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## ADJUNCT AFA FACULTY ASSOCIATION

President - Stefan Krompfer  
Vice President - Scott Stark  
Secretary - Christine Kallinger-Allen  
Treasurer - Barbara Gregorio  
Chief Information Officer - Richard D. Erben

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Ken Bellafiore  
Chris Enright  
Bob Femminella  
Frank Nappi, Jr.  
Garry Ouellette  
Ruth Silverman

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Africana Studies.....Vacant  
Allied Health Sciences.....Alan Hecht  
Art.....Mike Ritchie  
Biology.....Robert Femminella  
Chemistry.....Chris Enright  
Communications.....Jack Demasi  
Counselors.....Diana Cannone  
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CSD.....Joan Lauterborn  
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Psychology (Alternate DR).....Ruth Dumas  
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### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Elections/Qualifications.....Rose Tavitian  
Members: Rashied K. Sharrieff-Al-Bey, R. Erben  
Grants.....Bob Gaudino  
Grievance.....Garry Ouellette  
Political Action.....Garry Ouellette/Gerald Scharfman  
Scholarship.....Ruben Friedman  
Members: J. Demasi, M. Lipset  
Health & Safety.....Ken Bellafiore  
Members: Robert Femminella, Chris Enright, Susan Mitchell, Mary Ann Hellmer-Saul, Mary Bagnasco, Faiza Shah, Gail Sobel  
Constitution/Bylaws.....Arthur Friedman  
Members: G. Scharfman, P. Pecorino  
Retirement.....Margaret Renner

Administrative Assistant - Felicia Blackman

Vanguard Editor - Paul Guadagnino

Correction: In the February issue, page 12, the inset quote was incorrect and not from the article about René P. Fiechter. This error was fixed on the version of the Vanguard that can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.myafaonline>

# From the President's Desk



Stefan Krompfer

## Presidential Search

Candice Ferrette reported in Newsday (4/13/16) *“Nassau Community College trustees will again return to their presidential-search applicant pool and also will consider more candidates in the nearly four-year quest for a permanent leader for the school, a State University of New York official said Wednesday.”*

*Johanna Duncan-Poitier, senior vice chancellor for community colleges, told Newsday that SUNY is working very closely with NCC’s board of trustees to consider additional candidates they have not looked at before.”*

So, the Presidential Search continues. I have no idea as to what the outcome will be. The Board’s options are to choose a candidate from the remaining two finalists or to begin a new search. If there is a new search I will again represent your best interests and, by extension, our student’s best interests on the search committee.

## Middle State Report

The final written report has not yet been received by the college. Be assured that we will work with the college administration and full time faculty to bring the college into full compliance with Middle States’ requirements.

## Your Guidance Is Needed

Over the coming months, your leadership team will make a series of decisions that will affect the course we will take over the next year and beyond. In keeping with our philosophy that we are here to serve you, we will solicit your thoughts on a wide variety of issues using email, meetings (individual and group meetings) and using online surveys. Some of the areas that we will be seeking your input on are:

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- **Adjunct Offices:** Locations of new and improved offices (furniture, telephones, computers, etc.)
- **Student Advisement:** As pointed out by representatives of the full-time faculty and some leaders of the Academic Senate, there is a need in this area that we “might” want to fill. Currently we are not involved in the academic advisement process. You will be asked if you want to be involved in the advisement process, to what extent, and under what circumstances.
- **Spring Gala Event:** Members have been requesting that we hold a spring gala that will enable us to recognize our members, student scholarship winners and others who have made significant contributions to our adjunct population and by extension the students who attend NCC. We will ask for your input as to where and when the event should be held as well as what the program for this event should include (music and dancing, entertainment, buffet or sit-down).
- **Faculty Development:** We will offer faculty development opportunities both on and off campus to all adjuncts. Your input will be solicited as to the types of opportunities you would want us to provide.

Stefan Kromprier  
President  
Adjunct Faculty Association

## New York State Senate Special Election Message

As is our custom, we ask candidates running for public office to submit a letter addressed to our membership that supports their candidacy for the office that they seek. There is an important race for the vacant NYS Senate Seat in the 9th District. We reached out to both Todd Kaminsky and Christopher McGrath for letters. Below is the letter we received from Mr. McGrath. We made a number of attempts by email and phone to secure a letter from candidate Kaminsky, but none was forthcoming.

Stefan Kromprier  
AFA President

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“Dear Members of the Adjunct Faculty Association at Nassau Community College:

For those of you who may not know me, let me introduce myself. I was born and raised in Inwood and now reside in Hewlett, with my wife Monica and our three daughters. I have dedicated my life to helping our community and now, I want to give back to the community that has given so much to me.

I am running for State Senate on the Republican, Conservative, Independence, and Reform lines as well as the Tax Revolt line in the upcoming Special Election on Tuesday, April 19th.

I am an Adjunct Professor of Law at Hofstra Law School, I know the importance of higher education and I will make sure our colleges get the resources they need so we can keep the cost of tuition down. We need to make sure that all of our students who want to go to college can afford to go to college. I will fight in Albany for our higher education institutions like Nassau Community College to make sure you have all the resources you need as members of Adjunct Faculty Association.

I believe in a balance of power, and if you believe in that balance like I do, then there is nothing more important than this campaign. This is the most important election in New York State History. Should you give me the opportunity to represent you in Albany, I am promising you.... I will never vote on anything that is against our children or against our communities, you have my promise that I will represent our communities proudly in the State Senate.

Thank you for giving me your consideration. For more information about my campaign, please visit my website: [www.chrismcgrathforsenate.com](http://www.chrismcgrathforsenate.com)

Very Respectfully,

Chris McGrath

Candidate for State Senate

PS. For the future of our communities, our children and our way of life, please make sure to vote the upcoming Special Election on Tuesday, April 19th.”

## Announcements

**The AFA wants you!** Please consider joining with hundreds of your colleagues in becoming an AFA member by visiting our website at <http://www.myafaonline.org/#!membershipform/c1nbb>

**Meetings:** The next AFA Executive Board and RA meetings will take place on at 8:30AM, on May 14th, at the Greenvale Townhouse Diner.

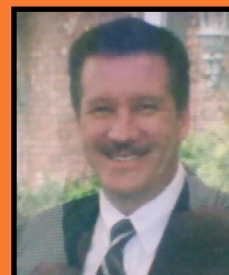
## The Inside Scoop

As one can imagine, many issues cross the desks of the AFA leadership each day. With over 1,200 members and more than 1,400 adjuncts working each Fall and Spring semester, the AFA Leadership team realizes the importance of keeping on top of issues as they arise.

At our most recent regular meeting with NCC Interim President Dr. Dolan, we brought up a number of concerns that we feel could have either a direct or indirect impact on our membership. In our commitment to transparency I will share with you the issues and the suggestions that we have made.

One issue involves requesting additional information on a host of part-time instructional and professional positions that are being filled through ordinance contracts (non-union). We will be seeking further information to ascertain whether these positions should fall under the AFA. Moreover, we asked for updates on our request for satellite adjunct offices and offered suggestions on ways that we can assist with student retention and success rates in the evening and on weekends. We also offered a comprehensive plan to aid in enhancing funding to NCC from the County and the State. Finally, we discussed our plan for creating and spearheading a systematic plan for adjunct professional development opportunities.

We are happy to report that Dr. Dolan was most receptive to our suggestions. Moreover, he listened to the concerns that we brought forward and will investigate the issues and report back to us on his findings. It is our belief that having fulfilled all the initial objectives (found on our website <http://myafaonline.org>) that were established by AFA President Stefan Krompfer is not the end of our efforts but rather a launching point for new objectives to further enhance adjunct's opportunities. We will continue working on the issues noted in this column and shortly we will be soliciting members for suggestions on new initiatives they wish for us to pursue.



Richard D. Erben

Richard D. Erben  
Chief Information Officer  
Adjunct Faculty Association

# AFA President Stefan Kromprier Presents NEST with Donation

Located in room 118 of the South Hall, the NEST at NCC provides nourishment and other vital supports to all members of the NCC campus community. You can visit the NEST's website at <http://nestncc.weebly.com/> for more information.

Soon after the NEST was established, the AFA organized in support of the organization and its mission. This includes the union collecting donated food at AFA events and parties, as well as the AFA comedy fundraiser held on December 9th. On January 28th, AFA President Stefan Kromprier presented a check for \$7,243.00 to the NEST on behalf of those who helped organize for, and who donated to, this worthy cause. This donation check was accepted on behalf of the organization by NEST Executive Board member Helen Rice in the photograph below.





## SPECIAL FEATURE

# An Adjunct and the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS) Part 1

By Paul Guadagnino

I am a long way from retirement. Similar to others for whom retirement seems like a long-distant sunset which we may never reach, I recognize how prudent it is to plan well ahead. While I realize not everyone has access to a pension, I am going to take the time over the next few issues of the Vanguard to relate the story of mishaps I made in attempting to participate in one of the best pension funds in the country as both an adjunct and educator. I hope my quest for clarity concerning the system and organization, from which many in New York State rely on financially after retiring, may be of some small value to others with situations parallel to myself.

As an art educator on Long Island I joined the New York State Teachers' Retirement System, henceforth referred to as NYSTRS, in 1999 when I received my first non-tenure-track instructional position. As a substitute art teacher, my employer immediately had me sign paperwork to join the pension fund and begin reporting my earnings. Over the years, my job changed from substitute work to full-time tenure-track teaching and I largely forgot all about being in the NYSTRS.

It had been a dozen years or so since I became a NYSTRS member, and I was enjoying a Saturday morning with my children, when my wife found my annual NYSTRS update booklet. Each year NYSTRS mailed me a booklet, six or so pages long, which contained valuable data such as how much of a pension I would be entitled to receive at certain ages of retirement based on specific amounts of years worked. In one part of the report there is a place which lists one's beneficiaries, the page my wife was concerned about, should one pass away of an untimely death. I followed my wife's pointed finger and, lo and behold, instead of my spouse or children as my beneficiaries, I still had my parents listed! I knew then what I was going to be fixing that week!

Turning to yet another page, my wife then highlighted another section of the booklet which listed your time in the system. "Why isn't your time at Nassau listed?" my wife asked. Sure enough, as my wife pointed out, despite my working at Nassau Community College for a few semesters as an instructor, there was no allotment of time listed for the institution.

I didn't have any answers for my wife that morning. All I could do was promise her that I would get the beneficiaries page fixed, although I wasn't exactly certain how to go about it yet, and that I would investigate whether my time teaching as an adjunct was even admissible to the pension fund. If adjunct teaching did count, how much time did it count for and how was it calculated?

This event acted as the catalyst for my quest to better comprehend the New York State Teacher Retirement System, a quest I hope you'll join me for over the next few issues of the Vanguard!

*...continued next month!*