



TCNJ's Local 2364 is affiliated with the **Council of New Jersey State College Locals**, the bargaining agent for more than 7,000 professional staff, librarians and full-time, part-time and adjunct faculty at the nine state colleges/universities of New Jersey.

Dear TCNJ Campus Community,

Welcome back and welcome to our Union local's monthly newsletter. We are hoping to share information about what your Union is doing to further education on campus and positive relations with the greater community.

Meeting Schedule:

Our local meets monthly on the third Wednesday of each month at 3:00 in Social Science 326.

Our February meeting on the 20th will include both a business meeting and a discussion of *Democracy in Chains* by Nancy MacLean. If you haven't picked up your copy, we still have some in the Union office, Social Science 242. The office is open Monday through Friday mornings until noon.

Negotiations Update:

Our State Council has organized its negotiation team for contract negotiations for the 2019-2023 contract. The committee members have reviewed the results of the membership survey that asked for your preferences for what you would like to see the team fight for at the negotiations table. While N.J. State law prevents the team members' from sharing specifics at this point, we can tell you that your preferences have been placed into the Union's list of demands.

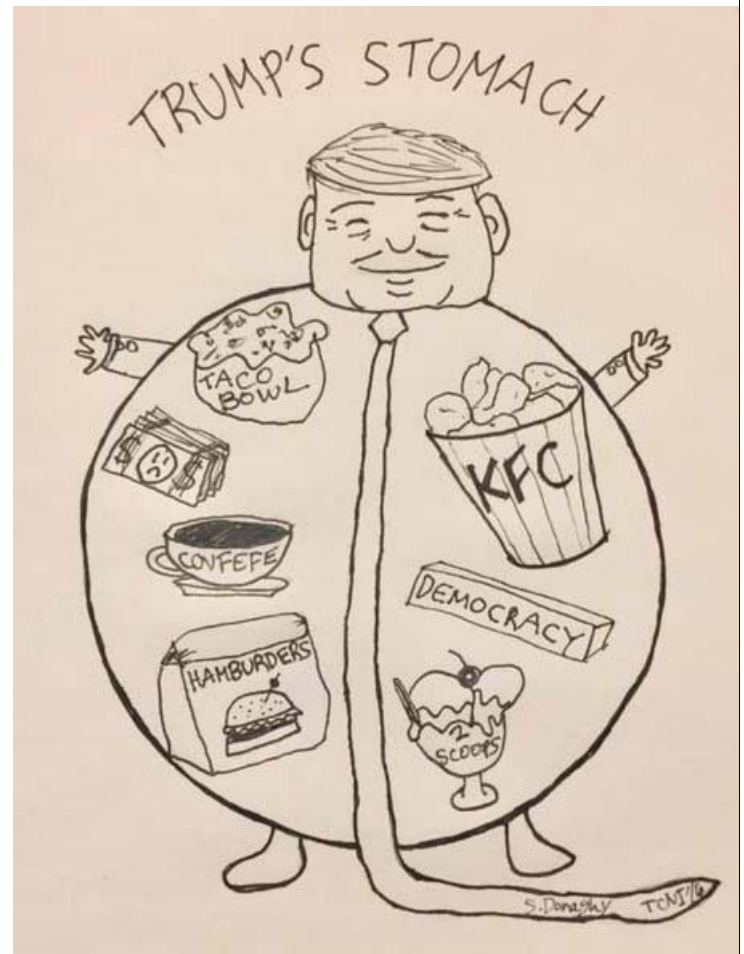
The Council and its team are meeting regularly to prepare for negotiations. N.J. law requires that the Union wait until the State formally requests the start of negotiations, and the State has now set two negotiating dates: March 8 and March 29. Stay tuned for updates.

AFL-CIO:

Did you know that the AFL-CIO runs an academy to teach members how to run for political office? If you are interested in running for office, contact one of our local's officers to find out how to take advantage of this.

AFL-CIO (continued)

And, if you are interested in politics and in making a difference, our local needs someone to serve as our legislative representative to the Mercer County Labor Council. In exchange for an occasional Friday evening meeting, our representative gets to spend meaningful time with New Jersey's Senators and Assemblymen and women. Contact John Krimmel (krimmel@tcnj.edu) if you are interested.



Did You Know?

At the end of the day, Local Executive Committee member Nancy Lasher relieves stress by chopping? Her hobby is cooking so she spends her spare time in the kitchen. Nancy's definition of "power tools" consists of her food processor, stand mixer, and stick blender.

Community Outreach:

AFT Local 2634 is committed to being an agent of positive change in our community, both on campus and beyond. In 2018, we established a Community Outreach Committee, whose mandate is to identify and organize outreach efforts that align with our broader goals, such as improving student success and access to affordable higher education, and promoting positive and safe work environments. The current committee members include Karen Gordon (Education Administration and Secondary Education), Chamont Wang (Mathematics and Statistics), and Matthew Wund (Committee Chair, Biology).

At our October 2018 General Membership Meeting, our members approved a donation of up to \$4,000 to support TCNJ's "Lions Lifting Lions" program. This program, run by Student Affairs, provides meal cards and temporary housing stipends to TCNJ students facing emergent financial insecurity. This fund was established several years ago, and is supported entirely by donations. AFT's donation was structured as a matching gift challenge during the November 1 Lions Day of Giving. Ours was the first matching program to meet its goal on the Lions Day of Giving, thanks in large part to the additional donations from many of our members. Thus, our initial donation of \$2,000 was quickly increased to \$4,000. Thanks to our members for so generously supporting our students in need! And thank you also to Sean Stallings, Interim VP for Student Affairs, and AFT member Laura Smith, from the Office of Development and Alumni Engagement, for helping us to see this initiative through.

In May of 2018, members of the Eastern Service Workers Association delivered a moving presentation at our annual AFT luncheon. The

Community Outreach (continued)

ESWA is a free and voluntary membership organization based in Trenton that provides a variety of services to the working poor. For example, they connect members with pro bono legal services, emergency food and clothing, preventative medical and dental care, child care, and information about alcohol treatment programs, job referral services, and financial advocacy. Many of their initiatives use a model in which members help one another. Each year, AFT Local 2634 supports their efforts with a \$1,000 donation. This December, our Outreach Committee organized a successful toy drive that helped ESWA members provide gifts to their children at the ESWA holiday dinner. With only two-weeks' notice, our members came through with dozens of toys, ranging from soccer balls and art supplies to bicycles. The volunteers at the ESWA office were overwhelmed with the generosity of our members. A week later, about 10 of our members spent a Friday volunteering at ESWA's holiday food drive. We helped package and deliver meals to more than 90 families of ESWA members in Trenton.

This semester, TCNJ will be cutting the ribbon on a campus food pantry, which will be accessible to TCNJ students, faculty and staff who find themselves too financially burdened to purchase staple groceries. Our Outreach Committee members met with several members of the Office of the Dean of Students to discuss how we might contribute to this important initiative. Currently, their greatest unmet need is to stock the pantry with personal health and hygiene items (shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.). So please stay tuned—we will be asking our members to bring donated items to our monthly membership meetings, and to donate these items regularly in the Dean of Students office.

Contact Us:

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Monday through Friday mornings until noon.