

VANGUARD

Official Newsletter of the Adjunct Faculty Association at Nassau Community College
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

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THE INSIDE SCOOP

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NEW BOT MEMBERS RONALD ROSENBERG AND WILLIAM STRIS CONFIRMED

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



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 Student Personnel Services - Instructors.....Darren Petronella
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 Theatre & Dance.....Charles Albano
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AFA COMMITTEES:

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 Members: Gerald Scharfman, Philip Pecorino
 Elections/Qualifications.....Chair: Rose Tavitian
 Members: Chris Enright, Rashied K. Sharrieff-Al-
 Bey, Philip Pecorino
 Grievance.....Chair: Garry Ouellette
 Political Action...Co-Chairs: Garry Ouellette/Gerald Scharfman
 Health & Safety.....Chair: Ken Bellafiore
 Members: Carl Vinas, Chris Enright, Gail Sobel,
 Mary Ann Hellmer-Saul, Mary Bagnasco, Robert
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From the President's Desk



Stefan Krompier

In my February 2022 column “*From the President’s Desk*” I first spoke of “*The State Of The College*” and then of “*The Fix.*” Excerpted: “*Those who appoint Nassau Community College’s Board of Trustee members, Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, must act quickly and smartly to reappoint, or replace Board members whose terms have ended. New members to the Board must be capable of hitting the ground running. It is imperative that they come to the Board with an understanding of the problems that currently plague the college and are equipped to make the hard decisions that are needed to fix those problems.*”

This past Thursday, the Academic Senate held a special meeting, the single agenda item called “The State of The College.” At the start of the meeting, A.S. Chair Liz Hynes-Musinsky provided the more than 300 attendees with the opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings regarding The State of the College. All the speakers voiced a litany of very troubling concerns—some voiced their fear for the very existence of the college. The conversation quickly moved to The Fix - what needed to be done to turn the college’s state from dire to hopeful. A resolution was brought to the floor calling for a Vote of No Confidence in the leadership of our current Board of Trustees. The resolution passed unanimously. The body then asked that a Bill of Particulars accompany the notice of the vote. The ask was granted.

On a happier note, the AFA/NCCFT Comedy Fundraiser to benefit the NEST was a great success. The funds collected via ticket sales, donations, and raffle sales are still coming in and being tallied. The final amount will be substantial. For me, the event was especially gratifying being able to laugh, sometimes from the belly, in unison with my faculty, staff, CSEA, and administrator colleagues -especially the man in the salmon sweater- and to honor Ana O’Gorman, the long-time beloved president of the CSEA Local 830 NCC Unit, with the AFA’s President’s Award for Excellence.

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From the President's Desk

Lastly, at the April 25th meeting of the Nassau County Legislature, the body approved the appointment of Ronald J. Rosenberg and William P. Stris to the NCC Board of Trustees. They will be replacing Trustees Green and Powers. Watch their confirmation on our website at <http://myafaonline.org>

Stefan Krompfer
President
Adjunct Faculty Association

NEW ADDRESS

Please notify us if you have changed your address in the past five years. Send your new address to: afa@ncc.edu Thank you!

The Inside Scoop

The past two years have been a very difficult time for all of us as we have had to navigate the pandemic. We have had to transition from personal gatherings to remote meetings. From a union perspective, I have found this to be most disheartening. One of my favorite parts of my work with the AFA is seeing and talking to you, our members, at meetings and special events. Of course, at these occasions I see colleagues and friends. But more importantly, I see the heart and soul of the AFA. Collectively, all of you are the AFA. I am proud and privileged to work on behalf of more than 1,750 members who each bring great talents and dedication to our college. Whether you are very actively involved in union activities or simply supporting your union as a member, you play an intricate role in the success we share as a union.



Richard D. Erben

Take for instance the process of negotiating a contract. The AFA will have five individuals sitting at the table. The college who sits across from us are aware of our membership. When they look across the table, they do not only see five of us, but they can also imagine bleachers behind us filled with over 1,750 members who lend power to our ability to negotiate on their behalf. I very much look forward to the day when we can all come together once again and until that time, stay well.

Richard D. Erben
Chief Information Officer
Adjunct Faculty Association

Around the Region

If a new contract is not reached with the Administration of Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry by the end of April, the Mercy Faculty Forward/Service Employees International Union, Local 200 United negotiating committee said they will call for an indefinite strike on May 2.

Last week, adjunct faculty and part-time teachers voted to authorize their union's negotiating committee to call a strike.

The union said at the following day's bargaining session, college administration increased their wage proposal by \$50 for a minimum for some course rates of \$3,250, while decreasing compensation for others compared to their prior proposal.

"On April 2nd hundreds of adjuncts like myself are prepared to strike," said Crisanta Melicio, a Mercy adjunct in the nursing department. *"No one wants to strike, but our backs are up against the wall and we cannot go any longer with sub-subsistence wages, no benefits and no job security."*

Loushema Lott-Coakley, a senior at Mercy studying international relations, said she and other students *"stand with our professors and will not be showing up to classes starting May 2."*

The union negotiating committee will meet with administration three times in the last week of April and said if no *"fair first contract"* is agreed upon afterwards, they will strike indefinitely starting Monday, May 2 until the end of the semester.