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VANGUARD

Official Newsletter of the Adjunct Faculty Association at Nassau Community College

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SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION

Important information within concerning the
upcoming AFA Special Election for the
AFA Officer position of Treasurer!



Important Update

Dear AFA Colleagues:

At the AFA Executive Board meeting on May 9, 2015, several rulings were made concerning elections. The rulings are as follows:

1. For all Elections: An election begins with the Call for Nominations. The electorate comes from the semester in which the Call for Nominations is made. The thirty-day requirement to be in good standing to vote in an election has been eliminated since it does not exist in our Constitution.

2. Department Representative Elections: The thirty-day requirement to be in good standing prior to running for office or voting in elections has been eliminated since it does not exist in our Constitution. A DR candidate must be in good standing at the time(s) he or she runs for office or votes.

3. Department Representative Elections: The one-year-in-good-standing requirement to run for a DR position no longer exists since that provision does not appear under the DR section of our Constitution.

The Electorate is defined according to our Constitution in Article V, Section 6:

In order to vote, a member must be a member in good standing who is working at the time of the election; or who worked as a member in good standing for at least two (2) semesters in the previous academic year; or be on release time or special assignment at the time of the election.

A Member in Good Standing is:

A full AFA member, as opposed to an agency fee payer, that is not in arrears with union dues.

Respectfully,
Rosemarie Tavitian
AFA Elections Committee

The above was emailed to everyone on the AFA email list on May 11th.

AFA Candidate Statements

The following candidate statements for AFA Treasurer, provided for under the AFA by-laws in the case of a special election, are listed below. The order of the statements, as well as their order on the ballot, was determined by random lot. The typefaces have been streamlined uniformly in size and font for layout purposes only, while the body of these statements has not been edited.

Michael J. Zartler - Candidate for AFA Treasurer

History/Political Science/Geography (2001 – Present)

Dear Fellow AFA Member:

For the last ten years, I have served on the executive committee of one of the largest teachers' unions on Long Island—and for the last five of those years I have managed the day-to-day financial responsibilities of its benefit fund as secretary/treasurer.

This spring, at the request of the AFA's Executive Board, I researched the different software options available to transition the AFA to a computer-based accounting system, and made recommendations as to which software to adopt—recommendations the Board ultimately accepted.

I am asking you to consider me for AFA treasurer. If elected, I am committed to improving financial transparency, accountability, and compliance by:

- Completing the AFA's transition to a computer-based accounting system, which will facilitate budgeting, transaction recording, financial reporting, and auditing;
- Implementing a payroll withholding system, which will ensure compliance with both the Internal Revenue Code and New York State tax laws for those AFA officials classified as W-2 employees;
- Creating an expenditure authorization system, which will link each and every AFA disbursement to an Executive Board approval; and

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- Considering the interests of all AFA constituents when making decisions with the Executive Board.

Please take just a couple of minutes to read about my union leadership experience—in particular, my financial management responsibilities over the last five years—by visiting my website, indicated below.

Thank you for considering me for AFA treasurer.

<http://zartler.wix.com/afa-treasurer>

Frank Reiser - Candidate for AFA Treasurer

After retiring from 42 years of fulltime teaching at NCC in 2012, I immediately began working to improve adjunct faculty working conditions by authoring the Blog Thinking Part Time which later morphed into Adjunct-saurus.Wordpress.Com. Part of my commentary highlighted the financial plight of a homeless NCC adjunct which was then reported by the New York Times and the Chronicle of Higher Education in the winter of 2013. I have worked with the online adjunct activist groups Precarious Faculty, The New Faculty Majority and Coalition of Contingent Academic Faculty. If elected AFA Treasurer I will continue advocating for parity between adjunct faculty and fulltime faculty. Additionally, I will be bringing financial management experience to the Treasurer's position having successfully administered the complex budgets of NCC's Biology Department and the Edith Reed Nature Center, Rye, NY.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Former NCC Biology Department Chairperson and member of the following committees: Biology Personal & Budget, Hiring Subcommittee, Curriculum Committee, and NCC College-wide Campus Services.

NCCFT Delegate, NCCFT By-laws Revision Committee.

Former President, Empire State Association of Two Year College Biologists

Director, Edith Reed Nature Center, Rye, NY

RELEVANT EDUCATION:

BA, MA, New Jersey City University

Completed St. Johns University Graduate School Core Curriculum in Educational Administration and Supervision.

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Michael Layne - Candidate for AFA Treasurer

Stated below are my qualifications

- Served in the Us Army and Merchant Marines. Went to Under Grad and Grad school under the GI Bill.
- Worked at Seymour Schneidman and Associates a CPA firm on Park Ave for 4 years.
- Internal Auditor for Overseas Shipping Group Listed on NYSE 3 years.
- Corporate Accounting Supervisor at the Long Island Rail Road for 3 years.
- Part time US Customs Officer under Homeland Security for 15 years.
- Started Nassau Community College as an Adjunct then received an appointment to Full Time Position. Now Professor Emeritus.
- Member of AFA from day 1 at Nassau Community College.
- Taught Adjunct lower and upper division accounting courses at NYIT, Adelphi, Queens College and Mentor at SUNY Empire College.
- Presently have a private tax practice and perform accounting for 4 corporations. The corporations accounting records are on QuickBooks.

I am also familiar with Peachtree.

- Currently I am the Treasurer for my HOA. The HOA consists of 165 homes. Assets are about \$2,000,000. I recently Laddered CD's in the amount of \$700,000 of reserve funds. The accounting system used is Jenark.
- Unions I have been a member of: Communication Workers of America, District 65, Seafarers International, National Maritime, National Treasury, UFT.

John DeSpagna - Candidate for AFA Treasurer

As a member of the AFA, I am running for the position of Treasurer because I care about you and our union.

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Currently, I am an Adjunct Associate Professor in the AFA and a full time Assistant Professor in the NCCFT teaching in the Accounting and Business Administration Department at Nassau Community College. My academic credentials include a MBA in Management, and MS in Education and SDBL (School District Business Leader) certification.

I believe that I am well qualified and will be a good Treasurer for the AFA at Nassau Community College. My financial experience includes 15 years working in finance with Merrill Lynch, Citicorp Investment Services and Dime Securities. I currently own a small business and have experience handling the treasury functions.

As Treasurer, I will act responsibly and ethically. My goal will be to provide TRANSPARENCY to our union members and all of our stakeholders. The Treasurer needs to be committed to our union and provide the proper stewardship of our accounts.

I look forward to being the next Treasurer of the AFA to serve our membership.

Gene Decker - Candidate for AFA Treasurer

A perusal of the AFA ledger will verify that all has been in order during my time as Treasurer. No vendor or member has ever had reason to complain about non-payment or late payment. Our credit rating has remained spotless and records will attest to this fact.

As a long term member and officer of the AFA I have a familiarity of internal politics and policies which have been extant, some of which I did not support. but I was one voice and bound by loyalty to the leadership. I will continue in that vein when I judge leadership to be correct but firmly and respectfully be in opposition when decisions might not be in the best interests of the AFA.

What would I do as Treasurer? In consultation with the EB and my fellow officers I would submit cogent reports and timely recommendations would continue to flow from my desk. It is my desire to continue to serve this fine organization which I helped create.

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Dan Stollow - Candidate for AFA Treasurer

My name is Dan Stollow and I am seeking the position of AFA Treasurer. I have been a member of the AFA for 32 years in the MAT/CSC/ITE department. My vision of the AFA treasurer position is transparency and accountability to its members. A member should be aware where their dues are disbursed. I am a retired computer professional with experience in information technology, accounting, and audit, while working in Grumman for 22 years and North Shore/LIJ for 16 years. I am a veteran who served 4 years active duty in the U S Coast Guard. I am an alumnus of Nassau Community College and held the position of treasurer in of Phi Theta Kappa. Also, in the past, I held the position of treasurer in the Levittown Soccer Club. I believe that our union will be transformed into a stronger unit with increased membership and involvement of its members. Please give me your vote.

Barbara Gregorio - Candidate for AFA Treasurer

I am running for the position of Treasurer of the AFA and my qualifications for this position are that I an Accountant and hold a Master's Degree in Accounting. I have been a member of the AFA in good standing since 1986 teaching Accounting, as well as a full-time faculty member. I am currently on the Executive Board of the AFA and have been the Department Representative for the past three years. Prior to joining the faculty of Nassau Community College I was a controller of a multi-million dollar company. I have also held the position of Treasurer for several organizations. I believe that with my expertise I will be able to interact with the Accounting firm of the AFA and hopefully decrease the fees for outside Accounting Services. I will also recommend to the executive committee that we use the vast expertise of the AFA by establishing both an internal audit committee and an investment committee.

Faiza Shah - Candidate for AFA Treasurer

Dear AFA members,

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Faiza Shah, and I am a candidate for the position of AFA treasurer.

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Since 2005, I have been working as an Adjunct Technical Assistant in the Chemistry Department-NCC. I am currently pursuing my Master's degree in Public Administration at Long Island University Post Campus. Incorporated in this program is budgeting and financing for healthcare organizations and learning how to create financial statements. The main focus of my master's thesis is to investigate reasons behind the rapid decline of unions in the US, and proposing new methods that would change the perception of unions in today's society and for future generations. Labor unions have a very rich history throughout the world in protecting the rights of hardworking individuals like us. I believe that an ideal teacher's union is one that has good rapport with its members, the administration, student body, other unions, as well as local government. Impressed with the newly found AFA leadership team, I want to join them to offer my expertise, and provide my help in restoring lost faith in AFA.

As the treasurer, I would prepare the financial statements as per the rules, and make them available to all AFA members through the AFA union office. Furthermore, as a strong supporter of "transparency" at every level, I would promote an environment where all members feel comfortable to discuss their issues or concerns and to offer their suggestions to improve the Union. In the future, I would like to establish an "economic hardship fund" for the members that may encounter circumstances that are beyond human control, and require immediate financial assistance.

Your support is much appreciated.

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