



November-December 2026 Edition

The Advocate

AFT Lone Star College proudly presents our November-December 2026 Edition of our union newsletter *The Advocate*.

I was just looking over the introductory page to our September-October edition and thinking, wow, what a difference a couple of months can make – and not just because of the return of cooler weather as awesome as that is. Our last edition was filled with considerable hand-wringing about what the coming year and the upcoming legislative session might bring to Lone Star College and to higher education in Texas in general. Now, as audacious as I know this sounds, those threats are basically GONE.

Our lead article in this edition is Professor Steve Davis's latest installation of his column "Dispatches from the Front", giving his reflections on the breathtaking results of the November 3 elections. He writes about all of the new faces that will occupy the halls of power in Austin and Washington and the changes that are coming to make life for Americans better.

I follow up with an article focusing on the impacts of the election on Lone Star College and other community colleges and universities in Texas. For the first time in literally decades we can work to make higher education work better for Texas students and for those of us who work so hard to serve them. We don't get to just sit back and watch, however! It is up to us to keep the momentum going to reverse the harm caused over the last many years and to make Texas a model for what public education at all levels can look like. My article includes thoughts on what WE (including YOU) can do to help.

A thousand thanks to the nearly 1000 Lone Star employees who filled out our AFT Lone Star College all employee survey earlier this fall. 989 thanks to 989 employees to be completely precise. It is going to take us a while to sort through all of the great information you provided to us. We'll have a more thorough report in the editions of *The Advocate* that will come out in the Spring. To get us started, though, in the third article of this issue, I share with you a few observations from the data that popped out to me right away. Tangentially, these observations connect to the election as well. I report on the impacts that threats on academic freedom and a greater emphasis on student success measures are having on both full time and adjunct faculty at Lone Star as reflected by YOUR feedback. Please look. There are some surprises!

Next, we have, not one, but two op ed pieces submitted by Lone Star College employees to our newsletter. I am proud and thrilled that more and more employees see *The Advocate* as a great place to maintain a conversation about issues of importance to all of us and want to participate. Op ed pieces are WELCOME. If you have something you want to say about life at Lone Star or about education in general, please submit it to us at **aftlonestar@yahoo.com** and we will publish it in our next edition. You can ask to have your piece published either with or without your name as you prefer and we will honor that request.

I am particularly pleased that *The Advocate* is becoming something of an open forum on Artificial Intelligence, clearly both the biggest opportunity and the biggest challenge for higher education to come along in a generation. We need a safe and welcoming space to explore AI and how it impacts the work we do. I am proud that Lone Star employees see our newsletter as such a space. Our first op ed piece of this edition, by English Professor Kristie Boston from LSC – Online, focuses on AI Governance, which, she explains, includes academic integrity, but much more as well.

The second op ed piece, submitted *sine nomine*, focuses on student success measures (refer back to my article on survey results on the same topic) with an important cross reference to AI as well.

My usual column, Know Your Rights, takes a brief hiatus (because yours truly is running behind schedule) but will return in the Spring. This edition of *The Advocate* concludes with our ongoing column “Good and Welfare” sharing important moments in the lives of Lone Star employees because, as I always try to emphasize, a union is about community.

In closing, best of wishes to everyone in the greater circle of Lone Star College as we approach a season in which so many cultures celebrate light. Light overcoming darkness. A lamp that doesn’t burn out. A star in the east lighting the way. The return of the sun. Candles representing enduring principles. This year FEELS like a season of new light. May we all find that light in ourselves, amongst friends and family, and in communion with the Love in whom we live and move and have our being.

CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD ALL ARTICLES IN PDF FORMAT

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

ADVOCACY DAY- MARCH 2027 **AFT BENEFIT SPOTLIGHT** **MEMBERSHIP**







DATE/ TIME TBA!

Join AFT Lone Star as we take a trip to our State Capital in Austin, TX to lobby our State Legislators for better pay, working conditions, & learning conditions in Texas Schools and Colleges!

Holidays are Coming!

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

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

INTERESTED? SIGN UP HERE FOR UPDATES!

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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.

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AFT Lone Star, Local Union #4518

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