

VANGUARD

Official Newsletter of the Adjunct Faculty Association at Nassau Community College
One Education Drive, T Building, Room 520, Garden City, NY 11530
(516) 572-7294 | www.myafaonline.org

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About Our Students,
Our Members,
Our College!*

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President - Stefan Krompfer
 Vice President - Scott Stark
 Secretary - Rosemarie Tavitian
 Treasurer - Barbara Gregorio
 Chief Information Officer - Richard D. Erben

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 Paul Guadagnino
 Garry Ouellette
 Ethel Weeks

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 Student Services.....Diana Cannone
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 Members: Gerald Scharfman, Philip Pecorino
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 Members: Chris Enright, Philip Pecorino
 Grievance.....Chair: Garry Ouellette
 Political Action....Co-Chairs: Garry Ouellette/Gerald Scharfman
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 Mary Ann Hellmer-Saul, Mary Bagnasco, Robert
 Femminella, Susan Mitchell
 Scholarship and Grants.....Chair: Milton Perez
 Members: Bonnie Fachler, Jan R. Figueira, Jim Hoyt
 Parliamentarian.....Paul Guadagnino

Feature Columnist: Ruth Silverman
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 Vanguard Editor - Paul Guadagnino



From the President's Desk



Stefan Krompfer

Who We Are, What We Do

Having reached a new membership high of 1,751 members, it is important to remind ourselves of Who We Are, What We Do.

Each semester, you will find us working in classrooms and offices throughout Nassau Community College. We are part-time workers who make a full-time effort to educate and assist all those who have chosen our college community as “the place” to achieve their personal and career goals. We teach, counsel, remediate, and provide support services to all the students who walk through our doors daily. Our ranks include doctors, nurses, scientists, firefighters, law enforcement officers, actors, dancers, librarians, mathematicians, judges, lawyers, historians, government officials, interior designers, fashion designers, marketers, entrepreneurs, researchers, social workers, former professional athletes, writers, poets, C.P.A.s, artists, counselors and musicians; most, if not all, holding advanced degrees.

In short, all AFA classroom and non-classroom adjuncts work individually and collaboratively at Nassau Community College, helping our students realize the educational and career goals they seek to achieve each day.

Stefan Krompfer
 President
 Adjunct Faculty Association

Message from the Vice-President



Scott Stark

Welcome to the Fall 2023 semester! As always, it is an honor to be your Vice President and I thank you for that honor. At the beginning of each semester, I ask our members to know our contract and make us aware of any issues. If you feel that the college has violated our contract, please make us aware of your issue(s) as soon as possible and the AFA will investigate the situation. You must make us aware of the situation, though. You can do this by sending an email to your department representative, myself, or Garry Oullette. If the college did not adhere to our contract, then we will file a grievance.

Enrollment is increasing and many new adjuncts were hired for this semester. The department representatives will reach out to all new adjuncts to recruit them as members. Each one of us can assist in this endeavor. If you meet a new adjunct, please encourage them to join the Adjunct Faculty Association and remind them of the benefits and protections afforded to our members that free-riders do not receive such as:

- Representation should you be brought up on charges (we have seen a dramatic increase in charges brought by disgruntled students).
- Grievance protections if your contractual rights are violated.
- The right to run for office in the Adjunct Faculty Association.
- Grants to reimburse meetings and/or conferences.
- Members only access to our website.
- Dues that are only collected in semesters an adjunct works

Together, we continue to accomplish great things!

I wish you all a great semester. As always, if there is anything I can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to contact me at scottstark27@gmail.com or to call me at 516-859-0250.

Scott Stark
Vice President
Adjunct Faculty Association

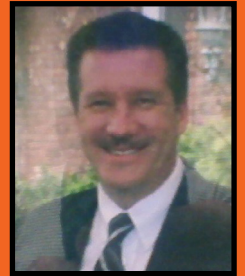


The Inside Scoop

I would like the opportunity to welcome all of our members back to a new academic year. Moreover, I extend a warm welcome to our new members who have joined the AFA family over the summer.

Union business should never be confined to normal business hours but, rather, must be tended to on an ongoing basis. While our website at <http://myafaonline.org> is a 24/7 resource for important information and documents, it is not your only option. Often, issues that our members face can be unsettling to them and that is the reason why I monitor our email continuously even on holidays. You can reach me at myafaonline@gmail.com The goal of the AFA leadership team is to respond to members as quickly as possible. There have even been a few occasions that had us respond to a member's concern on a holiday. I will respond to your inquiries. Should the question fall into another officer's area of expertise, I will forward it to that officer and they will respond to you.

The AFA is our union, collectively! I hope that you are as happy to be part of this growing union family as we are proud to have you in it.



Richard D. Erben

Richard D. Erben
 Chief Information Officer
 Adjunct Faculty Association



Nassau Community College and

Robert Caro

By Ruth Silverman

This month, instead of highlighting one of our SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching awardees, I am spotlighting Nassau Community College. The following information is excerpted from Robert Caro’s memoir *Working*. He is the award-winning author of *The Power Broker* (a biography of Robert Moses) and four volumes on President Lyndon Johnson.

In 1959, Robert Caro went to work for *Newsday*. The managing editor at the time, Alan Hathaway, had a deep dislike for college graduates, especially those from the Ivy Leagues and had never hired one before Robert Caro, who was hired while Hathaway was on vacation. Caro graduated from Princeton University.

In those days, *Newsday* did not publish on Sunday so as the low man on the totem pole, Caro worked Saturday afternoon and evenings, often alone, taking down any information that might come in that would be written up for Monday’s paper. Late one Saturday afternoon, a phone call came in from an official at the Federal Aviation Agency stationed at Kennedy Airport, then called Idlewild.

Newsday was doing a series of articles on Mitchell Field, an air force field the military was no longer using. The FAA wanted the Air Field to become a civilian airport. *Newsday* felt it should be used for public purposes, in particular education, to create a campus for Nassau Community College that was then located in the County Courthouse in Mineola. It was already too crowded to accommodate the many students who attended, many from the low-income area of nearby Hempstead. The official from the FAA remarked that he really liked the reporting *Newsday* was doing on the issue and that if someone could come over, he could show that person some important files.

This was before cell phones and Caro was not able to contact any of the investigative reporters. The only person at the paper available to go was himself. He was given a room with a conference table and a stack of file folders. As he went through memos, letters, and minutes of meetings a pattern emerged. The reason the FAA was in favor of a civilian airport was because executives on Long

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Nassau Community College and Robert Caro

Island who were friendly with FAA officials wanted an airport close by so that they would not have to travel into Queens in order to fly out of Long Island. The executives wanted the government to save them time at the expense of public education.

Caro worked all night into the early hours of the next morning, drove back to *Newsday*, and left a long memo on Hathaway's desk and went home. Early Monday morning he received a call from Hathaway's secretary that the editor

wanted to see him. He walked into the office and the editor said to him, *"I did not know that someone from Princeton could do digging like this. From now on you do investigative work."* Just remember, *"turn every page."*

And so, thanks to Robert Caro, Mitchell Field became Nassau Community College.

