

YEAR 6, NUMBER 7- April 16, 2012

CFT 2012 CONVENTION REPORT

The 2012 CFT Convention was held April 13-15 in San Jose, and the Guild's four delegates (Mike Allen, Kathy Grammer, Ken Taira, and myself) were in attendance at various workshops and general sessions offered throughout the three-day event.

CFT's COPE Increase

The proposal to increase Per Capita dues by \$1 per month for each full-time employee was turned down by the Constitution Committee. However, effective September 1, 2012, and ending August 21, 2015, CFT will collect from its locals the amount of \$2.50 per month for each full-time faculty member (and a pro-rated amount for each adjunct faculty). This special assessment, approved as a constitutional amendment, is earmarked for CFT's political activities.

CFT Communication Awards

Once again, our Chaparral Editorial Board and contributors have made us proud. We won a total of three awards this year:

- Honorable Mention Best Original Art or Photograph for "Faculty/Alumni Dance Performance 2011" by Susan Cisco
- Second Place Best Feature Writing for "Buying Responsibly" by Michael Moreau
- First Place Best Flyer or Poster for "We've thought of a great idea..." by Susan Cisco

Congratulations to Susan and Michael, as well as the Chaparral Editorial Board, for another excellent year.

Adopted Resolutions

Many of the resolutions debated and ultimately adopted at the Convention pertained to K-12 and/or classified employees. Those of relevance to our group were the following:

- Guarantee stable, adequate, and equitable funding for adult (or Non-Credit, in our case) education.
- Spend down excessive reserves in district budgets
- Keep "community" in our community colleges (this resolution rejects the recommendations of the Student Success Task Force, and instead recommends a return to the principles put forth by the California Master Plan)
- Reduce U.S. military spending and redirect funds to vital public services

The Santa Monica College Two-Tier Model

CFT has retained Robert Bezemek, the leading labor attorney in the state, to fight and hopefully defeat the two-tiered instruction model pioneered by Santa Monica College.

The Corporate Deception Act

This proposal, which has already qualified for the November 2012 ballot, severely limits the activity of unions throughout the state. CFT has joined forces with the LA County Federation of Labor to defeat this damaging measure; the County Fed is planning on putting many boots on the ground between June and November to win this fight, and needs our union's assistance. I plan to devote a future Guild e-News to this topic; at that time, I will solicit volunteers to help with this effort.

Sincerely,

Isabelle Saber

Guild President