

A V C F T

Newsletter of the AVC Federation of Teachers, Local 4683A, CFT, AFT, AFL-CIO



Board of Trustees Election - Pg. 5

Sure there is a presidential race, but the November 3rd elections will decide two new Board of Trustees members.

Yes on Prop 15 - Pg. 6

The California Federation of Teachers is urging a Yes vote on Proposition 15.

Meet your Union Officers - Pg. 8

Introducing the Union Officers fighting for you.

SEPTEMBER 2020

Hello & Welcome

In spite of the ridiculous challenges Antelope Valley College is facing during the COVID-19 pandemic, your faculty union is working to ensure that you and your students are both safe and successful in the 2020/2021 academic year. I know for myself, not being in a classroom has me feeling alone and wondering if I'm reaching any of my students out there. As jive as it might sound, the "in solidarity for all" motto of the AVC Federation of Teachers is something I am using to get through this. We faculty - tenure and non-tenure track, full-timers and adjuncts, dues paying union members and the rest - and our students are all dealing with the same issues. Economic uncertainty, a highly contagious disease, the loss of social interaction, racial injustice, and an overall upturning of our daily lives have made many of us feel alone and lost. This newsletter obviously cannot fix what is wrong in the world, let alone on our campus, but my hope is it will serve as a reminder that you have many allies. I can sincerely say I am impressed with those running our faculty union and feel better knowing so many talented people are looking out for all of us. As you will see inside, we also have several opportunities in November to vote for a better future at AVC.

As the new communications director of the union, I will be working to get information out to union and non-union members through a variety of media. Our website, <https://avcft.org> will be getting a much-needed uplift and in addition to email, we will be sending information via our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. Please reach out to me if you have thoughts for this newsletter, information you would like to see included on the website, or any other related issues at communications@avcft.org

In solidarity for all,

Mike Pesses

Communications Director
& Geography Professor



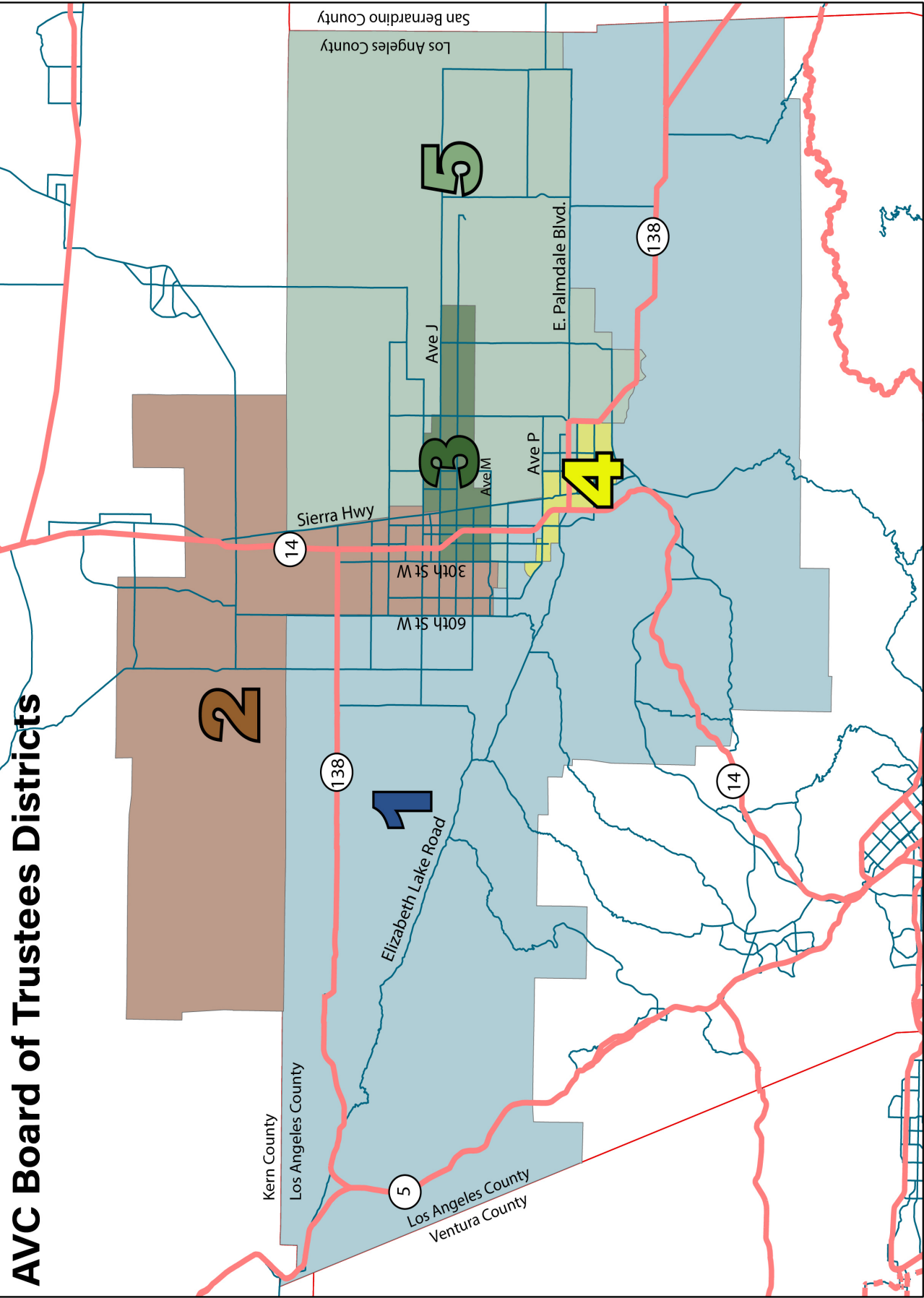
PAID OFFICE HOURS

During the full contract negotiations which finished during 2019-2020, the Federation worked hard to establish a program for paid office hours.

During spring 2020, over 140 faculty participated in the Adjunct Office Hour Program, for a total payment to faculty of over **\$42,000**.

During summer 2020, over 70 faculty participated in the Adjunct Office Hour Program, for a total payment to faculty of over **\$21,000**.

The Adjunct Office Hours Program continues through the 2020-2021 school year.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES SEATS UP FOR GRABS

The November 3rd election will decide two new members of AVC's Board of Trustees.

Two members of the AVC Board of Trustees, Dr. Laura Herman of Trustee Area 1 and Mr. Lew Stults of Trustee Area 3, have chosen to not run for reelection this year. As such, we will have two new members of the Board after the November 3rd election. There are two candidates running for each position.

For Area 1, Michael Dutton and Michelle Harvey are the candidates. Mr. Dutton has been in the Antelope Valley for over 40 years. He has been a teacher and principal for local schools, including the founding principal of SOAR high school. He has also been on the Board of Trustees for the Antelope Valley Union High School District. Ms. Harvey is new to the area, having moved here about six years ago. She has been a teacher and has served in a number of administrative and executive roles in charter schools around the country. She is currently the Vice President of Expansion and Innovation at the Learn4Life Network.

For Area 3, Rutger Parris and Michael Rives are the candidates. Parris is the son of R. Rex Parris, the current mayor of Lancaster. He was born and raised

in Lancaster and attended Pepperdine law school. He is an attorney in the Parris law firm and has served on the Lancaster Planning Commission since 2018. Michael Rives is originally from Long Beach, but is a longtime resident of the Antelope Valley who worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs. He has been involved in local politics for many years. Before this, he ran for a Trustee position on the Los Angeles Community College District Board. Currently, in addition to running for the AVC Board, he is also running for a position on the AV Hospital Board.

The Union's Political Director, Dr. Scott Lee, has been in contact with all four candidates. The Union, in conjunction with the Classified Union, is arranging interviews with all candidates and will make a decision soon on which, if any, candidates to endorse. More information about the election will be forthcoming.

CFT URGES YES VOTE ON PROP 15

The Schools and Communities First Initiative aims to close a tax loophole to ensure community colleges and other public services get the funding they need.

The California Federation of Teachers (CFT) is backing Proposition 15 - also known as the Schools and Communities First initiative. The CFT, an organization affiliated with AVCFT, is working to get Prop 15 passed because it will generate significant funds for K-12 schools and community colleges. Prop 15 will only tax commercial properties valued at over \$3 million that have enjoyed a tax loophole since the 1970s.

According to CFT, Prop 15 will close a tax loophole to reclaim \$12 Billion to then be invested in schools and other public services. They are quick to stress that homeowners, renters, and agricultural land maintain protection under 1978's Proposition 13.

In addition to funding education, Prop 15 will give small businesses tax breaks to hire back workers let go during this pandemic as well as grow as we move forward.

The official summary of the proposition is:

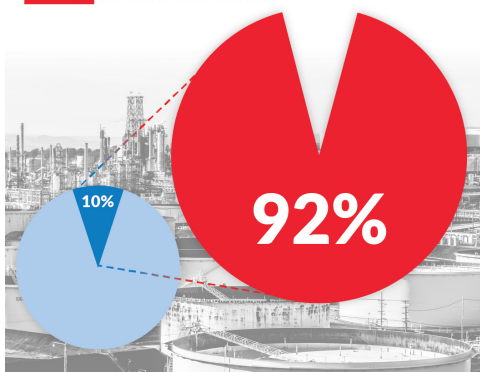
“Increases funding for K-12 public schools, community colleges, and local governments by requiring commercial and industrial real property be taxed based on current market value, instead of purchase price.

Exempts from taxation changes: residential properties; agricultural land; and owners of commercial and industrial properties with combined value of \$3 million or less. Any additional education funding will supplement existing school funding guarantees.

Exempts small businesses from personal property tax; for other businesses, provides \$500,000 exemption. Increases property taxes on commercial properties worth more than \$3 million providing \$6.5 billion to \$11.5 billion in new funding to local governments and schools.”

More information can be found at the CFT's website: <https://www.cft.org/yes-prop-15>

Only **10%** of the biggest, wealthiest commercial properties will generate **92%** of the revenue







Getting to Know Your Union Officers

DR. AURORA BURD - PRESIDENT

Aurora Burd has been a proud AVCFT member since joining AVC's Math/Science/Engineering division as full-time geology faculty in 2014. Prior to AVC, she was a steward for UAW 4121, which represented academic student employees at the University of Washington. She became AVCFT Secretary and joined the negotiations team in 2018, and began her term as AVCFT President in Summer 2020. She regularly teaches on both the main campus and at the Palmdale Center. She continues to try to increase the number of geology majors while being an enthusiastic member of the campus community, including as an MSE Division representative to the Academic Senate.

DAVID ADAMS - VICE PRESIDENT

David Adams is an Assistant Professor of Business. In addition to his duties in the classroom, he currently serves as the Vice President and Lead Negotiator of the AVCFT. When not at AVC, David enjoys driving around his kids to their various activities, poker, sports and outdoor activities.

DR. CINDY HENDRIX - SECRETARY

Cindy Hendrix was hired at AVC in the fall of 2014 as part of the math faculty. Prior to teaching at AVC, she taught math in the AVUHSD for over 20 years, teaching everything from basic math to AP Calculus. She also spent some time in district administration working on curriculum development. Cindy has a BA in math education from Eastern Washington University, a MS in math from CSUN, and an EdD from CLU.

KATHY OSBURN - GRIEVANCE OFFICER

Kathy Osburn is an Assistant Professor of Business and the Department Chair for Business and Computer Studies. Kathy's passion is online learning and she has been teaching online for AVC for over five years. In the spare time that she does not have, she loves wine tasting in Paso and reading a good murder mystery.

KENT MOSER- TREASURER

Kent Moser has been an adjunct faculty member of long standing at the college but has recently become full-time faculty in the Business and Computer Studies Department. Kent has served as the Union's Treasurer since Fall 2019.

DR. JASON BOWEN - GRIEVANCE OFFICER

Dr. Jason Bowen is an Assistant Professor of Physics who has taught at AVC a little over eight years. Prior to working at AVC he taught as an adjunct instructor at City College of San Francisco, College of Marin, San Francisco State University and also occasionally moonlighted as a postdoctoral researcher at UCSF designing multipinhole SPECT collimators and developing image reconstruction algorithms. When not teaching Jason enjoys a quiet life of watching and rewatching Arnold Schwarzenegger and Keanu Reeves movies.

GABELLE POORMAN -ADJUNCT VICE PRESIDENT

My name is Gabrielle Poorman, but everyone calls me Gabby, and I am your AVCFT Adjunct Vice President. Growing up working in my family's restaurants, I grew up understanding the importance of a work ethic and the idea that every person in an organization is valuable and should be treated as such. While working, I attended Antelope Valley College and grew to love the school. I eventually transferred to California State Northridge to receive my Bachelors of Science in Finance and Business Administration and later pursued my Master's in Business Administration from West Texas A&M University. I am proud to serve as your AVCFT adjunct Vice President and be a part of the AVCFT family.

DR. SCOTT LEE - POLITICAL DIRECTOR

I'm originally from Washington, DC, the son of a teacher who was the daughter of a teacher. I learned early the value of being in a union. In the 1990's, I worked as an audiovisual technician for a company that provided services in hotels. We were non-union. However, I would occasionally work on a union show and would be paid better (an additional \$5 per hour) and receive better treatment (no 12 hour days without breaks). I later learned that the company actually charged clients for its employees at the union pay rate but paid us below that, keeping the rest for themselves. I've been a solid union supported ever since. I'm proud to have been a member of the AVCFT since I started working here in 2001 and have worked for our Union since 2011. I've been a Grievance Representative, the President and am now the Political Director. I see the future of this Union as very positive and expect great things to come from it.

DR. MIKE PESSES - COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Mike Pesses has been teaching geography at AVC for over a decade. Prior to his shift to academia, Mike worked as an archaeologist, cartographer, and geographic information systems specialist in both the private and public sector. He has had a variety of union and non-union gigs and is a firm believer in having a strong organized labor force.

NATE DILLON - MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

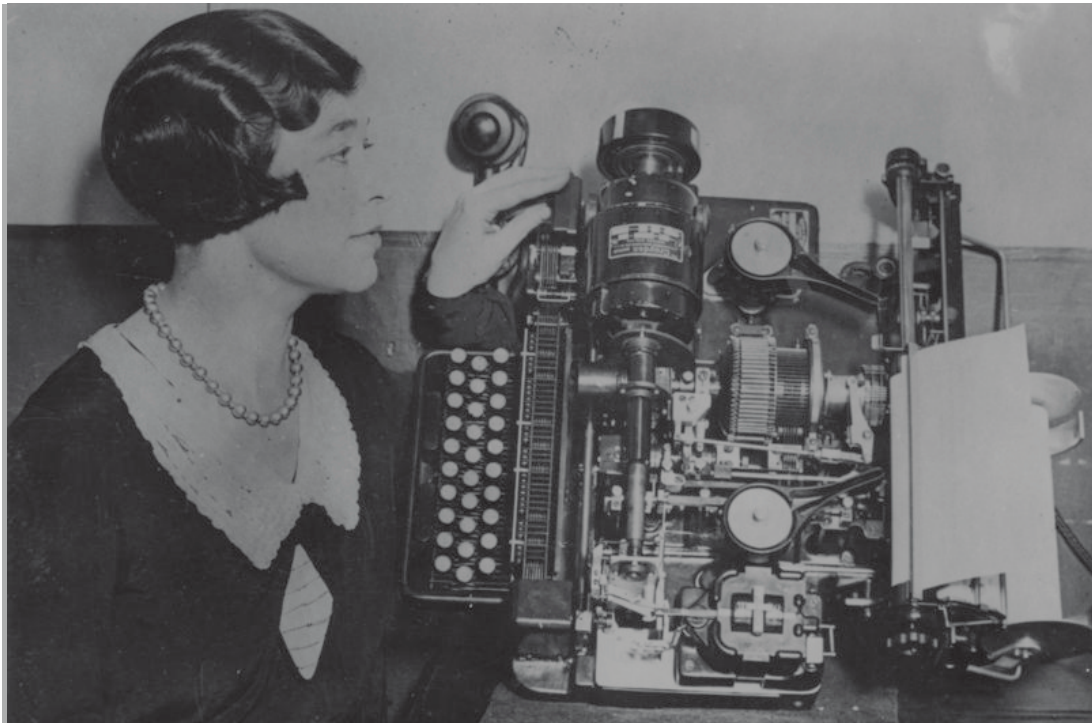
Nate Dillon has lived in the Antelope Valley since the age of 7. Both of his parents worked in education and were heavily involved in their unions, so he grew up understanding the importance of unions through stories of grievances and negotiations. He received an AA from AVC, and then attended CSUN where he received both a BA in Anthropology and finally an MBA with a focus in the Entertainment Industry. He was hired as an adjunct for the AVC Commercial Music program in 2004, and as full time faculty in 2019. Since 2017, he has served as Performing Arts Chair.



FACULTY SHOUT OUT

Shout-out to the following faculty for their comments at the August 2020 meeting of the AVC Board of Trustees: **Stacey Adams, Carla Corona, Glenn Haller, Cindy Hendrix, Hal Huntsman, Alberto Mendoza, and Tina McDermott.**

Shout-out to the following faculty for their comments at the September 2020 meeting of the AVC Board of Trustees: **David Adams, Rosa Fuller, and Tino Garcia.**



NEED TO TALK TO YOUR UNION?

General Inquiries - contact@avcft.org

Grievances - grievance@avcft.org

Press Releases and Publications - communications@avcft.org