



April- May 2026 Edition



The American Federation of Teachers – Lone Star College is pleased to present to you the April-May 2026 edition of our newsletter The Advocate!

With the end of Spring Semester in sight and summer just over the horizon, AFT Lone Star sincerely hopes that this has been an awesome school year for you. We also wish to extend a hearty invitation to join us at our Spring Celebration to be held on the evening of Saturday, May 2 at Swanny's in the Willowbrook area. This event is open to ALL Lone Star College employees and their guests FOR FREE. Please come join us for great food, live music, lively fellowship, and special prizes. For more information, please see the Spring Celebration announcement in this newsletter. RSVP by May 29<sup>th</sup>!

Over the course of this school year, we have frequently used the pages of The Advocate to report on the brutal attack on academic freedom for faculty and students, work from home opportunities for college staff, and the rights of marginalized communities occurring all across the United States but especially at some of the public four year university systems here in Texas. The attacks are still going strong and, if the same political leaders get reelected this November, could even get worse. However, I am proud, and grateful, to say that the Administration and the Board of Trustees of Lone Star College are standing strong against these pressures.

So, we will continue to write about these major state and national upheavals in the fall but, for the time being, we can take the luxury of focusing this edition mostly on the home front. Therefore, the majority of this edition will focus on what we can do to make life better for faculty, staff, and students right here at LSC.

In the coming pages you will see articles on addressing the problem of overworked and exhausted staff, providing resources for employees and students of all types who are struggling with soaring costs, striving to ensure academic integrity in online classes, and constructively engaging with AI in our classrooms. We do provide a reminder that there is a runoff election in May that will significantly impact our choices in November. (Don't forget to educate yourself and vote!)

In my ongoing column Know Your Rights, I always write about Lone Star policies and how they impact every employee. In this issue I focus on practical nuts and bolts advice about what to do if (heaven forbid) you suddenly find yourself in trouble with a supervisor at work. This advice is practical and applicable whether you are faculty or staff. Steve Davis's column Dispatches from the Front celebrates the upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of American independence by taking a fresh and lively look at the document that started it all. Our newest column Good and Welfare returns with more news submitted directly by Lone Star employees related to events you are celebrating or challenges for which you would appreciate the thoughts and prayers of your fellow employees.

CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD ALL ARTICLES IN ONE PDF FORMAT ( Like the old version of The Advocate)

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## Check out union events, benefits/discounts, & membership information below!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
AFT Lone Star's  
**FREE TILL FALL Membership window opens on May 1st, 2026 and closes on May 30th, 2026!**

**FYI! Save the date!**  
AFT Lone Star **FREE-TIL-FALL Membership window opens on May 1st, 2026!**



Take a few months to explore the benefits of joining the union without paying membership dues! Join now and don't pay until September 2026!

**JOIN THE UNION!**

- Local staff & leaders ready to assist when you need advice, help & information
- We are located in Houston for your convenience (not an 800 number)
- Strong leaders advocating for your rights at the local, state and national levels
- Professional resources, workshops & trainings to help you succeed in your career
- No conflict of interest—Administrators cannot join
- Legal defence Funds (in case you need an attorney) \*
- \$25,000 accidental death and dismemberment policy \*
- \$8M professional occupational liability insurance policy \*
- \$5,000 free term life insurance for 1st year of membership \*
- AFT PLUS savings & discounts for you and your family

\* These benefits start as of your first dues payment on September 15th, 2026  
Website: [www.aftlonestar.org](http://www.aftlonestar.org)



### AFT BENEFIT SPOTLIGHT



#### Summer is Coming!

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!

**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE!**

### MEMBERSHIP



#### AFT Lone Star is for YOU!

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 JOIN AFT!**

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Website: [www.aftlonestar.org](http://www.aftlonestar.org)

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](mailto:aftlonestar@yahoo.com) , or submit to any of the following officers.

First Name	Last Name	Officer Title	Campus
John	Burghduff	President	Cyfair
Alan	Hall	President Emeritus	At- Large
Earl	Brewer	Secretary	At-Large
Erik	Oslund	Treasurer	Montgomery
Travis	Scott	North Harris Faculty Vice President	North Harris
Britney	Hall	North Harris Staff Vice President	North Harris
Pat	Chandler	Kingwood Staff Vice President	Kingwood

Cliff	Hudder	Montgomery Faculty Vice President	Montgomery
Martha	Neely	Montgomery Staff Vice President	Montgomery
Adrienne	Patton	Cyfair Faculty Vice President	Cyfair
Cindy	Hoffart-Watson	Cyfair Staff Vice President	Cyfair
Van	Piercy	Tomball Faculty Vice President	Tomball
Dierdre	Hayes-Cootz	Tomball Staff Vice President	Tomball
Cathleen	Quayle	System Office, Staff Vice President	System Office
Katie	Truax	University Park Faculty Vice President	University Park
Hilary	Harris	Online College Faculty Vice President	Online College

[CLICK HERE TO READ PAST ISSUES OF THE ADVOCATE!](#)