



AFT LONE STAR

Local union # 4518

AFL-CIO / American Federation of Teachers / Texas AFT



January - March 2026 Edition



The Advocate

AFT Lone Star College is pleased to present the January – March, 2026 issue of our union newsletter, The Advocate.

With this issue, we are trying out a new format that more fully takes advantage of the features of online publication. In particular, in the table of comments below, you can click directly to the article you want to read without having to scroll. More generally, we hope this format will be easier to access and read across all platforms and overall just look nicer! We would love to hear what you think of the new format – **whether you love it, hate it, or anywhere in between, Take the quick poll below this article.** Please send any written feedback to aftlonestar@yahoo.com. Please, no rocks through the office window of the union president even if you really, really, really hate the new format. :)



The first three articles in this issue all go together. We are first going to explore MORE of the changes in law passed in last year's legislative session that impact how we do business at Lone Star. (Yes, there really is more than what we have covered so far, if you can believe it.) My standing column, Know Your Rights, moves into second slot this month to address Academic Freedom – what it is, what it isn't, and where it stands in light of the dizzying array of legislative change. We delve a bit into the origins of Academic Freedom to see how fights from 110 years ago connect to the hot button issues of today. You will see that news is much better than you may have thought and we should teach boldly! But, in the third article we explore why the situation is far less than good for our brothers and sisters in the universities, and concerns for where things might go for us at Lone Star down the road.

After what I will call our Academic Freedom Trilogy, Steve Davis returns with his ongoing column Dispatches from the Front. In this episode Steve tackles concerns with AI in higher education head on as he Rages Against the Machine, giving us a lot to think about the future of higher education and our responsibility in making sure that future is positive for upcoming generations of students.

Next we have a guest article about an unfortunate incident on the Tomball campus in which a beloved native species garden was destroyed and how this mistake reflects the challenges of systemization, loss of institutional memory, and respect for the diverse contributions of grassroots faculty and staff.

After that, I return with some thoughts about the really promising Promotion in Place pilot for non-supervisory staff available this year. This could be a great opportunity for some employees to improve their financial situation without having to move away from jobs they really love. With early voting already underway for the 2026 Democratic and Republican primaries we next share some resources we believe will help you as think about who you want to vote for. Don't forget to vote! Turnout in early voting is running very slowly.

Finally, we close out this edition with the second installation of our new column Good and Welfare sharing triumphs and challenges you, Lone Star College employees, want to share with your brother and sister employees. Our goal, as I have stated before, is to build the union as community because we are all human and we are all in this together.

Before you hop into the articles, let me close with an early announcement that our union's Spring Celebration has been scheduled for Saturday, May 2 at 5 in the evening at Swanny's. Please mark your calendars. It is a great evening of good food, good music, and good fellowship and we want EVERYONE to come, whether you are currently a member of AFT Lone Star College or whether you are just thinking about it!

Please know your union is here to work with you to make Lone Star College an even greater place to work. If you need us for anything, please check out the list of officers on the last page.

All the best to all of you from AFT Lone Star College.

We want to know! How do you like our new digital newsletter?

Love it!

It's ok

I like the old PDF format better

Before you start reading this edition, check out union events, benefits, and membership info below!

UPCOMING EVENTS



**AFT Lone Star
SPRING CELEBRATION**

AFT BENEFIT SPOTLIGHT



Spring Break is Coming!

MEMBERSHIP



AFT Lone Star is for YOU!

is Scheduled for:
Saturday, May 2nd, 2026
from 5-8 pm
@ Swanny's!

We've got savings on car rentals, hotels, (B+B's or vacation home rentals), travel experiences & tours to your bucket list destinations. Roam, reset and reconnect with real travel savings from Union Plus!

Whether you are a new LSC employee or a seasoned one, we encourage you to join the union!

Learn more here:

[Join AFT Lone Star College | AFT Lone Star College](#)

CLICK HERE TO RSVP!!!

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE!

CLICK HERE TO JOIN AFT!

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CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD ALL ARTICLES IN PDF FORMAT

We invite all employees to send us their opinions, news, questions, and so forth. *The Advocate* is a forum for information and free interchange of ideas. Send your ideas or articles to **John Burghduff** via e-mail: aftlonestar@yahoo.com , or submit to any of the following officers.

First Name	Last Name	Officer Title	Campus
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Earl	Brewer	Secretary	At-Large
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AFT Lone Star, Local Union #4518 

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