



The Sentinel

Voice of the ECC Faculty Association

Local 3791/IFT www.eccfaculty.org

April 2007

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Sue Ford, Second Vice-President
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Ron Kowalczyk
Michael Walschot



From the President

Attending the **Contract Celebration Party** on Friday night seemed to erase all the emotional highs and lows of negotiations during the past seven months. It's sort of like childbirth (yeah, I know; some of you can't relate). Even after all the ups and downs my mind and body felt during pregnancy and delivery, as soon as I saw that beautiful, healthy baby I started to think that *it was all worth it and maybe I would do it again!* Do it again?! Well, at least I'm willing to recommend serving on the Negotiating Team (no, not pregnancy!) to our best and brightest faculty members here at ECC. Yes, it's time to start planning for our next negotiations and thinking who will fill leadership roles in the ECCFA.

Let me tell you just a few of the things I learned from serving as an officer and negotiating multiple ECCFA contracts that I might never have gained otherwise. I've been able to personally know many of our faculty members and experience their generosity in ways that I can't explain. I've become close friends with members of the Negotiating Team after spending days, nights, weeks, and months together as we were able to

reach agreement among ourselves. It's not just Board team members with whom we negotiate. I've learned which administrators can be trusted here at ECC and which ones can't. I've also been able to work first-hand with Board members and get to know each of them personally.

Most importantly, I learned that I need the support of our ECCFA members more than ever before. This is the first time when negotiating a contract that I came home with no one to talk with at home. Many of you know that my husband Thom was killed instantly in a car accident about 15 months ago. I was with Thom since I was 19. I've been at ECC since 1981. You are now my family. I am proud to serve as your ECCFA President.

The crucial question now is who will be the future leaders of the ECCFA? Who will step up and start negotiations training now so that we are ready for 2011? We are fortunate that Union Leadership training is provided by the IFT. Some of our newer faculty members have already started attending classes, but more of you still need to attend these valuable classes. Leadership succession does not happen by accident; it must be a well-thought out strategy if we are to stay a healthy and vital faculty association. Give it some thought; I promise you will gain more than you give up if you choose to become involved in union leadership.

In closing, thanks for my generous gift; but your friendship and support are much more important to me than any tangible present. I promise to spend my money on something *frivolous*. I believe in having fun today, because who knows when *today* will end.

In unity,

Linda

Bits and Pieces



Special thanks to Rachael Tecza and her "social" committee for the outstanding contract celebration party. And Howard, you are my favorite button maker. We had a great turnout for the party, and the entertainment was the best I remember at any ECCFA event!

If you are interested in serving on a college committee and you are not already on at least committee, please e-mail me your name. I'm always getting committee requests, and it would be great to have names of faculty members who are willing to help share the load.

Congratulations to the following members, who were elected (or written in) to serve on committees. Thanks to everyone who served as election judges, those who nominated fellow colleagues and especially those of you who will be serving on these important committees:

Academic Policy

Linda Hefferin
Sherry Hellmuth
Maureen Lange
Nate Larson
Shawn Mikulay
Rachael Tecza

Assessment

Tina Leverenzzi
Linda McEwan
Shawn Mikulay
Nicole Scherger

Curriculum

Time Anderson
Letitia Garcia
Joel Peck
Armando Trejo

Faculty Development

Lori Clark
Heidi Eaton
Jason Kane
Dan Kernler
Marybeth Koos
Nate Larson
Marcia Luptak
Gary Norden

Grievance

Sarah Dye
Sue Ford
Karen Friedberg
Steve Lipinski
Linda McEwan
Roger Ramey
Howard Russo

ECC Annuitants Schedule Luncheon in May

The 2007 Spring luncheon and information meeting of the ECC Annuitants Association will be held Thursday, May 3 from noon to 1:30p.m. in the ECC Business Conference Center. This is the college chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association, our mutual benefit and advocacy association.

All still working or retired faculty, staff and administrators are invited to attend, socialize, learn more about defending our hard earned pensions, and help guide us to form the most relevant organization we can for our current and future ECC retirees. Current SUAA members of the chapter will soon receive a written invitation with instructions how to reserve a place at the meeting.

Nonmembers wanting to attend or wanting to learn more about SUAA should contact Tom Youngren by

telephone at (847) 659-1136, by college email at tyoungren@elgin.edu or by personal email at youngren@sbcglobal.net Mailing lists available to us are limited to current SUAA members.

ECCFA Celebrates New Contract

“We rise above the rest;
We are the very best!
We are the
E-C-C-F-A!”

On Friday, 20 April 2007 — spurred on by these lyrics from Susan “Kander & Ebb” Ford — ECC faculty celebrated a new contract and honored the negotiating team that worked so hard for it. As the photos on page 4 indicate, faculty (and some old friends) were once again in the “Faculty Gone Wild” mode.

Unfortunately, many of the photos of Willy-Nilly came out too blurry to print because Willy was too busy running around like a chi- . . .

Oh.

I apologize, Willy.

How insensitive of me.

WD

ECCFA Contract Celebration Photo Album

