



THE HARPER ADJUNCT ADVOCATE

HARPER COLLEGE ADJUNCT FACULTY ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

September 2009, No.4, Vol.4

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<http://WWW.HARPERADJUNCTS.ORG>
Webmaster Needed!

Hey YOU! Yes, YOU! Are you webmaster savvy? Are you interested in using your skills for a good cause? YOUR union needs a new webmaster! We need YOU! Our webpage is our primary repository of documents for our adjuncts and as such it has to be easily accessible by all levels of the computer literate. Come test your skills and get involved with your union! Attending monthly meetings is NOT required to be our webmaster! Keeping the webpage up to date is!

From the Prez

Welcome back! Some of you took the summer off to revive yourselves; others vacationed to learn and gain inspiration; others worked during the summer and took advantage of shorter terms and smaller classes. Whatever you did, I hope you are looking forward to your fall return with joie de vivre.

The HCAFA exec committee has been busy meeting during the summer—rewriting our bylaws, working on grievances, planning adjunct meetings for the coming year and enjoying our HCAFA family BBQ. We look forward to seeing more of you at executive meetings, more of you volunteering to take part in your union by doing one or two small jobs that will let you meet others in the union and make your union stronger without taking too much time from your busy lives.

Feel free to contact me or anyone on the exec committee for help or to give help. Also, get to know your division representatives. These adjuncts have volunteered to help you. If you don't express your concerns to them, we may not know what your concerns are.

See you on campus.

Ilona Sala

KAT'S YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

O Welcome to the first column of Kat's Korner!
R This is the place where Kat will answer any of
N your questions about the union and the college.
E You can send us questions signed or unsigned;
R we'll answer them! Email them to any member of the executive committee or send a written question to JJ Pionke/Liberal Arts.

Dear Kat,

I was told recently that I can have 4 paid personal days because I teach 4 days a week. Is that correct?

YES! Teaching adjuncts are guaranteed at least 2 days off every semester; however, if you teach 3 days a week, you get 3 days off; if you teach 4 or more days a week, you get 4 days off.

Dear Kat,

I really want to use BlackBoard in my classes but I'm not sure where to go or how to go about learning about BlackBoard, please help!

The College runs a program called STOMP that teaches you about BlackBoard. The great thing about the program is that it contains opportunities to get Faculty Development funds up to \$250 (not part of your \$320 Professional Development money). Contact Kevin Crow at 847-925-6719 or kcrow@harpercollege.edu for more information!



Our Membership Keeps Growing! Our Goal is 100% Membership

Note: If you currently pay a fair share fee, think about becoming a member of HCAFA for only \$10 more per semester. The value to you and your fellow adjuncts is enormous!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU; **SHARING IDEAS**

Thanks for Participating in the E-Survey!

In May, we sent out an E-Survey and many of you responded! You had a lot to say about what you would like us to focus on, including but not limited to: health insurance, better pay, strengthening the ties between the Executive Committee and the Membership, respect from full-time instructors, and job security. Here is a breakdown by the numbers:

- 91% of you had a very favorable or favorable view of the union
- 45% of you said that you would be willing to attend a monthly union meeting
- 58% of you said that an email update was the best way to keep in touch with you

You spoke, we listened! We will be conducting one on one interviews with HCAFA members this semester in an effort to better hear what you have to say. See the article below for further details! Thank you again for your responses!



All Member Canvas

A Cup of Coffee for Your Thoughts

We need to know what is important to you! Our object is to accurately reflect your needs and aspirations as adjuncts at Harper. Our long term goal is to contact as many of our members as possible this semester and listen to what each one has to say. Let us talk with you over coffee or breakfast one on one. We value and need your input!

If no one has gotten in touch with you by the end of September, and you are eager to give us your input, please contact anyone on the executive committee and they will set up a meeting time for you with your division rep or one of the officers.

(Note: Contact information for the exec committee is given on the last page of the newsletter.)

HCAFA on Facebook

Are you on Facebook? Want to know the latest of what is going on at HCAFA but don't want to go to the website? Friend us and check out the up-to-the-minute information including goings on of the Executive Committee, important dates for meetings, and social gatherings. Our group on Facebook is called HCAFA and it is a closed community so you will have to ask to be invited. This is for our protection and will allow this virtual space to remain safe against intrusion by those who are not members.

Bulletin Board

Stay up-to-date regarding HCAFA. Check out the HCAFA bulletin board in Building A near the HR Office on the 3rd Floor. Julie Cudden has volunteered to make sure that all the latest HCAFA information will be there: current newsletters, executive committee members' contact information, all meeting dates, directions to the IEA office, legislative recommendations, and copies of mailings sent to members. If you have any questions or if there is something that you think should be posted on our bulletin board, please contact Julie Cudden at LA3@harperadjuncts.org.

Grassroots Political Activist

JJ Pionke is our new Grassroots Political Activist (GPA). In her position with the IEA, she follows the local area's legislative races, attends hearings and fundraisers, and organizes some email drives (like informing our legislators that really, the two-tier pension system is a BAD idea). Do you feel politically inclined? Want to be a little more involved with HCAFA and politics? Might you be free to attend a fundraiser, attend Lobby Day in Springfield, or write an email? Drop JJ a note at LA1@harperadjuncts.org and let her know of your interest!

Newsletter

Let us know what you think of our latest newsletter format. Do you like it? Is it helpful to you? Do you have any suggestions for us? Is there something that we haven't included that you would like to see included? We welcome your ideas! Please contact Arlene Bublick at secretary@harperadjuncts.org with your thoughts.

IMPORTANT DATES TO SAVE!



Halloween Party

Thurs., Oct. 22, 3:00 – 5:00

No tricks; just lots of treats!

Bylaw Vote (Cafeteria A238)

Join us for our FIRST Halloween party! Dress up if you like! There will be food, a raffle, games, conversation, and general merriment!

IEA Higher Ed Conference

October 1 – 3, Bloomington, IL

The theme will be “Under One Umbrella” and will address issues revolving around IEA and local unions like HCAFA, your union!

HCAFA Welcomes Members At All HCAFA Meetings & Events

Executive Committee Meetings

Friday, Sept. 11, 2009, 3:00 – 5:00

Friday, Oct. 9, 2009, 3:00 – 5:00

Friday, Nov. 20, 2009, 3:30 – 5:30

Friday, Dec. 18, 2009, 3:30 – 5:30

Friday, Jan. 15, 2010, 3:30 – 5:30

Friday, Feb. 19, 2010, 3:30 – 5:30

Friday, March 19, 2010, 3:30 – 5:30

Friday, April 16, 2010, 3:30 – 5:30

Friday, May 21, 2010, 3:30 – 5:30

Friday, June 18, 2010, 3:30 – 5:30

All executive committee meetings are
At the IEA Office, 553 N. North Ct., Palatine

We value your input! Give HCAFA the opportunity to learn from you & get to know you. In the process, you'll help the union gain strength and make new friends. Our meetings are motivating and fun. We know how full adjuncts' schedules are, so we always have great food. Exec meetings are the place to learn a lot about HCAFA, Harper and your fellow adjuncts. Come once and you may decide to become active. Call Amy or Mary Ellen at IEA (847 359-0300) for directions.

JUST FOR FUN! SUMMER SOCIAL EVENTS



HCAFA Family BBQ

In late July, HCAFA had its first ever Summer Family BBQ! We had PERFECT weather. Not too hot, not buggy, some wind coming off the pond, and a nice shady pavilion to protect us from the sun. Adjuncts came with their families, and all of us had a wonderful time eating, talking, and playing lawn games brought by our IEA Uniserv Director, Amy Kunz. Somehow we managed to squeeze in questions and answers about pensions, days off, and professional development. We also caught up with each other regarding summer vacations, teaching schedules, teaching techniques, and good local places to eat. In short, it was a lot of fun! It's been decided that this will be an annual event, so please join us next summer! Look for details at the end of the spring semester!



HCAFA's Sushi and Sandwich Soirée

On August 17 new and returning adjuncts got together for HCAFA's Sushi and Sandwich Soirée, a most enjoyable evening during orientation week, the main purpose of which is to give adjuncts a chance to get to know other adjuncts before the semester begins. There are three principal rules at the Soiree: Eat a lot of delicious food; talk a lot to interesting people; and learn a lot about HCAFA. All who attended followed the rules and left the meeting with tummies full, friendships strengthened, and questions answered. The benefits didn't end there! As a bonus, several lucky adjuncts won goodie baskets designed and donated by Candace McCreary. At the end of the meeting, the only unanswered question was, “Can we have another Sushi and Sandwich Soirée soon?” Adjuncts eagerly await the next Sushi Soirée which will be during orientation week in the spring.

Updating Our Bylaws

Periodically, organizations update their constitution and bylaws. We spent a chunk of our summer working on the update to conform more accurately to IEA models. To that end, we no longer have a constitution and instead only have bylaws. You will be asked to vote on the new bylaws at the Halloween Party October 22nd. You will receive an email copy of the bylaws. If you have any questions about the bylaws, please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Executive Committee. If you wish to see an old copy of the constitution and bylaws, they can be found on our website for comparison purposes.

A New Semester and New Faces Representing Counselors and Librarians

As we begin another term, the adjunct counselors and librarians would like to thank our former HCAFA rep Pat Zokal for her many, many hours of dedication on our behalf as she served on HCAFA's executive committee. We wish her well on her new position. Pat's challenge as our delegate was to balance the interests of two diverse employee groups—a feat she handled with the greatest of professionalism and dedication. Her position is being shared by a number of enthusiastic unit members who look forward to their new experience.

IEA Membership Training

Dr. Ender's First Harper Board Meeting

On July 23 at a dinner meeting open to all members, Dan Chambers & Tom Suhrbur from IEA led a training session on increasing member participation in HCAFA. All attending felt satisfaction with what HCAFA had done in the past and excited about what could be done in the future.

After the training session, participants went together to the Harper Board Meeting to welcome Dr. Ender, the new Harper president. Ilona Sala, HCAFA president, went to the podium to express the enthusiasm HCAFA feels about working with him. Dr. Ender said that he too was very enthusiastic about working together with adjuncts and expressed hope that in the future adjuncts would be more involved in College life.

Higher Ed Web Page Moving to NEA Site

IEA's Higher education's web site has existed on a separate platform for a number of years. It will migrate onto the new NEA web page by early fall. This should ensure that HCAFA adjuncts will find an intuitive and user-friendly site when they visit the NEA web page.

HCAFA OFFICERS

President: Ilona Sala
Vice President/Grievance Chair: Charmian Tashjian
Treasurer: Rob Alexander
Membership Records Chair: Janice Cutler
Secretary: Arlene Bublick
IEA/NEA Uniserv Director: Amy Kunz
Past President: Arlene Bublick

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DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES

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BUS/SS:

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Joanne Meyerhoff LC1@harperadjuncts.org
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Sandra Vega-Pichiatti LC1@harperadjuncts.org

Note: For divisions without reps, we'll do our best to keep you informed through newsletters. If you find time this fall, please consider becoming a rep and joining us for our monthly meetings. It will be to your advantage and you will love the friendships

WWW.HARPERADJUNCTS.ORG

