour raise from “top to bottom.” What this meant,” said chief negotiator Perry Buckley, “was that many faculty were in fact receiving a mere 3% raise. It also meant those at the top of the scale were receiving a lower percentage.”

continued on back page
“Not all conflict is amenable to the same set of tactics. Context matters. Different tools and different tactics are necessary in different situations.”
— Christopher Currie, Mediator Specialist

Whenever I write this column for the “Summer Edition” of the Voice the “school teacher” in me comes out. I still look at August as the beginning of the new year… the school year.

I look back at the 2006 – 2007 “school year” with delight. We have done a solid job in negotiating excellent contracts and fighting, when necessary, to protect those contracts and our members’ rights. As I often say, these are the two chief reasons we exist.

In this edition of the Voice you will find stories on new contracts for the City Colleges of Chicago, Moraine Valley Adjunct Faculty Association, and South Suburban Support Staff. You will also read about arbitration awards (see page 12) in which two suspended faculty received back pay for the entire length of their suspensions. These are but a few examples of how we put those “chief reasons” to action.

Almost always there is a “story behind the stories.” Throughout these negotiations, struggles, and in some cases, battles, we have grown and learned. We have learned to be adaptable, to embrace new paradigms. We have learned that the eight community college districts and fourteen colleges we serve all come with their own dynamics and unique organizations. Perhaps most important, however, we have learned that whenever collegial, non-adversarial, mutually respectful negotiations and conflict resolution are possible, both our members and our colleges are best served. It is both exasperating and futile to constantly battle people we must work with every day of our careers. Everyone loses when everything is a conflict.

Make no mistake about it, if we are pushed, we push back. We do not seek to fight, but when faced with one, we do not shun it. It is just that fighting cannot be the only tactic.

Accordingly, over the past two years wherever our offer to work for the common good of our members and our colleges was embraced, we have succeeded. The City Colleges of Chicago five-year contract, negotiated 14 months early, is but one example. The 790 members affected by this contract will now have six years of labor peace while enjoying one of the best contracts in the state in salary, insurance and benefits. The genesis of this historic contract was due to the willingness of the Union and Chancellor Wayne Watson to sit down and work to heal old wounds and foster the common good. There is still much to do; old ways die hard. But the very fact that the Union, the chancellor, Board Chairman James Tyree and other administrators now actually talk to each other, means we can do great things for our members and our schools.

With that in mind, I look on with admiration and delight as to how Vice President Sonia Powell and Grievance Chair Tom Kodogeorgiou have used their tremendous “people skills” (coupled with their remarkable talent) to work both proactively and reactively for our members. They both embody the Union’s philosophy of working together to solve problems while defending our members. Not only do they put in long hours attending frequent arbitrations, conducting pre-disciplinary hearings, and carrying out grievance investigations, but they have earned the respect and admiration of everyone on both sides of the table. They disagree without being disagreeable; they fight while leaving everyone with their dignity intact. I am proud of them both.

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

President...............................................................Perry Buckley
Vice President, City Colleges Division............Sonia Powell
Vice President, Suburban Faculty.................Jim O’Malley
Vice President, Suburban Classified.............Gal Wiot
Secretary..............................................................Patricia Wenthold
Treasurer..............................................................Donald Radtke
Legislative Representative.............................Bill Naegele
Grievance Chairman.................................Tom Kodogeorgiou
Special Assistant to the President...............Randy Barnette
Editorial Chair.....................................................Todd Lakin
Publicity Chair.................................................Bill O’Connell
Special Contributor........................................Dr. Bob Blackwood

SAVE THE DATE

• August 24: Executive Board
• September 21: House meeting
• October 19: Executive Board

All materials submitted for publication should be sent to:
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Local 1600 Higher Education Lobby Day a Hit with the Heavy Hitters

On April 25, 48 members of Local 1600 traveled down to Springfield to lobby their legislators on what is now called “Higher Education Lobby Day.” The day opened at 8:30 AM with a “Breakfast for Legislators” held just outside of as well as within the office of Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White in the Capitol Building. This was Local 1600’s first legislative breakfast and a solid success. President Perry Buckley noted that a future breakfast would be even more successful. Legislative Chair Bill Naegele applauded the efforts of Assistant to the President Randy Barmette: “He saw that all of the doors were opened for us.”


The breakfast attracted such higher education folks as Prairie State College President Paul McCarthy, Wright College President Chuck Guengerich, the Illinois Community College Board’s Brenda D. Pryor, the IFT Community College Council’s Leo Welch and even our downstate Legislative Director Jim Schimanski. A flock of IFT lobbyists were present including Nick Yelverton, Steve Preckwinkle and Gail Purkey.

After a briefing in the chambers of the Illinois Supreme Court the members went off to a tent rally held just one block from the state capitol building. At the rally, about 800 union members from the IFT, SEIU, AFSCME, and IEA joined administrators and students from colleges and universities to chant: “Show us the money!”
IFT Lobby Day a Success

The Illinois Federation of Teachers held its own Lobby Day on May 9. After the earlier Higher Education Lobby Day on April 25, which drew 48 members, it wasn’t too surprising that not many members could make it down for a second trip, but the trip did have its advantages.

President Perry Buckley, Assistant to the President Randy Barnette (an experienced Springfield lobbyist), and Legislative Chair Bill Naegele worked the offices and fundraisers. They were joined on May 8 by Bob Blackwood from the Voice and the Retirees Chapter, and members of the Oakton Classified Chapter led by Chapter Chair Jillian Verstrate accompanied by Patty Tadda, Marie Haske and Barbara Reineking.

Early in the trip, Buckley attended a fundraiser for Speaker of the House Michael Madigan. At the fundraiser, Buckley met South Suburban College’s Chairman of the Board Frank Zuccarelli, who was attending in his role as the Democratic Committeeman of Thornton Township. Buckley and Zuccarelli discussed what needed to be done to close the negotiations. One week later the contract was completed (see SSCSSA story on front page).

On Wednesday morning, May 9, the IFT members all gathered for a briefing in the Howlett Building, where they were addressed by outgoing IFT President James Dougherty. Before the meeting, Buckley had a brief chat with President Marilyn Stewart of the Chicago Teachers Union, who is the incoming secretary-treasurer of the IFT. Following the briefing, some members attended the rally held by the IFT before the Lincoln Statue at the front of the State Capitol building. The IFT President-elect Ed Geppert called for “quality education” and more funding, as did Stewart.

Meanwhile, Buckley, Naegele and Barnette worked the legislative offices. They spoke to everyone about the need for funding, legislation to return the ethics obligation to the individual college districts instead of the State of Illinois and to argue for permitting Harper College to grant four-year public-service degrees. Among senators with whom they had extensive contact were Senator Edward Maloney (D, 18th), chair of the Higher Education Committee; Lou Viverito (D, 11th), who also sits on the Higher Education Committee; and Senator Matthew Murphy (R, 27th), who is apparently opposed to the four-year degrees at Harper. President Jeff Obrzut of the Illinois Community College Board gave the leadership an extensive conversation. New Senator Dan Kotowski (D, 33rd), the subject of a National Rifle Association attack, will receive assistance from Local 1600 for a mailing on various issues.

Naegele noted that he found the discussions on education funding to be frustrating. Buckley said he believed Local 1600 did make progress on other issues during this trip.

In the Springfield lobby before Speaker of the House Michael Madigan’s office, Legislative Chair Bill Naegele, Assistant to the President Randy Barnette and President Perry Buckley talk about needed legislation with the 42nd Ward’s Alderman-elect Brendan Reilly (second from left). The CCCTU supported Reilly in his race for alderman of the Loop’s district.

At the early morning briefing in the Howlett Building for the IFT Lobby Day were Oakton Chapter Chair Jillian Verstrate and Oakton members Patty Tadda, Marie Haske and Barbara Reineking and about 150 other IFT members.

President Perry Buckley confers with IFT President-elect Ed Geppert and IFT Director of Field Operations Lee Wilson about education funding proposals during lunch at the Governor’s Mansion.
Kotowski Welcomes Local 1600 Leaders to Reception

President Perry Buckley, Oakton’s Chapter Chair Jillian Verstrate, Oakton’s Valerie Green and Legislative Chair Bill Naegle pose with new State Senator Dan Kotowski (D, 33rd) at his March 19 fundraiser at the Park Ridge VFW Hall. Local 1600 supported Kotowski in every way in his hard-fought race in the northwest suburbs and in Chicago.

CCCTU Supports Dunkin

While Representative Ken Dunkin (D, 5th) poses for the camera, Local 1600 Retiree Chapter’s Bob Blackwood whispers about the need for more funding for education in Illinois at Dunkin’s May 14 fundraiser at O’Brien’s at 1528 N.Wells St. in Chicago. Dunkin promised to continue to focus on raising funds for projects in his Chicago district.

State Rep. Fred Crespo Holds Successful Fundraiser

President Perry Buckley, Secretary Pat Wenthold and State Representative Fred Crespo (D, 44) share some Springfield experiences at Crespo’s March 26 fundraiser at the Stone Gate in Hoffman Estates.

CUCU to offer 6% Auto Loans to Members

At the meeting of the new board of the College and University Credit Union (CUCU) on June 15 at the union office, Bill Naegle makes a proposal while Tony Johnston, CUCU Accountant Kevin Barrett, Don Radtke, Sonia Powell, Randy Barrette and Perry Buckley confer. The board noted that the 6% auto loans were very attractive to a number of members.

Check the internet. Call the banks. Then call the College and University Credit Union for a car loan.

You will find that CUCU offers the lowest rates for new car loans. A credit union member can obtain a new car loan of up to $30,000 at 6.0% for five years.

To receive this rate, one needs a good credit rating and no late payments in the last year. Bankrate.com indicates that local banks are charging anywhere from 7.0% to 10.25% interest for new car loans.

If interested, call Kevin Barrett at (312) 755-9400 on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Support your union’s Credit Union.

College Union Voice http://il.aft.org/local1600/
END-OF-YEAR PARTIES

Truman Chapter Celebrates Distinguished Members

The Truman College chapter held its annual Spring Banquet in recognition of its distinguished employees on April 21 at Suparossa Restaurant, 4256 N. Central on Chicago’s northwest side. Pictured are from left Local 1600 Secretary Pat Wenthold, Distinguished Professional Ludmila Marinberg, CCCTU VP Sonia Powell, Distinguished Adjunct Marilyn Cichon, Distinguished Professor Nasrullah Khan and Chapter Chair Anthony Johnston.

Moraine Valley Faculty Association Holds Annual End-of-Year Picnic

On May 10, the MVFA celebrated the end of the semester at its annual picnic held at Pioneer Woods. Below are photos of the event.

Troy Swanson, with the help of Gary Piercy’s daughter Elizabeth, pulls out a raffle ticket.

The “future’s so bright, we gotta wear shades,” say Barb Rys (left) and Susan Godwin.

MVFA Chair Janice Hill-Matula laughs at a joke told by Renee Skotnik (facing Hill-Matula).

Former Chapter Chair Randy Southard lets soon-to-be retired Deborah Poropat know that retirement “ain’t so bad.” In the background are retirees Fen Taylor (in hat) and Joe Hapak.

Everything is “thumbs up” at this year’s picnic, indicates Jason King joining him are (l-r) Jeannine Christensen, Lisa Lezon, Kristine Christensen, Misha Turner and Kashif Shah.
Daley Chapter Gives $6,000 In Scholarships

Wright Chapter Awards 12 Scholarships

On Friday, April 20, at Chicago’s Black Thorn Manor, the Wright College Chapter of Local 1600 held its 35th Annual Wright Chapter Student Scholarship Awards Luncheon. Chapter Chair Clyde Walker thanked everyone for coming and praised Social Chair Hermine Krysa for over 20 years of service in her chapter role. Former Local 1600 chapter Chair Norm Swenson, now president of the Retirees Chapter, acknowledged the many retirees present and those who created the luncheon 35 years ago, particularly former chairs Andy Nicosia and Pat Dyra.

Local 1600’s CCC Vice President Sonia Powell addressed the 12 student recipients with a commentary on the life of George Washington Carver, the African American scientist and former slave. Carver found many chemical processes for the peanut which we still employ today. She followed up her address by giving a bag of peanuts to each student, which elicited both knowing laughs and applause.

The students’ remarks focused upon giving thanks to some of the professors who had encouraged them to complete their academic careers.
Truman Chapter Honors Its Best Students

The Truman College Chapter held its annual Scholarship Luncheon on May 3 in the Faculty Lounge. The members of the Scholarship Committee, Chair Tony Johnston, Leo Huang, Amara Vatanakul, Cathy Schwab, Mike McCloskey, Gregory Robinson and Franklin Reynolds, awarded scholarships in honor of former Truman faculty members Leon Novar, Norman Stein and Agnes Vidovic as well as $2100 in book scholarships to sixteen of its “best students for their academic excellence,” stated Johnston. Also recognized were Truman’s top five overall math students who participated in the annual Student Mathematic League pre-calculus competition of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC).

Retiree Agnes Vidovic awards her eponymous scholarship to a Truman student as Tony Johnston looks on.

Mike McCloskey, Truman’s resident poet punster; composed a poem on the spot in honor of the student awardees. Below it is reprinted with his permission:

Let’s all shout and “holler”— for each and every scholar!
Excellence in knowledge has been their quest.
We’re not here just to be funny; we’re giving away real money
because they’ve been judged to be Truman’s BEST!

Ioanna and Krystyna, Cuc and Junghae; Liliana and Elena, Adaku and Mi—Bijiana and the two Marias, Zilay and Richie; Marica and Valentina, and Min’s a winner (twice, you’ll see).

Also, I must mention some fine others — who’ve come to get their druthers: winners in the American Math League’s Two-Year College Contest.

They won out over all, through separate sessions in Spring and Fall, leaving in the “chalk dust” every one of the rest.

Han and Brendan, Todd and Christian; and Min scores yet again!
Each had the brains (by which the smartest Math team gains).
That’s why they, too, are the tops — Truman’s brightest and best!

We’re here today to acclaim all you talented women and men—
with our 21-person salute.Fulfill your dreams and make big plans! About YOU we ALL surely give a hoot!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Continued from the Front Page:

South Suburban Support Staff Contract Settled

“This is a wonderful contract,” said Kuiken. “Not only did we get a raise higher than other groups at the college, but we also saw improvements in insurance flex dollars ($1,750 increase), and improvements in over a dozen other areas including summer hours, seniority language, and retiree supplements.”

Buckley pointed out the importance of classified and support staff being treated as vital members of the college community. “What pleases me the most about this contract was the fact that the college clearly demonstrated their respect and commitment to the support staff members who serve the college so vital ly,” said Buckley. “This was demonstrated both at the table and in the results. Dammer and Kusper recognize the role of our members and worked hard to get them what they deserve.”

The South Suburban contract keeps with the recent “tradition” that the support staff / classified members receive the same or higher percentage raise as the faculty contracts. Over the past three years classified staffs at Triton, Harper, Moraine Valley, Morton and Prairie State have won just that. At South Suburban the 5.35% is higher than the 5% that the faculty received in their last contract.
Triton College Has Much to Celebrate in 2007

On May 10 at Villa Brunetti Banquets in Franklin Park, the Triton College Faculty Association held its annual end-of-the-year party where its many successes were celebrated: three newly tenured faculty, the awarding of TCFA Scholarships and the successful re-election of a TCFA-supported Triton Trustee, incumbent Irene Del Guidice, a beneficiary of COPE funding and a champion of education on Triton’s campus. Also celebrated was the candidacy of Alfonza “Al” McKinnor, a retired Triton Board member, who was narrowly defeated in his race for the Triton Board of Trustees but will run again in 2009.

Celebrating the success of Triton’s Board of Trustees election are (l-r) Jobeth Halpin, Maureen Musker, Grievance Chair Stu Sikora, Board Candidate Al McKinnor, former CCCTU Legislative Chair and retired Triton Classified Marie Caronti, Chapter Chair Maggie Hahn Wade, Triton Trustee Irene Del Guidice, Ellen O’Connell, Christina Pignataro, Lucy Smith, Kristine Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer Judy Darst and Preet Saluja.

Oakton Classified Awards $2,400 to Six Student Employees

Oakton Community College Classified Staff Association awarded scholarships to six outstanding student employees at an award ceremony attended by approximately 50 Oakton personnel held Friday, May 11, at Oakton College. Loraine Anderson and Karen Klein were awarded $600 each while Vrushank Shah, Janine Frankowski, Cheryl Valloni and Khushali Shah were awarded $300 each. The Staff Committee was composed of Lisa Bolinder, Sandy Feldman, Bunny Lynn, Linda Sutherland and Chair Kristie Harris, who said at the ceremony, “We had so many outstanding students that the selection process was a difficult one for the committee. The students chosen are distinguished in their academic achievements as well as their service to Oakton College.”

Scholarship committee members and Oakton Classified Staff personnel bookend the student scholarship winners. At left are Sandy Feldman and Chair Kristie Harris while, at right, are Loraine Anderson, Jillian Verstrate and Linda Sutherland. The students are (l-r) Karen Klein, Cheryl Valloni, Khushali Shah, Vrushank Shah and Janine Frankowski. (Not pictured are committee members Lisa Bolinder and Bunny Lynn.)

College Union Voice http://il.aft.org/local1600/
The 2007 Spring Banquet a Home Run

Editor’s note: The 42nd Annual CCCTU Spring Banquet was held at the Stadium Club of U.S. Cellular Field, aka, “Sax Park,” on Friday, May 4. The banquet was organized by CCC VP Sonia Jean Powell and Professional Staff Assistant Gayle Gregg. Secretary Pat Wenthold served as the Mistress of Ceremonies. During the awards ceremony, the best chapter newsletters were awarded to HW’s Mike Ruggeri and Harper’s Sean Noonan. Also recognized were the eleven Norman G. Swenson Scholarship winners. Enjoy the photo album.

Assistant to the President Randy Barnette, his wife, Alderman Margaret Laurino (37th Ward), Rep. John D’Amico (D, 15th) and his wife, Chris, catch up on family news. D’Amico is Barnette’s nephew.

(front row): MX’s Chapter Chair Alta Williams joined with KK’s Chapter Chair Arlica Corley and her colleagues: Jeannette Williams, Barbara Norman, Verna Anderson and Barbara Washington plus (back row): James Moore, Don Gerhart (obscured), and Robert Cruthird for a few laughs.

Sean Noonan, Harper College professor and newsletter editor, gratefully receives the Suburban Newsletter Award from Voice Editor Todd Lakin at the Union Banquet.

Professional Staff Assistant Gayle Gregg (left) flanks President Perry Buckley with her sister, Gwen, at the Union Banquet. The Greggs charmed everyone in sight.

HW Chapter Chair Phil Stucky (front, left) relaxed with scholars and friends including (clockwise) Jeong Ae Moon, Alison Kwang-Fei Lo, Jim Hodapp, Greg Murdica, Myra Cox, Aaron Breed and Jesu Estrada at a table with a good view of U.S. Cellular Field.

Dawson’s Chapter Chair Rausan Tamir cuts a rug on the dance floor leading a group of dancers in “The Electric Slide.”

Old friends Tom Starky and Mike Ruggeri (HW) chat before Mike receives the Best Newsletter Award for a CCC chapter at the Union Banquet.
PHOTO ALBUM: CCCTU BANQUET

Harper faculty and Pro-Tech enjoy a great night of camaraderie. In the photo are Pro-Tech Chapter Chair Margie Sedano, Joan Fiske, Doris Howden, David Dwyer, Lydia Omoni, Ronald Greenberg, Marie Eibl and Sharon Martin.

Dapper Voice correspondent Bob Blackwood gets pinned by his wife, Diane as Voice reporter Bill O’Connell looks on.

The eleven Norman G. Swenson Scholarship winners gratefully pose with (right) Retirees Chapter Chair Norm Swenson and Social Committee Chair Paul Janus.

Daley’s Jim Carey (left) and Alan Gbur (right) are glad to see former colleague Jack O’Keefe at the banquet.

Wright’s Paul Janus and Hermine Krysa enjoy good conversation after dinner.

A political science powerhouse duo: Wright’s Linda Murphy and Daley’s Connie Mixon.

Olive-Harvey’s Luis Delgado certainly is happy to be standing next to Yolanda Durán.

The many members of the Oakton Classified Chapter certainly were the object of attention when they lined up for this photo at the Union Banquet. Pictured are (1-r) Patty Lucas, Valerie Green, Patty Tadda, Chapter Chair Jillian Verstrate, Marilyn Davis, Loretta LaVere and Sue Moser.

College Union Voice http://il.aft.org/local1600/
PHOTO ALBUM: CCCTU BANQUET

Attorney Jennifer Poltrack gets a hug from good friend Norm Swenson. Poltrack represents Local 1600.

Secretary Patricia Wenthold is surrounded by Harper Faculty at the Union Banquet. Dave Richmond, Sean Noonan, Sam Giordano and Tom Dowd.

Ta-da! Rashid Carter, Linda Nordstrom and CCCVP Sonia Powell show off the beautiful items that were available during the silent auction.

An elegant Perry Buckley found a few moments during a busy social night to take a picture with the lovely Lillian Buckley.

C C C T U N E W S

Union Wins Two Arbitrations

Local 1600 won two major arbitration cases in June in which members received total back pay for time lost due to unjust and unwarranted suspensions.

In the first case Olive Harvey College nursing faculty member, Amelia Stevens, was suspended for one semester due to student complaints. Stevens’ prior record was one of nothing but distinguished and exceptional service. The City Colleges of Chicago brought charges against four nursing faculty all based on student complaints solicited by a hired outside law firm. Those cases are still pending.

“There was not a single witness or complaint from the administration,” said Local 1600 VP Sonia Powell. “The entire case rested on student complaints which were solicited by the law firm of Holland and Knight.”

The arbitrator blasted the entire process saying the City Colleges failed to follow not only due process, but the most simple of “operating procedures.” Stevens received over $40,000 in back pay.

In the other case a faculty member also at Olive Harvey College was suspended for a semester because he had not completed his project while on sabbatical. The contract does provide for a faculty member to repay the money the sabbatical money when the conditions of the leave have not been met. However, the City Colleges in addition to this also suspended the faculty member for a semester without pay. The arbitrator saw this as an infringement of the contract and a case of “double jeopardy.” The award was over $34,000.

President Perry Buckley praised Powell and Local 1600 Grievance Chair Tom Kodogeorgiou for their work in these cases. “They fought for these members from beginning to end,” said Buckley. “The hours and hours of preparation and research they put forth was nothing short of heroic. Sonia attended every hour of the weeks of arbitration hearings. This is critical as no matter how good our lawyers are, they need her there to make sure no points go uncovered or unchallenged.”
March 16 House Meeting at Westmont Brings New Opportunities

The March 15 Union House Meeting met at the Illinois Federation of Teachers’ Robert Healey Center in west suburban Westmont. The multiple rooms available gave the classified chapters and the retirees chapter the opportunity to meet separately before the main House Meeting. The meeting was addressed by the outgoing president of the IFT, Jim Dougherty, who thanked Local 1600 for their support.

The incoming president of the IFT, Ed Geppert, gave a dynamic address. Not only did Geppert thank the local for its support but also he pledged to consider its perspective on the many issues before the General Assembly in Springfield. Geppert also took questions from the floor.

At the March 16 House Meeting, President Perry Buckley introduced the incoming president of the Illinois Federation of Teachers, Ed Geppert, as Legislative Chair Bill Naegele. Suburban Vice President Jim O’Malley, and Secretary Pat Wenthold listen.

Perry Buckley (standing) speaks with the chapter chairs of the classified and support staffs before the general House meeting. Pictured clockwise are Prairie State’s Susan Braasch, Moraine Valley’s Rose Sakanis, Triton’s Don Cragan, CCCTU Classified Vice President Gail Wiot, Morton’s Tim Visk, and Oakton’s Jillian Verstrate.

Before the March 16 House Meeting, the retiree chapter’s leadership prepared for their meeting. Chapter Chair Norm Swenson, Assistant Chapter Chair Frank Pokin and Delegate Jim Moore.

Perry Buckley addresses a very full house at the House Meeting in IFT’s Robert Healey Center in Westmont on March 16.

Harold Washington Chapter Holds Spring Meeting

On March 20, the Harold Washington chapter held a meeting attended by President Perry Buckley and Legislative Chair Bill Naegele. Chapter Chair Phil Stucky related the story of how former Chapter Chair Mike Ruggeri had been accepted as the 2007 Distinguished Professor by the faculty but later the chapter was notified that Ruggeri’s nomination would not be approved. Some members regarded it as another reprisal for effective strike activity. Buckley noted, “Mike was one of the best chapter chairs but, equally important, he is an excellent teacher.”

Also at the meeting Naegele noted the activity the union had performed in the recent elections—11 anti-union alderman either defeated or forced into a run-off.

HWV Chapter Chair Phil Stucky (standing) is incredulous that former HW Chapter Chair Mike Ruggeri was not awarded the “Distinguished Faculty of the Year” title despite his unanimous selection by the faculty.
Local 1600 Show Cablecast Chicago-Wide

On March 21, President Perry Buckley and Legislative Director Linda Murphy of Local 1600 were guests on a TV show taped on March 21. The show, “The City Colleges of Chicago and the Teachers Union,” was cablecast on Chicago’s Channel 19 in mid-April.

The show dealt with current issues with the City Colleges of Chicago as well as Local 1600’s success in sponsoring aldermanic candidates, Governor Rod Blagojevich’s plans to bolster education and retirees’ pensions via a Gross Receipts Tax and by a lease of the Illinois Lottery and other issues in Springfield.

College Union Voice correspondent Dr. Bob Blackwood was the host. Blackwood thanked Chicago Access Corporation (CAN-TV) and the Senior Network, particularly producer Martha Wilson, for their hard work in taping and editing the show for cablecast throughout Chicago.

CCCTU Leadership Conference Spring 2007

On March 24, Local 1600 held its 4th Annual Leadership Conference at the IFT Regional Headquarters in Westmont. City Colleges VP Sonia Jean Powell coordinated the event with the help of President Perry Buckley, Treasurer Don Radtke, CCCTU Classified VP Gail Wiot, CCCTU Secretary Pat Wenthold, Triton Classified’s Linda Nordstrom and Professional Staff Assistant Gayle Gregg.

SURS Senior Counselor Lee Bridges led the morning session on “Maximizing Your Pension,” offering practical examples of what to do now to benefit later.AFT Health Insurance Specialist John Abraham came in from Washington, D.C., to present, “Financial and Health Insurance Boot Camp for Educators.” His well-received presentation provided information on Social Security and Medicare qualifications, the College Insurance Program, wellness and medication.

Attendee’s raved about the food as well as the wide array of door prizes. The day ended with the presentations of certificates and honorariums provided by Local 1600.
Local 1600 Sends 20 Members to Higher Ed Conference

Local 1600 sent more members to the AFT Higher Ed Conference in Portland than any other local in the entire AFT. The three-day conference held at the end of March dealt with diverse issues ranging from negotiations and bargaining, grievance and arbitration to health care issues and political activism. In this photo Treasurer Don Radtke, Legislative Director Linda Murphy, Legislative Chair Bill Naegle and Suburban VP Jim O’Malley get ready for the session on political action.

Good News at the April Executive Board Meeting

CCC VP Sonia Powell (standing) ran the April Executive Board meeting in place of President Perry Buckley who was at the AFT headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Local 1600 CCC VP Sonia Powell presided over the April 13 Executive Board meeting. Legislative Chair Tom Kodogoujou praised Powell for supervising the union’s position for long hours on many grievances, thus saving attorney’s fees in addition to providing knowledge of the City Colleges of Chicago system and the grievance process that was useful in winning many grievances.

At the same meeting, Legislative Chair Bill Naegle, Suburban VP Jim O’Malley and other executive board members praised President Perry Buckley and Treasurer Don Radtke for cost-cutting measures. This budgeting enabled the local to not pass along to the members of our local the increases in the AFT or IFT “pass along” membership rates. Radtke noted that our local had a long established tradition of paying those national and state increases out of Local 1600 funds whenever possible.

Classified and Support Staff Attend PSRP Conference

Local 1600 Classified and Support Staff members attended the AFT-PSRP Conference in Las Vegas in mid-April. Here the group gathers around AFT PSRP chair and vice president Loretta Johnson. Left to right are Susan Braasch, Johnson, Helen Agresti, Gail Wiot, Rose Marie Sakaris and Lagenne Cole-Carter. Not pictured are Jillian Verstrate and President Perry Buckley who also attended. The conference offered workshops on a wide range of topics aimed toward support staff in higher education. Wiot moderated the session on “All Politics is Local.”

Morton Classified Raises Funds for Student Scholarships

On Friday, May 18, the Classified Association of Morton College held a chapter fundraiser at the college selling flowers and balloons at graduation. Over $600 was raised with proceeds benefiting the chapter’s Scholarship Fund.

The Morton Classified staff takes a break from fundraising to pose for a photo. In the front row are Kathy Rozhon, Mary Addalia, Alyce Vujeć and Lorraine Halas. In the back are Chapter Chair Tim Visk, Fundraising Chair Gene Suire, Rafael Navarro and Jessica Coronado.
Retirees Catch Up on Old Times at Drury Lane

Jean Watkins, Effie Taylor and Dorothy Zukoski talk to Retirees Chapter Chair Norm Swenson at the Retirees Luncheon at Drury Lane Theater on March 22. The group saw “Something’s Afoot,” a musical spoof of Agatha Christie’s works.

Record Crowd for Retirees Luncheon at Parthenon Restaurant

A record 123 retirees attended the summer luncheon of the Local 1600 Retirees Chapter at the Parthenon Restaurant in Chicago’s Greektown. Retirees Chapter Chair Norm Swenson noted there certainly were many reasons for retirees to be checking their status with the luncheon’s guest speaker, Executive Director Dan Slack of the State Universities Retirement System.

President Perry Buckley noted that neither he nor Legislative Chair Bill Naegele was pleased by the inactivity in Springfield this year which has led to a stalemate on the issues of new streams of revenue to provide adequate funding for retirees’ pensions and to place the CCC retirees within the College Insurance Program. “Nothing is happening until they find new sources of revenue,” Buckley said.

Slack made three strong points in his remarks to the audience of pensioners:

• The State of Illinois does not have overly generous pensions, despite allegations to that effect by those who would place a state tax on those pensions. He noted that 69% of SURS benefit recipients receive $2,600 or less monthly.

• In the last four years, SURS has earned double-digit returns on its investments, despite efforts by the legislature to tell them how to invest their funds.

• Slack echoed Buckley’s earlier remarks that if the State of Illinois should decide to have another constitutional convention, a resolution to that effect passed the House recently, there could be a threat to retirees’ incomes. Buckley was blunt: “Don’t listen to anyone calling for a new constitutional convention. Currently, by law, the state cannot take from its retirees any of the rights we now have.”

The luncheon closed with a few retirees bringing additional questions to Slack, Buckley and Swenson.

http://il.aft.org/local1600/
Good Times with Treasurer
Don Radtke as He Retires from Daley College

Since 2004, Don Radtke, an accountant from Daley College’s Business Department, has served as the treasurer of Local 1600. He spends a great deal of time at the union office each week, paying bills, balancing the books and looking for ways to keep costs down for the members. After 30 years of teaching at Daley College, Radtke has decided to retire and see his family and friends a bit more often.

“I knew when I was elected treasurer of the union in 2004,” Don said, “that I would have to choose between continuing as department chair (Don served from 1998-2004 in that office) and being the union treasurer. I couldn’t do both. I am happy with my choice.”

On Sunday, April 29, 52 of Don’s friends and family, from within the Cook County College Teachers Union and from outside of it, joined him and his charming wife, Joan (a professor at Rush University), at Nikos Restaurant, 7600 S. Harlem Avenue, for a delightful banquet and a good time. The new Business Department Chair Horace “Les” Simon put the party together. Don said he was surprised to see so many people there, as there were only three people in his department (including him). He received both White Sox and Daley College jackets and a Bulova watch with diamonds. “Now I will always know what time it is and will have a good reason to be watching the people around me,” Don said with a laugh.

Long-time HW Chapter Chair Mike Ruggeri Retires

On Sunday, April 22, current and former colleagues of former Harold Washington Chapter Chair Mike Ruggeri gathered at Christies on Columbus to both honor and roast their soon-to-be retired friend. While Ruggeri stepped down last year as the chapter chair at HW after twenty years, he continues to back the union cause: “The Union gives us strength and the unity it fosters gives our profession nobility and solidarity.” Ruggeri had been nominated as the “2006-2007 Distinguished Faculty of the Year” for HW, but his nomination was rejected.

Seated with Mike Ruggeri (bottom, left), are CCCTU Legislative Chair Bill Naegle and Murphy Ajayi. Across from them are Fred Dutton, Lynnel Kiely (who helped to organize the celebration), and HW Chapter Chair Phil Stucky.

Mike Ruggeri, left, chats with good friend and former Social Science Dept. colleague Frank Zulke.

Domenico Ferri was glad to be able to celebrate the career of his colleague. To his left is Marit Fregoso.
City Colleges Contract Negotiated
14 Months Early (continued)

Insurance will be set at 13% of the cost with a cap of 16%. Even if the cap were reached each year, the dollar amount increases would be less than all previous contracts. More importantly, co-pays, deductibles and prescription amounts will stay at the 2004 amounts until the contract expires in 2013. Other benefits such as pay for unused sick days, early retirement enhancement, 75% summer pay, 30% overtime pay, and 50% substitute pay all remain unchanged. Distinguished professor stipends rise from $4,000 to $5,000 and full-time faculty will have preference in teaching distance learning classes. Retirees will retain 10 years of subsidized health insurance.

As negotiated in the 2004 – 2008 contract, after July 2008 all faculty, except those teaching English, will move from 12 credit to 15 credit hours per semester. Currently, however, 42% of all faculty are already teaching 15 hours under a “three-tier” system. Another 19% are already teaching 12 and 15.

By the end of the contract City College faculty will be among the best paid in the country with a top salary of $123,000. There will be 16 steps above $100,000, another 14 above $90,000, and another 19 above $80,000. The average salary will be over $80,000. Due to the unchanged summer and OT rates, any faculty with a base salary of $74,000 or more can make $100,000 by teaching two overtime classes and two summer classes.

The negotiations began with part serendipity and part political action. Illinois State Senate President Emil Jones had invited Buckley and CCC Chancellor Wayne Watson to his inauguration and reception in January. At the reception Buckley congratulated Watson on his being singled out in Jones’ inauguration speech. After a short conversation in which Buckley pointed out how the contract mandated the two should meet “each month to discuss matters of collective bargaining,” the two agreed to meet. The first meeting went well and Watson suggested they meet more frequently than once a month. After several meetings Watson proposed that they try and hammer out a contract “before the end of the semester.”

“To be honest I didn’t think we had a chance,” said Buckley; “past experience and history seemed to be against us. But as the contract began to take shape and I saw how much money was on the table, and how there would be no new give backs or take aways, I knew I had to bring the team in on it.”

The negotiation team of VP Sonia Powell, professionals Mel Anderson, Rausan Tamir, Tony Johnston, Alan Booker, and Melissa Smith, and faculty representatives Articia Corley, Alta Williams, Gide Colinet, Phil Study and Clyde Walker met to review the proposal. Armed with several suggestions and proposed modifications, Buckley met with Watson and then, ultimately, with Watson and CCC Board Chair James Tyree. At the end of those two meetings both sides agreed that they had put together a deal worthy of support by both Local 1600 members and the Board.

The faculty contract was ratified by 88.6% to 11.4% and the professional contract was approved 92.4% to 7.6% in secret ballots.

At the board meeting Tyree praised Buckley and Watson for “putting past difficulties behind them to negotiate in the best interests of Local 1600 and the Colleges.”

Watson thanked Buckley for his “professionalism and sincerity” in working to get the deal done.

Buckley reciprocated, thanking Watson not only for listening to the needs of the faculty and professionals, but also for the process itself. “I have always believed that if you put the people at the table who can make the deal, instead of working through outside lawyers, you have a greater chance of getting a deal done quickly,” said Buckley. “We probably saved the colleges a million in lawyer fees as well,” he joked.

CITY COLLEGES CONTRACT
A PHOTO ALBUM

On Thursday, May 3, the CCC Negotiating Team met to discuss the contract offer by the City Colleges of Chicago. From left: Chair Alan Booker and Assistant Chair Melissa Smith of the Part-Time Professionals, Wright’s Chair Clyde Walker, Local 1600 Treasurer Don Radtke, Malcolm X’s Chair Alta Williams, President Perry Buckley, Dawson Tech’s Chair Rausan Tamir, Olive-Harvey’s Chair Gide Colinet, Assistant to the President Randy Barnette, Truman’s Chair Tony Johnston and Washington’s Chair Phil Stucky discuss the issues and the consequences of their decisions for an unparalleled five-year contract. Not pictured in this photo are Daley’s Chair Mel Anderson and Kennedy-King’s Chair Articia Corley who arrived after the photo was taken.
CCC General Membership Meeting to Explain Board’s 2008-2013 Offer

At the May 6 General Membership Meeting, President Perry Buckley explains the fine points of the Board’s contract offer for 2008-2013 on salary, health care and other matters to an audience of 95 people. Buckley stayed from 1:00-3:10 until he had answered all questions. More meetings were planned for the various colleges within the week.

Mike Ruggeri (HW), CCC Vice President Sonia Powell, and Daley Chapter Chair Mel Anderson discuss their reasons for supporting the Board’s offer at the beginning of the May 6 General Membership Meeting.

Part-Time Professional Chapter Chair Alan Booker (standing) asks his colleagues to show unity and accept the Board’s offer at the May 6 General Membership Meeting.

Vote Count on Monday, May 21

Legislative Chair Bill Naegele (standing) gives instructions to the non-CCC volunteer vote counters in the basement of the CCCTU’s office. Seated at top is Suburban VP Jim O’Malley, Oakton’s Valerie Green and Chapter Chair Jillian Verstrate, Asst. to the President Randy Barrette, Voice correspondent and Triton’s Bill O’Connell and CCCTU Secretary Pat Wenthold.

Voice editor and Daley’s Todd Lakin (left) and HW Chapter Chair Phil Stucky observe the vote counting process with President Perry Buckley.

Special Board of Trustees Meeting on May 24 to Approve Contract

Daley Chapter Chair Mel Anderson, President Perry Buckley, Legislative Chair Bill Naegele and CCC VP Sonia Powell are glad that the Board approved the contract unanimously.

After the contract was approved, Perry Buckley addressed the Board regarding the CCC-Chicago Public Schools initiative designed to increase CCC enrollment from CPS’ top students.
Moraine Valley Adjunct Faculty Wins New Contract

Continued from the Front Page

“The brought to the membership a contract that demonstrates our value to Moraine Valley.”

–Theresa Raines, MVAFA Chapter Chair

The MVAFA negotiations team is pleased with the newly ratified five-year contract. Pictured are (l-r) Dennis Ziemann, Local 1600 President and chief negotiator; Perry Buckley, Jehad Matariyeh; MVAFA Chapter Chair Theresa Raines; Tom Dascenzo and John T. Hendron. Not pictured is Delphine Lytell.

What the new contract provides is a 5% raise each year (compounded) for the five years. In addition, those at the top of the scale (which is about 85% of Union members at Moraine) will receive longevity pay of $150 each year which will bring their percentage raise to a range of 7.7% to 8.2%. This will make Moraine Valley Adjunct Faculty some of the best paid in the state.

The team also won language which provides for clearer seniority and teaching rights. For example union members will be able to select nine hours of classes before non-union members. There were also improvements in how sick days are distributed.

Buckley praised the negotiation team as the reason for the success of negotiations. “There was a dynamic at this table that was really interesting,” said Buckley. “We had six of the most respected educators at the college on our team. This resulted in our issues and concerns being listened to and addressed.”

MVAFA Chapter Chair Theresa Raines was joined by Tom Dascenzo, John Hendron, Dennis Ziemann, Delphine Lytell and Jehad Matariyeh at the table. Lytell represented the librarians and Matariyeh represented the counselors in the group.

“We were very pleased with how negotiations went this time,” said Raines. “There clearly was more respect for us as teachers and faculty this time. But more importantly, we brought back to the membership a contract that demonstrates our value to Moraine Valley Community College.”

MVCC negotiator and vice president Andy Duren praised the team for its hard work and professional manner. “This was a team that worked on the issues. They made clear what they needed and why. We all worked for the betterment of their members and the college.”

Address change?
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