

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

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*WE CARE
About Our Students,
Our Members,
Our College!*

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

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 Bob Femminella
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 Garry Ouellette
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 Members: Chris Enright, Philip Pecorino
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 Femminella, Susan Mitchell
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From the President's Desk



Stefan Krompfer

Our negotiating team, Scott Stark, Rose Tavitian, Rich Erben, Garry Ouellette, and I, have been meeting with the college's negotiating team since early spring. We have yet to receive an offer from the college that is close to reasonable. Now that the college has a tentative contract agreement with the NCCFT, it is our hope/expectation that their negotiators will come to the table with a serious offer that is worth considering.

AFA membership recently reached a new all-time high of 1,759. I thank our department representatives for the great job they have done explaining the value of union membership to newly hired adjuncts. Kudos to Chief Information Officer Rich Erben for the facilitation of our DRs efforts to make this happen.

Three of the four candidates whose letters were published in our Special Election Edition of the Vanguard were elected. Patrick C. Mullaney is now the County Legislator representing District 4. Samantha A. Goetz has been elected as the County Legislator representing District 18. Mary Jo Collins was elected Receiver of Taxes for the Town of North Hempstead. I congratulate them on their victories and thank them for their support for our college and our association.

A belated thanks to MaryAnne Saul, Department Representative of the Nursing Department, for her years of service as our representative on the Academic Senate. Her professionalism and attention to detail served us well. I thank Richard Erben for filling the position for the upcoming year.

Stefan Krompfer
 President
 Adjunct Faculty Association



Message from the Vice-President



Scott Stark

Navigating the realm of administrative processes can be a labyrinthine task, but the introduction of the new online adjunct availability form by Nassau Community College represents a promising step forward for the members of the Adjunct Faculty Association. While it is essential to acknowledge that we are currently mid-process and still acclimating to this novel system, the early feedback has been largely positive, with few reported difficulties—an encouraging sign as we collectively embrace this change for the first time.

A standout feature of this revamped system is its markedly more user-friendly interface. Designed with the adjunct faculty in mind, the form aims to simplify the often intricate process of availability submission. The streamlined interface not only facilitates a smoother experience but also reflects a thoughtful consideration of the diverse needs and technological comfort levels of our adjunct members.

A substantial improvement lies in the newfound ability for adjunct faculty to articulate precise availability times. Departing from the rigid constraints of the former system, which occasionally posed challenges in aligning with class offerings, this update empowers adjuncts to tailor their schedules with more precision. This flexibility acknowledges the varied commitments of our adjunct faculty, contributing to a more harmonious integration of personal and professional responsibilities.

Equally commendable is the autonomy granted to adjuncts to independently cancel and resubmit availability without the need for a help desk ticket. This self-service functionality acknowledges the importance of time management and ensures that adjustments can be made swiftly within the submission period. It's a practical feature that resonates with the AFA, reflecting a commitment to providing adjuncts with the tools to navigate administrative tasks efficiently. Moreover, the ability to differentiate between asynchronous and synchronous distance education availability addresses the evolving landscape of online education. This nuanced feature ac-

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Message from the Vice-President



Scott Stark

commodates the diverse instructional methods employed by our adjunct faculty, emphasizing adaptability in response to the changing dynamics of higher education.

As we tread this new territory, it's essential to approach the process with patience and openness to adaptation. The AFA looks forward to continued collaboration with Nassau Community College in refining and optimizing the online adjunct availability form, ensuring it becomes a valuable resource that aligns seamlessly with the needs and preferences of our dedicated adjunct faculty.

Your input is crucial as we navigate the transition to the new online adjunct availability form. We value your experience and want to ensure that this system aligns as seamlessly as possible with your needs. Please take a moment to share your thoughts, feedback, and any suggestions you may have. Your insights will play a vital role in refining and optimizing this process for everyone. Feel free to contact me at scottstark27@gmail.com or call me at (516) 859-0250. Your collaboration is immensely appreciated.

Scott Stark
Vice President
Adjunct Faculty Association

The Inside Scoop

The AFA has achieved a new milestone over the past few weeks. Our membership has grown to an all-time high of 1,759. This was achieved in part by our highest single semester recruitment of 56 new members.

This made me recall events of the not too distant past. During the Fall of 2014, the AFA had its first contested election in its history for the leadership positions of the union. It was a hotly contested election and, at times, volatile. When the election concluded, a new leadership team was put into place. In the days following the election, I wrote the narrative of the flickering flame. Because of the volatile nature that that campaign took on, I wrote of the aftermath: As the sun rose on the land, one could see a scorched earth but, in the distance, a flickering flame existed. That flickering flame was all that was left of the passion of a once great union. That day, I challenged the 790 AFA members to nurture that flame and keep it burning until it once again became a raging fire of passion and resolve that the AFA was always known to be. The members came and did just that.

In the months that followed, the AFA regained its majesty, and more and more individuals came aboard the “train” and joined our ranks. I promised all adjuncts that that train would continue to return to the station and continue to put out the welcome mat, inviting them to come aboard and join our union family. That train welcomed more and more adjuncts with every visit to the station. Not even in my greatest imagination did I think that our ranks would add almost 1,000 new members in just a handful of years.

Today, our union stands strong and tall thanks to the support of 1,753 members.

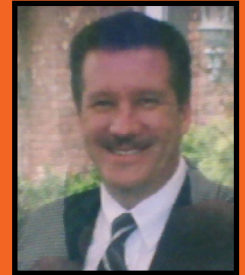


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The Inside Scoop

These individuals are not only members, but they are equal stakeholders in our union. There is no differentiation between classroom and non-classroom; it does not matter whether your work is performed in a classroom, an office, a library, or a service center. You serve the college in a very valuable role. Your opinions, concerns, suggestions, and issues are of the utmost importance to us.



In the hectic days that we live, it can be easily overlooked, but I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your support. Each one of you are the reasons why we are able to maintain and enhance our benefits. You, together, are the heartbeat of the AFA.

Richard D. Erben
Chief Information Officer
Adjunct Faculty Association