

During our recent spring break, 15 LRCFT union members attended the annual CFT convention in San Diego. One highlight of the convention included a massive protest by over 1,000 teachers in front of a downtown federal courthouse. We also attended several workshops that focused on immigration policy, building our membership base, and negotiating contracts with our District partners.

The LRCFT also took part in the *Cesar Chavez March* in Sacramento on March 29th. Hundreds of students and community members gathered and marched to the Capitol to celebrate the Chavez legacy.

The CFT held its annual Legislative Lobby day at the Capitol today, April 9. We met with many local Assemblymembers and Senators to provide an overview of key legislation to improve the educational experience of community college students and the working conditions of faculty and classified professionals statewide. CFT sponsored legislation includes several bills to accomplish a range of improvements. These include bills to expand the Part Time Faculty Office Hour program to provide more office hours for student access; a bill to expand the College Promise grant program to include part time students; a bill to enable undocumented students to work on college campuses; and a bill to establish due process protections for part time faculty.

The LRCFT picnic this year will take place on Thursday, May 1 but in a different format and venue than in previous years. We have rented Oak Park Brewery in Sacramento from 4 to 8 pm with food and drinks provided by the brewery. We have also invited the classified professional unions--- LRCEA and SEIU 1021---to join us for a joint union celebration of the hard work by our collective membership in serving and teaching students in Los Rios.

In May, a dozen members of our Executive Board will engage in negotiations training in preparation for negotiations with the District in early 2026. In June we will also send another contingent of new board members to CFT's Union Summer school training program in Los Angeles.

The LRCFT is in the planning stages for a Faculty Health and insurance benefits conference scheduled for late August. In the past, we have partnered with FACCC in providing this conference and will do so again this year.

The LRCFT continues to support the efforts of faculty on the campuses to expand student success by funding Math Dept. Integration Bees and student affinity-based graduations at the end of this semester.

We will also circulate in April another issue of the *LRCFT Union News* that showcases faculty accomplishments on the four campuses.

The LRCFT's *Social Justice Caucus* (SJC) is donating \$3000 in gift cards to support students in the *Re-emerging Scholars Program* at each campus. Funds for this donation come from a special fundraiser hosted by the Caucus in support of students. Each campus's *Re-emerging Scholars Program* faculty coordinator will receive \$750 in visa gift cards to distribute to students. We trust that our faculty know their students best and will make sure that the funds go to students who can use a little extra support.

Thank you!

Jason Newman

LRCFT President