

November 2024

# ECCFA NEWS

The Sentinel: Elgin Community College Faculty Association Newsletter

## What is in the November 2024 issue:

ISSUE CONTENTS - 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - 1

ECCFA SOCIAL MEDIA - 1

NEW MEMBER FEATURE - 2

JOIN ECCFA TODAY - 2

SICK BANK UPDATE - 2

MARATHON TRAINING - 2



### Keep in Touch with ECCFA



[Facebook.com/ECCFaculty](https://www.facebook.com/ECCFaculty)



[www.eccfaculty.org](http://www.eccfaculty.org)



If there is something you would like to see in our next Sentinel Newsletter, please feel free to contact the Sentinel Editor [Dejana Matt](mailto:Dejana.Matt).

## ECCFA President's Message

I'd like to take a moment to thank all those who have been supportive of me as I've started this new role. More than one individual stepped up for a key role when asked, and for that I am so grateful. Without all of us, there really isn't much one individual can do. Together, though, we can accomplish a lot.

One thing I really had no idea about as a member was how active our Grievance Committee is. There's so much happening behind the scenes! The co-chairs, Laura Haske and Peter Han, and the rest of the committee members (Jackie Dalke, Beth Hultman, Michelle Kershner, and Dawn Munson) seemingly have a full agenda every two weeks when I sit in on their meetings as President.

Sometimes it's supporting a faculty member through an administrative process and making sure that the contract is followed, while other times it's making sure that deans aren't overstepping their bounds. There have been some bigger issues lately as well that were particularly thorny, and I really appreciate the care the group took in investigating all angles and collectively reaching a consensus about how to proceed. If you're an adjunct ECCFA member and have been looking to get involved, the Grievance Committee currently has two openings (one each for UAF1/UAF2).

We also have multiple adjunct openings on the faculty Senate, and we'd love to have you join us. Interested faculty are welcome to reach out to me and attend a meeting or two as a guest, just to see if you'd be interested. The responsibilities of a Senator are essentially to attend Senate meetings on Zoom every two weeks on Wednesday from 3:15-4:45pm. At times, we'll be discussing issues where your perspective as an adjunct will be needed, and at other times you can just listen and see what's going on around campus.

If you have any questions about either the Grievance Committee or the Faculty Senate, or really anything else ECCFA related, please reach out to me at [dkernler@elgin.edu](mailto:dkernler@elgin.edu). And a special thanks to all those who have served or are currently serving the ECCFA in these roles!

In Unity,

Dan Kernler - Prof. of Mathematics  
President, ECCFA, IFT Local #3791



# New Member Feature: Rita Braun



**Who/what inspired you to choose this career path?** If you would have told me 10 years ago that I would be a full-time faculty member, I would have passed out from laughter! I hated school. I got into social work because of my value of service to others. Along the way, I began supervising students and fell in love with teaching and giving back to the profession.

**What do you/did you love the most about your career?** I get to do what I love most everyday: helping others. It fills my cup to see my clients thrive. It also brings me joy to see students that didn't think school was for them be successful in the classroom which leads to success in the field. Knowing I got to be part of their journey feels AWESOME.

Human Services

### Fun fact that people probably don't know about you?

I grew up with English Mastiffs and the last one we had was the largest registered dog in the state of Illinois, weighing in at 233 lbs!

**What's your favorite memory?** I have a two year old that is my everything. It feels like all my memories before my daughter were erased. My favorite recent memory is my daughter telling me she loves being home with mama and dada. Such a great feeling!



### Favorite place you've traveled?

My family goes to San Juan, Puerto Rico every year and I will NEVER get sick of it!



## News from the Sick Bank Committee

Last year we had quite a few people who needed days from the Sick Bank and this depleted the days available to concerning levels. We are pleased to report that we had a 30% increase in donations, coming in at 100 days. Thank you from all of us on the committee, and more importantly from your ECC colleagues. Sick Bank allows many people to maintain their full-time status while recovering from a serious illness. Special thanks to Lesia Gemelli in Human Resources who confidently and confidentially provides us with the relevant information and does all of the leg work to verify need.

Members of the Sick Bank Committee are: Amanda Hirsh, Deyana Matt, Kathleen DeMars, Catherine Moushon, Joe Rosenfeld, Renae Ziwisk, Susan Robinson, and Roda Ryan. The committee members deserve special thanks for always being available and active when our colleagues are under a great deal of stress. We usually have a discussion and a vote within two days, even in the summer.

If you have any questions feel free to contact [Joe Rosenfeld](#)

## Join ECCFA Today!



Our membership dues are collected by payroll deduction. Our dues structure is equitable (folds who earn more pay more) and calculated as a percentage of base salary: Full Time Faculty pay 0.9% and Adjunct Faculty pay 0.8% Your dues support a unified and powerful voice, strength in numbers, collective bargaining for fair compensations and working conditions, protection and support, contract enforcement, professional development to support leadership development, and advocacy with legislators on issues that impact our members & education.

Join by using the QR Code above or visit <https://myift.ift-aft.org/join.3791>

## Marathon Training

Kari Farooqie, Instructor of Mathematics, ran the Chicago Marathon this year. She was training to finish in 4:10 and actually did it in 4:07:21, so she was very pleased. Go Kari! In a surprise twist, she taught her Monday classes the day after the marathon. The Sentinel conducted an informal poll of union leadership and found that if you run a marathon on Sunday, there is strong support for taking paid time off on Monday.



### Kari Farooqie

Finish Time  
**4:07:21**



Mile	Time	Temp/C	Pace
START	0:00	8:29 am	
5K	28:52	8:58 am	9:18
8K	46:16	9:15 am	9:20
10K	57:57	9:27 am	9:25
15K	1:26:55	9:56 am	9:20
20K	1:55:59	10:25 am	9:22
HALF	2:02:29	10:32 am	9:33
25K	2:25:10	10:54 am	9:22
30K	2:54:45	11:24 am	9:31
35K	3:23:46	11:53 am	9:21
40K	3:54:21	12:23 pm	9:51
FINISH	4:07:21	12:36 pm	9:32



**Shout Out:** Thank you to Jessica Carpenter & Angela Lucca for working together to get the departments fixed on the Faculty Development Form!