

March 2025

What is the AFA?

It's your union, protecting and fighting for the rights of all adjunct faculty members. We are affiliated with the Illinois Education Association, a state affiliate of the National Education Association.

SPRING 2025 Payroll Dates

1/31, 2/14, 2/28, 3/14, 3/28, 4/11, 4/25, 5/9/ 5/23

Dues taken from 4th and 5th paychecks (non-instructional pay is typically delayed)

Oakton Board of Trustees Mtgs

3/18, 4/22, 5/20
at 6 p.m. in the DP Board Room

AFA Board Meetings

March 7 at 4:40-6 on [Zoom \(1st Thurs.\)](#)

AFA Open Office Hours

Wed 12:30-2 DP 2166
Mon. 12:30-1:30 SK A 213
On-line 3rd Thurs. 4-5 [Zoom](#)



Upcoming Oakton Board of Trustees Election

If you live in-district, you can vote in the upcoming Oakton Board of Trustees election. Meet the candidates running for the Board of Trustees. A forum cosponsored by all three Oakton unions will be held on Thurs, 3/20, 5:30-7:30 in the Footlik Theater in Des Plaines. Candidates will present their background and respond to questions. Please wear your Red for Ed gear. Although it is not available on Zoom, it will be recorded.

Adjunct faculty librarian Ruth Whitney has put together a Research Guide on Voting and Elections for the April 1st at this [link](#).

Join the Adjunct Faculty Association!

The AFA is the adjunct faculty members' voice at the college. Our voice is only as strong as our membership. Only union members are eligible to vote to ratify our new contract. Negotiations are ongoing and we hope to have a new contract by the start of the next academic year. Not sure if you are a member? Contact us at afaoakton@gmail.com. Interested in learning more, visit our [website](#)

Interested in Getting more involved at the College?

There are several opportunities for adjunct faculty members to join committees and get compensated for their participation. Currently we need people to join the Green Team and the Wellness Committee.

The Green Team is an interdisciplinary team of staff, faculty, and students who meet regularly to outline and prioritize

Board of Trustees Candidates' Forum



Thursday - March 20th - 5:30-7:30 pm
Footlik Theater - Des Plaines Campus

Come to ask questions and hear from the candidates running for the Oakton College Board of Trustees in the April 1st Election.

Hosted by the OCCFA Political Action Committee.
In collaboration with the AFA and CSA.



sustainability on-campus and in the wider community. The committee may also sponsor events and activities throughout the year with support from the administration. The Wellness Committee Coordinates and promotes employee wellness and health initiatives. Both these committees meet about once a month.

New Health Care Benefit Available to IEA Members

Getting health insurance has been tough for adjuncts. The IEA Higher Ed Council Chair Vivian Zimmerman has been working on finding health coverage for adjuncts and shares this information. A plan provided by Vitable has a primary care subscription plan with a variety of benefits, including prescription coverage and mental health programs. It is NOT traditional health insurance or a product endorsed by IEA or by NEA Member Benefits, it can be a way for members to get some vital health benefits. The primary member must be under 64. The plan is provided by Vitable, which has created a “landing page” for IEA members to sign up at vitablehealth.com/iea. For more information, check out this [informational brochure](#).

Another Mandatory Security Training

We have all read about major institutions being shut down due to major computer security breaches or being the victim of ransomware attacks. The college has been mandated to provide security trainings for all employees. You may use your office hours to complete this training. All Oakton employees need to complete 4 modules for a total time of about one hour by June 9. The modules are:

- Cybersecurity Awareness for Employees of Educational Institutions: Social Engineering (18 minutes)
- Cybersecurity Awareness for Employees at Educational Institutions Security Awareness Essentials (28 minutes)
- Oakton Remote Access Information Security Policy (5 minutes)
- Password Protection and Multi-Factor (13 Minutes)

First Amendment Auditors

The possible appearance of so-called First Amendment Auditors on campus has been a topic of concern. What is an “auditor?” “The term describes a visit to a public agency from one or more individuals who describe themselves as “auditors.” Auditors enter the public spaces of a public office while recording the entire encounter The recordings of the audits (typically shot from the auditor’s point of view) are then posted online.” They “claim that they are “checking” or “testing” the behavior of public employees, allegedly to determine whether the employees appropriately respond to requests from citizens coming into public offices.” A fuller summary and advice on what to do if confronted by someone can be found on [the Current Events Card](#).

Come Talk with the AFA

Besides monthly meeting open to members, the AFA also hosts two in-person Open Office hours (Wednesdays 12:30-2 DP 2166 and Mondays 12:30-1:30 SK A 213) and one on-line (3rd Thursday 4-5 [Zoom](#)). Stop by, have your questions answered and chat.

