

## September 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.

### FALL 2025 Payroll Dates

8/29, 9/12, 9/26, 10/10, 10/24, 11/7, 11/21, 12/5, 12/19

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

### Oakton Board of Trustees Mtgs

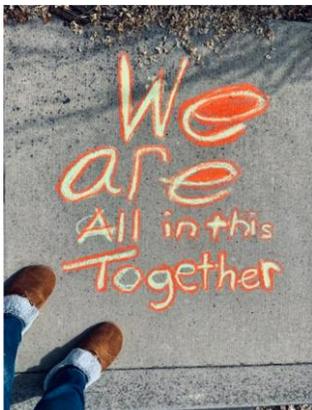
9/16, 10/21, 11/18, 12/16 at 6 in the DP Board Room

### AFA Board Meetings

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month from 5 - 6:30 on Zoom. Next one: October 2

### AFA Open Office Hours

TBA



## New Contract to Be Ratified on Sept. 16



“Fantastic!” “Best Contract Ever!”

These were some of the comments heard at the question and answer sessions on our [new](#)

[contract](#). Members have voted and the new contract has been overwhelmingly approved by membership.

Of course, the contract is not in effect until the Board of Trustees ratifies it at their **Tuesday, September 16**, meeting in the Des Plaines boardroom at 6:00. We encourage you to come to support your union, be behind



Mary Hope as she makes a statement to the board, and let the trustees see the faces of adjunct faculty. Wear your Red for Ed T shirt to be recognized! Come early, as there will be pizza for you in the Adjunct Lounge in Room 2162.

A big thank you is owed to the negotiating team that is responsible for this contract: Mary Hope Griffin, Eric Bottorf, Phil Prale, David Jakalski, and IEA Uniserve Director Luis Carabellos-Burgos.

### Question About Becoming a Senior Lecturer

If you have ‘consistently demonstrated strong or outstanding classroom performance and have continued to engage in professional development,’ you can be a Senior Lecturer. The call for applications will come out in spring, so keep your eyes peeled for the announcement. Per the new contract, there is a monetary reward as well. Senior Lecturers receive \$750 during both Fall and Spring semester.

### The Adjunct Faculty Loan Fairness Act

Illinois Senator Durbin is one of four senators sponsoring [The Adjunct Faculty Loan Fairness Act of 2025](#), expanding public

service loan forgiveness to adjuncts and making them eligible to participate in the federal Public Loan Forgiveness program . It expands the definition of a public service job to include teaching nine credit hours at a qualifying institution. Right now, a “public service job” is defined as annually working a minimum weekly average of 30 hours. You can thank [Senator Durban](#) and encourage [Senator Duckworth](#) to support this bill as well.

***Our Colleague Dan Connolly Needs Our Help***

Our colleague Dan Connolly has been a long time adjunct faculty in the English department. His cancer has recurred, leaving him unable to continue teaching; his family is in need of financial help. Please consider making a donation to the [GoFundMe](#) that has been set up to support Dan and his family.

***A Message of Caution When Using Social Media from IEA President, Al Llorens***

The President of Illinois Education Association has sent all IEA members a word of caution when we use social media.

“Both the IEA and NEA strongly support the right of our members to speak out on items of public concern. However, given recent national events, the NEA and IEA are advising members to exercise caution when sharing posts and/or engaging in debate on social media, especially for the next week. If you are concerned about being doxed online or are currently being targeted, please consider making your social media accounts private immediately and contact [IEA Connect](#) for further assistance. “

Schools have been threatened with violence. Members’ social media profiles are being searched, sometimes going back years, and then being publicized. Their jobs are being threatened. This is a practice known as doxing. In addition, protests are being planned at some school board meetings, schools and district offices in the state in the coming days.

In addition, IEA has provided [guidance on doxing](#) and what we can do to prevent it.



*Figure 1 September milkweed*