

October 2024

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 2024 Payroll Dates

10/25, 11/8, 11/22, 12/6, 12/20

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

Oakton Board of Trustees Meetings

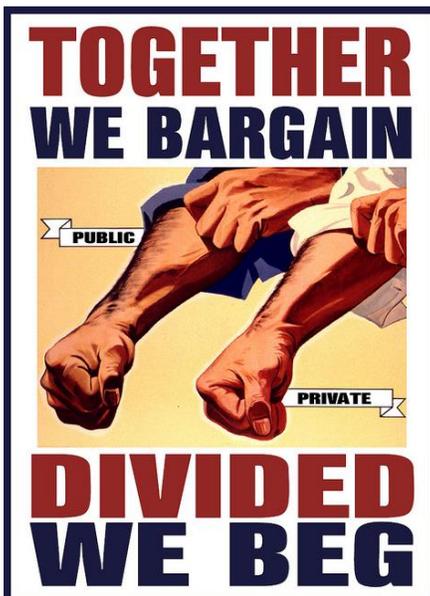
10/15, 11/12, 12/10
at 6 p.m. in the DP Board Room

AFA Meetings

On [Zoom](#) on the 1st Friday of each month; 9 – 10:30

AFA Open Office Hours

DP: Wed. 11-1 2166
SK: Mondays: 12:15 - 1:30 A213
[Online](#): 3rd Thurs of month



Come to the Adjunct Faculty Lounge on Learning Day

Stop by Room 2168 for snacks and coffee and talk with colleagues. There will also be an opportunity to share what you would like to be brought up in negotiations. We expect negotiations to begin in January and the negotiating team wants to bring *your* concerns to the table.

Major News on the Windfall Provision

According to the NEA, “more than 2.8 million hard-working Americans, including many educators, have their Social Security benefits reduced—or lose them entirely—due to the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO).” In other words, when you retire, you’ll get your SURS pension. But if you have worked outside the SURS system and are due Social Security benefits for that work, those benefits will have a cut taken out so there is no ‘double dipping.’

The Social Security Fairness Act (S. 597/H.R. 82) would fully repeal both these provisions and ensure that you receive the full benefits that you are due. The vote on the Social Security Fairness Act will most likely occur near the beginning of the Lame Duck session following the November elections.

The NEA has worked long and hard on this. The years-long bipartisan push to repeal the GPO/WEP is a direct result of your advocacy and the momentum we have built. It also shows that reaching across the aisle can get results, even in these fractious times!

The vote on the Social Security Fairness Act will most likely occur near the beginning of the Lame Duck session following the November elections. Please [send an email](#) to your representative to vote yes on this bill that will affect so many of us.

Are You in Tier 2?

SURS (The State University Pension System) has two tiers: Tier 1 for those of us who were hired before January 1, 2011, and [Tier 2](#) for those hired afterward. How are they different?

Well, Tier 2 got the shaft. Tier 1 can retire at age 60, or age 55 if they have spent 35 years in the field of education. For Tier 2? Retirement age is 67; if you choose to retire earlier than 67, your pension benefits are decreased - even though you are required to pay the same amount into the system.

Unlike in Tier 1, there is no option for educators with 5 years of service to retire early and receive the max benefit. This is clearly a disadvantage for new educators who have just entered into the system and those hired less than 13 years ago.

There is a bill meant to fix this. According to IEA, "[Senate Bill 2024](#) addresses Tier 2. It makes changes to the retirement age, the service credit requirement and the formula used to calculate your pension payment." IEA is working with lawmakers to fix these in our retirement system.

Did You Know?

that the EAP (Employee Assistance Program) is available to adjuncts as well as full-timers at Oakton through HR? Some of the services available are:

Live, Immediate Assistance via a phone consultation with a licensed mental health professional. **Call 855-755-4357.**

- **Counseling** for both personal and work-related issues.
- **Legal Assistance** Free consultation per issue with an Attorney and up to a 25% discount on most legal services, if more time is needed.
- **Financial Consultation**
- **ID Theft Prevention and Recovery**
- **Work/Life Resources** Referrals for childcare and elder care, pet care
- **Life Coaching**
- **Medical Advocacy**
- **All kinds of forms**
 - Rental application
 - Personal property rental agreement
 - Motor vehicle bill of sale
 - Basic will
 - Will codicil
 - Child care agreement

Discounts on: Theme park tickets, rental cars, lodging, water parks, sports tickets, products – check it out at their [website](#) or the *Employee Assistance Program* Ellucian card.

These services are also available to your domestic partner, in-laws, your adult children away at college, and even out-of-state family.



Adjunct Vesna Jovanovic's work is being shown in the exhibit [Breeches for Headgear at Roots and Culture Contemporary Art Center](#) from Nov. 8 to Dec. 21. "In this exhibition of Lauren Carter's sculptures and Vesna Jovanovic's paintings, the world is turned upside down and bodies are turned inside out. Familiar objects and images are transformed into irreverent and grotesque forms. Jovanovic combines randomly poured ink with meticulous rendering in vibrant

paintings that resemble flesh. Carter's assemblages include found objects and personal items that are synonymous with loss and the burden of sentimentality."

An installation created by Adjunct Sun Choi is being shown at the [Arc Gallery as part of an exhibition called BENEATH THE SURFACE: Spirituality in Art.](#)

"I want to express, through my work, the way in which I make my own order out of chaos. I want to share the catharsis for healing and change through the image of salvage transforming into a pearl." says Sun.



SKOKIE
Art Spot
a pop-up gallery

Join the **Village of Skokie Fine Arts Commission** at its first pop-up gallery art exhibition to celebrate the work of artists who live and/or work in Skokie.

Located at **4854 Oakton Street**, the gallery will be open Friday through Sunday, **October 11 through October 27** with additional events happening in the space throughout the month.

Visit skokie.org/artsandhumanities for gallery hours and updates

Adjunct Linda Berendsen had a watercolor selected to be part of" the Skokie Art Spot pop-up gallery, juried by artist Jay Ryan of The Bird Machine, showcasing artwork from more than 20 Skokie artists. The gallery, located at 4854 Oakton St., will be open Fridays and Saturdays, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., through October 27."