



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 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 3:00pm in the Social Sciences Building, Room 326. Our meetings this semester are February 19, April 15 and May 20. Additionally, our end of year lunch will take place on Monday, May 11.

President's Column

Exercise Your Rights!

Last fall as we revved up our *Working Without a Contract* campaign, one of the things I noticed (besides our members' incredible commitment—thank you again) is how difficult it can be for people to get to meetings and to protests. I often heard “sorry I can't be there [or sorry I wasn't there] but I had another meeting.” Let's set the record straight: If this is a third Wednesday of the month at 3:00 in the afternoon, there are no conflicting meetings. That is designated AFT meeting time at TCNJ (with extended time to 4:50 if needed...I try hard not to need it). As for other AFT activities, we all suffer from time constraints. I have many days when I wish I could clone myself. Because science hasn't cooperated with my urge to be in two places at once, I need to think hard about my priorities. As I set my priorities, I think about the signal I send to others, especially the administration, by prioritizing my union business over other things.

The takeaway from our fall *Working Without a Contract* actions is how much we can achieve when we work together in prioritizing our AFT business. You all were my “Dream Team” for getting the job done, and now that we have a contract to ratify that is only the beginning. As you have seen in this new contract, several important items were pushed down for local negotiation. We need to continue to make our strength felt on our campus as we work to protect our rights.

As I get to know the local presidents from the other eight campuses, I've learned that several campus locals meet more often than we do. And some campus locals socialize once a month, with so many members in attendance at their “payday parties” that they're often able to conduct union business while having fun. I'd like to start a tradition (or habit) of getting us together occasionally for some food and fun. If anyone would like to work with me on this, please let me know.

In Solidarity,
Nancy Lasher, President TCNJ Local 2364

The New AFT Contract

As most of you know by now, late last year the New Jersey AFT leadership, including Nancy Lasher, Dave Prenskey, and John Krimmel, reached a tentative agreement with the state on two new 2019-2023 contracts, one for adjunct faculty and one for full- and part-time professional staff, faculty and librarians. You will soon be receiving information from the Council explaining how to vote on ratifying the full- and part-time agreement. [The adjunct agreement ratification vote took place during the first half of January.] The main details of the new adjunct contract have been posted at <http://cnjscl.org>, and the details of the full-time/part-time contract will be posted there in advance of the ratification vote. The ratification vote will begin the last week in January, as the Council wanted to wait until all campuses were back in session. The negotiating team unreservedly urges you to vote **YES** to ratify the new agreement.

Community Outreach and the Super Bowl

Thanks to all of the AFT members and their families who volunteered at the ESWA holiday food basket distribution. You helped pack and deliver meals to ~50 families in need.

The new year brings new opportunities to help ESWA. This week you can buy and/or help assemble authentic tamales—a perfect addition to your Super Bowl Party! Suggested donation is \$10 for ½ dozen and \$20 for a dozen. Meat, vegetarian and vegan fillings are available. EWSA will be cooking and assembling the tamales on January 30 through February 1, likely at Trinity United Methodist Church, across the street from campus. Or, you can pick up your order in the Biology Building on Friday January 31. Check out Matt Wund’s January 3 email for more details on how to order and/or help out.

AFT Benefits: ID Theft Protection

The AFT has launched a free benefit to protect members against identity theft—the fastest-growing crime in America. We have partnered with **CLC ID Protect** to offer all members, including retirees, an ID Threat Score as well as assistance in the event you are a victim of identity theft. Members who register for the free benefit will have an opportunity to purchase additional comprehensive individual or family ID theft protection. These upgraded services include 24/7 credit monitoring, \$1million of ID theft insurance, enhanced fraud and credit resolution services, and more. Find out more at <https://www.aft.org/member-benefits>.

A Resolution to Keep You and Your Union Healthy in 2020

It’s that time of year when we look forward with anticipation to the new year and make resolutions to look after our health better than we did last year. Or at least recover from the excesses of the holiday. The holistic view of health is that you need to balance body, mind and spirit. So, when you vow to do more exercise and eat better, remember that you also need to nurture your mind and spirit. Participation in organizations of like-minded people is known to be good for us. If you started coming to union meetings and joined the successful *Working Without a Contract* actions in the fall, then please try to continue to find time to work with your colleagues so that we can make our strength felt on our campus and continue to work to protect our rights.

Teaching about Climate Change

Students and educators have often been at the forefront of social justice movements. In the fight to

combat climate change much of the leadership has come from high school students. The Global Climate Strike was started by Swedish 16 year old, Greta Thunberg. It has mobilized millions of young people worldwide to work for environmental policy change.

However, many American teens and young adults still have a flawed understanding of climate change. Researchers have found that their teachers make three common mistakes in discussing this complicated issue that contribute to student confusion. The first is to discuss both the scientific perspective on climate change and the skeptics’ perspective on climate change. This suggests that there are two rational points of view and doesn’t make clear that there is a scientific consensus on the cause of climate change. It gives credibility to perspectives that are not supported by science or climate data. Another mistake is to suggest that students make up their own minds about the causes of global warming and climate change when they don’t have the scientific expertise necessary to do so. Finally, teachers let students debate whether climate change is real. These methods all promote the idea that there is some kind of scientific controversy about climate change and give credence to the misinformation from climate deniers and skeptics.



Contact Us

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