

NORTH HARRIS COUNTY COLLEGE UNITED FACULTY

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THE ADVOCATE

MAY 1990

EDITED BY OLIN JOYNTON

President's Column

by Alan Hall

One of the primary goals of AFT is to promote excellence in education. The annual awards ceremony is a fine way for the college to recognize its outstanding employees, and the AFT is always gratified to see our members among the recipients. The following employees were recently recognized for outstanding achievement. An asterisk denotes an AFT member. We congratulate winners and are pleased to see their commitment to excellence honored.

TEACHER EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Teresa Beckers
Carolyn Davis*
Olin Joynton*

Joan Samuelson*
Sherri White
Sheryl Young

SUPPORT STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Vickie Daniels
Margaret Jamison
Patricia Plunk*

Helen Schmidt
Suzanne Staats
Tricia Walker

Frances White

WRITING AWARDS

Lynda Dodgen
James T. Moore

Adrian Rapp
Marilyn Rhinehart*

The AFT leadership occasionally hears that some NHCC employees are afraid to join the union. The fear seems to be that union membership will somehow stigmatize an employee, preventing him or her from gaining recognition for high quality service to the College. As a matter of fact, the union has attracted many of the College's best employees. Their names appear, year after year, in the rolls of those honored by the College for excellence in their work. Congratulations to all the award winners!

"Education for Democracy — Democracy for Education"

Come on all of you good workers
 Good news to you I'll tell
 Of how the good old union
 Has come in here to dwell.

I use this stanza from the song, "Which Side Are You On?" by Florence Reece, written in 1932, because it reflects the sentiments of myself and the members of our new local. By way of introduction, we are the Paraprofessionals and School-Related Personnel, Local 4518, AFT/AFL-CIO.

I am Greg Mitchell, President of the local; our Vice Presidents are Mel McFadden for the South Campus and Marge Brown for the East Campus. When our organizational process began, I feared that we would be dismissed as a wobbly group. Our members, however, have already proven to be firm and committed. Our initial membership drive has been phenomenal and has convinced me that we will not bloom in one season and wither in another. We are here to stay and grow.

As new as we are, we already have two items of pressing importance. One is to inform school employees about what "blended rates" for health insurance means. Our other major concern, as with any new organization, is recruitment. Our goal is that every support staff person be aware of his or her right to join. The group that does not know about our union and the many benefits it offers is unfortunately still in the majority. So please tell your colleagues about the opportunities available to them through our local. All prospective new members should be directed to Mel or Marge.

I will be writing a regular column in the Advocate about PSRP concerns. If there are any issues or news you would like to have shared in the newsletter, please contact me.

AFT Officers Elected

The following AFT members were elected to two-years terms as officers of NHCC United Faculty.

President: Alan Hall (443-5547)

East Campus Vice-President: Steve Davis, (359-1645)

South Campus Vice-President: Cher Brock (443-5572)

Treasurer: Allen Vogt (443-5583)

Secretary: Bob Locander (443-5597)

Our thanks to these members who are willing to serve on the Executive Committee.