

NCCFT NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2008

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 3

NASSAU

COMMUNITY

COLLEGE

FEDERATION OF

TEACHERS

LOCAL #3150

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT:

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome each and every one of you back from what, I hope, was a happy and healthy holiday season. The beginning of a semester is always a time of dealing with the day-to-day business of faculty governance, scheduling, and other related issues for your union leadership. This semester has been no exception. However, as the semester progresses, a majority of our time in the upcoming months will be spent seeking faculty input into what will comprise our negotiating package.

To paraphrase Webster, democracy is defined as a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by their elected officials. The NCCFT is a democracy and the fact that it is will become evident in the next few months.

The steps in this process will begin immediately with the election of two contract negotiators at-large (one member from the classroom faculty and one member from the non-classroom faculty). Faculty members skilled in survey compilation and analysis of the data will be designing a survey to be sent to every member of the bargaining unit. It is critical that your negotiating team knows what your expectations, issues, and concerns are so that we can make assessments and decisions in preparation for upcoming negotiations. Someone once said to me if you don't vote, don't complain about who is elected. Similarly, if you don't respond to this survey...

In addition, members of the negotiating team will be available to attend departmental

meetings to listen to your concerns and solicit your input. We want to know what your realistic expectations are for this contract before we finalize the package and bring it to the Executive Board for its approval.

Finally, as each of you is aware, we tried (unsuccessfully) to extend this contract with a fair and equitable proposal. The negotiating process is a challenging, frustrating, time-consuming exercise which sometimes borders on futility but at its conclusion is a rewarding experience. It requires perseverance, dedication, and unity. I promise you the perseverance and dedication; I will need your unity to successfully achieve a fair and equitable settlement.

Barry

NEGOTIATORS AT-LARGE ELECTION is currently underway

All ballots must be returned to the NCCFT Office by **12:00 NOON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2008.** No late ballots will be counted.

The NCCFT Tellers Committee will announce the results of this election on/about FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008

NOTE THE CHANGE - SAVE THE DATE:

LEGISLATIVE LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 11:30-12:45

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
BLDG. F - ROOM 3293, GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK 11530-6793

Phone: (516) 572-7198

www.nccft.org

Fax: (516) 572-7342

Barry Fischler, President - M. Debra DeSanto, Vice President - James Hoyt, Vice President
Michael Anzelone, Secretary - Frank Frisenda, Treasurer

The Aaron Seligman Memorial Scholarship

The NCCFT is proud to now be offering this \$1000. scholarship to a full time NCC student. Information and the application can be found on the NCCFT.org website. The deadline is the second Friday in March.

BEST WISHES **To NCCFT's Recent Retirees**

*Steven Amdur - Leonard Durso - Joanna
Migliore - Patricia O'Beirne - Mary Smith*

***** INCOME TAX INFO *****

Faculty who were dues paying members of the NCCFT for January-December 2007 paid a total of **\$728 in union dues** (\$28 x 26 pay periods).

Those paying for dental coverage for a spouse or one dependent, paid **\$130** (\$5 x 26 pay periods).

Those paying for dental coverage for two or more dependents, paid **\$325** (\$12.50 x 26 pay periods).

As previously addressed, please be sure that your contract reads correctly. Section 23-3 P. 34 should read, "If class is cancelled, ...sick leave **WILL** be charged" (remove the word "**NOT**" if it already has not been eliminated).

****Note:** Effective January 1, 2008, for a 3-year period, New York State has awarded United Health Care and Medco the contract to manage the Empire Plan prescription drug program.

Retirees: Please be sure to update NCCFT on address and/or telephone number changes, especially the snowbirds. You can always keep in touch via e-mail at nccft@ncc.edu.

Check your coverage. Do you need to make changes?

Student Status Forms for Dental Spring '08
Personal Life Changes
Dependents No Longer Eligible for Coverage

Congratulations to Michael Anzelone on his election to the position of NCCFT Secretary

Review of: Richard D. Kahlenberg's *Tough Liberal: Albert Shanker and the Battles over Schools, Unions, Race, and Democracy* (published in 2007)

Written by: Professor Michael J. Anzelone, English Dept., Nassau Community College

Posthumously awarded the Medal of Freedom in 1988 by President Clinton, Albert Shanker, the "father of teacher unions," was a larger-than-life figure for decades. Kahlenberg's carefully-researched and well-documented book, part of the Columbia Contemporary American History Series, pays tribute to a complex man of many talents (Kahlenberg's "Notes" run to almost 100 pages and his Bibliography takes up 33 pages).

Kahlenberg focuses his book on Shanker's rise to positions of union leadership in the AFT, UFT, NYSUT and within the AFL-CIO in the 1950s and 1960s. During the Civil Rights era, Shanker shrewdly argued that "Teachers, like blacks, had been treated in a second-class way, and were engaged in an honorable struggle for a legitimate place" (43). Most of his ideas could be found each week in his justly-famous, decades-long column in *The New York Times* entitled "Where We Stand." By the late 1970s Albert Shanker was so influential as a union organizer that Woody Allen's film, *Sleeper*, had Allen wake up two hundred years in the future to learn that a madman named Albert Shanker has destroyed civilization with a nuclear warhead. Shanker once joked he had this bomb, metaphorically speaking, but he did not use it.

Later, taking a global point of view, Shanker's feeling was that, "For teachers, being treated with dignity is especially important because they are the models for the kids in our society" (369). Kahlenberg's book offers us a fresh look at an iconic union figure and does so in a way that certainly humanizes Shanker for us. We cannot help but smile a bit as Kahlenberg informs us about some of Shanker's antics with his union loyalists like when he would deliberately pretend that those great places to eat (while on the campaign trail) were only minutes away when, in truth, they were quite far away. Anything for a good meal on the road I guess! Shanker had a sense of humor after all! This book is a must read for those interested in this staunch union leader and/or a brief history of unions in New York.



JOIN THE CAST
BECOME PART OF THE FUN
ALL WELCOME
Joan Sevick 2-8179
Paul Biersuck 2-7049

NYSTRS Seminar

The AFA and NCCFT retirement committees are sponsoring a NYSTRS seminar. A representative from NYSTRS will discuss issues such as: membership rights and responsibilities, how to initiate the retirement process, transferring credit, your profile and service credit. There will be time for questions. Please bring your Benefit Profile with you. Although there will be no private consultations, having your Profile might help focus your questions. The NYSTRS representative will also have information about the latest legislations, should any bills be passed, in response to last year's questions regarding these issues.

Date: May 15, 2008 (Thursday)
Time: 5-7 pm
Place: CCB 253
Light refreshments will be available

Please complete this form and return it to:

Peg Renner
Suite #108
4940 Merrick Road
Massapequa Park, NY 11762
Or
Email: Profrenner@aol.com

I plan to attend:

Name _____

Department _____

Contact _____

Email _____

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

PROMOTION & TENURE COMMITTEE SABBATICAL LEAVE COMMITTEE

An election to fill vacancies on both the College-Wide Promotion & Tenure Committee and the College-Wide Sabbatical Leave Committee will be held in March, 2008.

Nominating petitions for these positions will be available in the NCCFT office FEBRUARY 19, 2008. Petitions must contain 25 signatures of NCCFT members in good standing. Completed petitions must be returned to the NCCFT office by **12:00 NOON, MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2008.**

Each candidate may submit a statement of *no more* than 75 words, which will be distributed with the official ballots.

Ballots and candidates' statements will be distributed through departmental mail on/about WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2008.

All ballots must be returned to the NCCFT Office by **12:00 NOON, TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008.** No late ballots will be counted.

The NCCFT Tellers Committee will announce the results of this election on/about MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2008.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY

Faculty members who serve on these committees must be currently tenured and must currently hold the rank of Associate Professor or above.

Faculty members are not eligible to serve on the P&T or Sabbatical Committee during the academic year in which they will be applying for promotion or sabbatical leave.

Faculty may serve two consecutive terms of two years each, after which, they may not run for re-election for at least two years.

No two members of the committee may be from the same department.

NCCFT SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, January 29th	Executive Board Meeting	11:30 AM	G - 109
Tuesday, February 12th	General Union Meeting	11:30 AM	Bldg. Q - Ballroom
Tuesday, February 26th	Executive Board Meeting	11:30 AM	G – 109
Tuesday, March 4th	Non-Tenured Faculty Meeting	11:30 AM	F – 123
Tuesday, March 18th	Executive Board Meeting	11:30 AM	G – 109
Tuesday, April 15th	Executive Board Meeting	11:30 AM	G – 109
Tuesday, April 29th *	Legislative Luncheon	11:30 AM	CCB/MP
Tuesday, May 6th	Executive Board Meeting	11:30 AM	G – 109
Tuesday, May 13th	End-of-Semester Luncheon	11:30 AM	CCB/MP
Thursday, May 22nd	Dinner & Operetta	5:00 PM	CCB/MP

*** *Note – Date Change***

**Nassau Community College
Federation of Teachers - #3150
Cluster F – Room 3293
1 Education Drive
Garden City, NY 11530-6793**