

A V C F T

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



Contract Status - pg. 3

District and AVCFT negotiations during the pandemic.

Committee Vacancies - pg. 4

The Safety Committee needs Union Members.

New Trustees - pg. 5

New board members were elected for both Area 1 and Area 3.

Unemployment Resources - pg. 6

The CFT will be holding webinars to share resources for faculty losing either hours or jobs

Union Contacts - pg. 8

Useful phone numbers, websites, and email addresses to stay in contact with AVCFT.

DECEMBER 2020

Another COVID-19 semester down...

I don't know about you, but I'm over this pandemic thing. Having limped to the finish of Fall 2020, I can say that two things helped get me to the end (in addition to my loving family, of course). One was the work being done by my colleagues in the AVCFT to ensure that faculty are treated fairly in the face of new challenges. The other was the reminder from our students that our work actually matters.

If you aren't aware, your union officers have been meeting regularly with each other as well as with the administration to fight for safe working conditions and to see that the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) is being honored as we negotiate teaching in the age of COVID. I know I easily overlook the labor aspect of my job since I love what I do, but it is important to remember that we are in fact selling our labor to District. The AVCFT is making sure it is done fairly.

Our students do appreciate what we are doing. While some of them appreciate learning the material we are teaching, it goes beyond that. I find it easy to forget just how much students can rely on AVC as a place not just for education, but stability and mental health. I was ready to bail on the semester back at the end of October, but a few key students made it clear that spending that time in class each week was not just helping them get a degree, but helping them not feel alone in this pandemic.

I should also mention that our website, <https://avcft.org>, has received a much needed update. The goal is to make it both an archive for union documents as well as a source for new information. Check it out and feel free to let me know if you would like to see anything added.

In solidarity for all,

Mike Pesses

Communications Director
& Geography Professor



OUR CONTRACT

The AVCFT and the District recently met and agreed to extend the Collective Bargaining Agreement by one year. The current CBA was set to expire on June 30th, 2021, but will now be extended to expire on June 30th, 2022. Step and column advancements will be honored by the District for next year. A ratification vote will be held in January.

VACANCIES ON SAFETY COMMITTEE

Two Union positions need to be filled.

The Safety Committee has two vacancies, one for the Faculty Union Representative Member and another for the Union Representative Alternative position. The committee meets four times a year, on the 3rd Wednesday of September, November, February, and April from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM.

Interested faculty should send an email to president@avcft.org by January 31st so that we can seat our reps on this committee in time for the February meeting. Faculty should include their division/discipline, other committees they are on, any potential conflicts with the committee meeting time, their qualifications to serve on this committee, and their reason for interest in this committee.

Information for the committee is provided by Terry Cleveland:

Type of Committee/Authority:

Cooperative Committee established to generate communication on safety and health issues by students, faculty, and staff for the benefit of students, faculty, staff, and visitors to the College and to make recommendations

to enhance the safety and health of those groups while on campus.

Purpose:

Antelope Valley College is committed to providing a safe and healthful workplace for all of its employees and providing a safe and healthful facility for students and campus visitors. To fulfill its obligation, the Safety Committee is charged with the responsibility of providing avenues for communication for all employees and students with regard to maintaining a safe and healthful work and learning environment.

Reports to:

Representatives report to the leadership of their respective constituency.

Product:

Recommendations about safety and health items are made during the meeting, discussed, and accepted or rejected by the members present. If accepted, the recommendations are passed on to appropriate personnel who can further act upon the recommendations. Members are sometimes asked to work on projects during the time between meetings.

NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

The November 3rd election resulted in two new members of AVC's Board of Trustees.

Both Area 1 and Area 3 of the Antelope Valley College Board of Trustees had elections on November 3, 2020 to replace outgoing members Laura Herman and Lew Stults, respectively.

Area 1 covers the southern, rural area of the Antelope Valley and stretches from the Ventura County line to the San Bernardino County line. Area 3 is in Lancaster, running from 30th Street West to 110th Street East.

Michelle Harvey beat Michael Dutton in the Area 1 race. Harvey, who has worked as both a teacher and school administrator, was endorsed by the AVCFT.

Michael P. Rives defeated Rutger Parris in the Area 3 race. Rives also won a seat on the Antelope Valley Health Care District Board of Directors.

The AVCFT, along with the AVCFCE, has been building a good working relationship with the two new trustees since July. We look forward to continuing that. Elections for the other three areas will take place in 2022. The AVCFT will start developing strategies for that election in early 2021.

ANTELOPE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT Governing Board Member, Trustee Area No. 1

N	MICHELLE HARVEY	60.51%	<div><div></div></div>	20,371
N	R. MICHAEL DUTTON	39.49%	<div><div></div></div>	13,294

ANTELOPE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT Governing Board Member, Trustee Area No. 3

N	MICHAEL P. RIVES	56.97%	<div><div></div></div>	15,982
N	RUTGER PARRIS	43.03%	<div><div></div></div>	12,072

UNEMPLOYMENT RESOURCES FOR AVC FACULTY

Adjunct Faculty not getting their usual course loads have options.

In light of the current challenges faculty face during this academic year, The California Federation of Teachers (CFT) is offering two webinars entitled “Unemployment & Underemployment During the COVID-19 Pandemic” on December 16, 2020. The first will be from 12pm-1:30pm and the second from 4pm-5:30pm.

The description from the website is as follows:

“Are you losing your job (or losing hours) as a result of the current pandemic? Is someone in your household unemployed or underemployed? In many cases, you may be eligible for benefits you’re not aware of. The expansion of unemployment benefits under the CARES Act and other recent laws are set to expire at the end of 2020. We’ll explain the benefits that have been available this year, and the changes coming in 2021 once current enhancements expire.

“This workshop will also demystify the process of applying for unemployment benefits. Learn about requirements of the Employment Development Department (EDD) and the step-by-step process when applying for benefits. This workshop will

benefit anyone facing reduced, canceled, or unscheduled work in the present and near future, and those whose households include people experiencing loss of work.”

Attendees must register before hand at <https://www.cft.org/training> for either webinar.





AVCFT CONTACT INFORMATION

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