

Union Petition Drive a Success

Early this year Governor Clements announced his interest in obtaining money to make Federally-mandated improvements in the Texas prison system by cutting the State's contribution to the TRS/ORP retirement funds for teachers. The Texas Federation of Teachers (parent union of NHCC UF) responded promptly and effectively. First, a petition drive against this move was mounted; 50,000 signatures of teachers and administrators were collected statewide, including 75 from NHCC. Second, a protest rally was held at the Capitol on February 21. Several hundred teachers from around the state confronted lawmakers with their opposition to the plan. The rally produced assurances from lawmakers that the plan to raid teacher retirement funds would be abandoned.

NHCC United Faculty wishes to thank all colleagues who signed the petition.

Luncheon Meeting Brings Focus to Local Guild

After a month or two of post-election languishing and wound-licking, the NHCC United Faculty held a meeting for members and interested colleagues in the Private Dining Room of the South Campus Cafeteria. An excellent catfish dinner was catered by Joyce Brown and her staff (Thank you for a job well done!) Jan Friese, Director of Texas United Faculty, spoke afterwards and got us moving with suggestions for projects for the spring and fall of this year. After reviewing many possibilities, the group decided that its priorities would be 1) influencing the Legislature to preserve community college funding and 2) recruiting new members.

Good Participation in Letter-Writing Parties

On April 7 (South Campus) and April 9 (East Campus) the NHCC United Faculty hosted sessions for writing letters in support of funding for NHCC to elected state officials. All faculty were invited. The union provided stationary, pens, stamps, names and addresses, and information and advice on what to say. The response was gratifying. On the South Campus 23 people attended, and on the East Campus there were 7; a total of 91 personal, handwritten letters (the kind legislators pay attention to) were mailed.

Our thanks to those who came and wrote. We have one further request: if you receive a reply, please send a copy to Alan Hall, Suite 217, South Campus.

Tutoring Days for High School Students

The NHCC United Faculty is assisting the Houston Federation of Teachers in organizing free final exam tutoring sessions for area high school students. All sessions will be held on the South Campus in Room A-131 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. On Tuesday, May 19, there will be math tutoring; on Wednesday, May 20, math tutoring; on Thursday, May 21, science and social science tutoring.

Congratulations to our sister union for this service!