

The LRCFT is proud to have partnered in the past two months with LRCCD and the CFT in assisting with the creation and implementation of policies to assist our immigrant students. I want to thank our chief negotiator Belinda Lum for being the point person for us in these efforts.

The LRCFT has recently assisted our sibling unions in Los Angeles with a donation to CFT's *Disaster Relief Fund* to help dozens of members recover from the devastating fires last month.

To help keep higher education affordable and accessible for students, the LRCFT is helping to sponsor CFT's *The March in March*. Over 1,000 community college students from throughout the state will meet in Sacramento on the afternoon of March 4 to march to the Capitol for a rally with elected officials. Our collective goal is to call attention to the need to protect higher education.

Our faculty union continues to hold events for all faculty. These include Part Time faculty membership meetings at our union hall, social gatherings near the campuses, an American River cleanup project, and a joint picnic with SEIU and LRCEA planned for May. We are also sponsoring a dozen faculty to attend the *Advocacy and Policy Conference* hosted by the *Faculty Association of California Community Colleges* in late February.

The *Sacramento Central Labor Council* has recently honored the LRCFT and our past president, the late Dean Murakami, by naming a new library in his honor at the SCLC headquarters on K St. The new Dean Murakami Labor Library is now open and accepting donations.

The LRCFT is also taking a leading role in supporting LACLAA's *Cesar Chavez March*, the largest annual labor march in Sacramento. We are also helping to fund the five affinity-based Los Rios student graduations in May.

In closing, I want to welcome faculty union members Erica Tyler (FLC), Robert Unzueta (SCC), Ivan Zaigralin (CRC), and Bill Zangeneh-Lester (ARC) as new LRCFT board members. We have also recently appointed a new LRCFT Communications Coordinator, LaQuisha Beckum, psychology professor at American River College.

Thank you!

Jason Newman, LRCFT President

