

April 2026

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. Visit <https://oaktonadjuncts.com> for more information and how to join.

SPRING 2026 Payroll Dates

1/30, 2/13, 2/27, **3/13**, **3/27**,
4/10, 4/24, 5/8, 5/22

Non-instructional pay is typically delayed. Union dues are deducted from the **4th** and **5th** paychecks.

Oakton Board of Trustees Meetings for Spring 2026

1/20, 2/17, 3/17, 4/21, 5/26
all at 6:00 in the DP Board Rm

AFA Board Meetings

Next one: Wednesday,
April 29 4 at 5:00 on [Zoom](#).

AFA Open Office Hours

TBA



Mary Hope Griffin, president of the AFA for the past several years, will become the Dean of Liberal Arts as of July 1! We are thrilled that an adjunct faculty member has been selected to fill this important role and that the same wisdom and dedication to supporting teachers and students that she has shown in her leadership of the AFA will shine through in this new role.

Vote for the AFA Board

The four positions on Executive Board, President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer end on August 1. are elected for three-year terms: their terms are up on August 1. Only current AFA members are eligible to run for election and to vote. The call for nominations will be sent to personal email addresses shortly with elections held electronically during April with a **deadline of Friday, April 17**, at midnight. Not sure if you are member? Email afaoakton@gmail.com. Please use the [online nomination form](#).

Mary Hope Griffin, of course, is leaving her role as AFA president, and Linda Berendsen is stepping down as secretary as well. If you are interested in running for any of these four positions, write a short bio introducing yourself to the membership and email it to [Ruth Whitney](#).

A member may either nominate a colleague or themselves for a board position, but if you are nominating someone else, be sure

- the nominee wants to be nominated,
- the nominee can be an active participant in AFA activities, and
- the nominee knows that the term for a board position is 3 years.

Write-ins are also welcome.

To be included on the ballot, all nomination information must be submitted on the online form found using this link: <https://forms.gle/e3z5B1vgNxoPAG5F6>

For information about each board position and their responsibilities, see the [AFA By-Laws](#) for descriptions of board responsibilities.

Our local IEA would like your input

The Illinois Education Association (IEA) will be offering training sessions for its members and would like your input on what topics should be offered. Please take 5 minutes and fill out [this survey](#) to let them know what you are interested in.

Summer Leadership Academy

Each summer, the Illinois Education Association holds a Summer Leadership Academy on union leadership skills over several days at Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois. This year it is July 27-30. Attending this a great way to learn new skills in organizing, lobbying and negotiating. You will have an opportunity to meet IEA leadership and Illinois State Legislators. IEA Region 37 has funding available for travel and hotel costs. Email afaoakton@gmail.com if interested.

The **Faculty Professional Development Committee** is seeking adjunct faculty committee members with [applications](#) due on **April 15th**. They meet virtually the first Monday of the month 3:40-5:10. Adjunct faculty on the FPD are compensated for their time.

New Faculty Orientation needs an adjunct faculty member to co-facilitate the New Faculty Orientation during Orientation Week of Fall, Spring and Summer terms with a full-time faculty member. It is for a one-year term, which may be renewed for another two years. Fall and Spring term are each worth one LHE; summer is one half. Submit the [application](#) to Kanchana Mendez no later than **April 24, 2026**.

Funds for Professional Development and Technology Expenses are Available

All adjunct faculty can receive \$750/year in professional development funds that can be used for professional association memberships, tuition and fees for courses (including graduate and certification courses), registration fees, travel, and related expenses for workshops and conferences, technology expenses that support teaching (e.g., software, headphones, microphones, webcams, and computers), and books or professional periodical subscriptions that support teaching. You can combine funds over a two-year period within a given term of the contract. ([Check Article 3.10, C](#) for specifics). You must submit an [approval form](#) to your dean.

An additional pool of funds is also available for unique and innovative professional development opportunities directly related to your area of teaching requiring an additional approval. For more details, check out the [application form](#).

The March IEA Representative Assembly

Mary Hope Griffin, Merrill Rondell, and Yasmin Cordero represented the AFA at last month's Representative Assembly. Fourteen hundred participants came together to make decisions for the organization at what is the



governing body of IEA. Several new items also passed. Among them were:

- the “One Job Should Be Enough” campaign, which will elevate member stories about low wages and financial strain was unanimously passed
- a committee to explore health insurance options for part-time, retired, and uninsured members
- professional development for educators supporting students with autism
- more data collection around member identity and the rise in unsafe or harmful student behavior toward staff