

TCNJ AFT NEWSLETTER

FALL 2024

CONSTITUTION REWORK

On September 18th at the General Membership meeting, TCNJFT voted to execute the executive board's proposal to revise our Local's Constitution. The last time this constitution was revised and approved was 1997. Some of the reasons to revise the Constitution are that in the 27 years since this last revision, our activities, goals, actions, and committees have evolved, we must be able to respond to the ongoing changes in the landscape of higher education, and the desire to align with the goals and values of AFTNJ and AFT National more closely.

DELAYING LEADERSHIP VOTE



At the September 18 General Membership meeting, TCNJFT leadership presented the Executive Board's rationale and plan for revising our Local's Constitution, a process that will engage our membership so that our updated constitution reflects our collective vision and values for our union. After discussing this plan, the members present voted to execute it as we proposed. For your information, I have attached the slides associated with this discussion, which present the rationale for this effort and the proposed timeline. The approved timeline can also be found below.

Critically, following this timeline required a vote on whether to postpone officer elections from Spring 2025 to the beginning of Fall 2025. This vote took place at the October 16 General Membership meeting, and the postponement of elections was approved.

TCNJ AFT NEWSLETTER

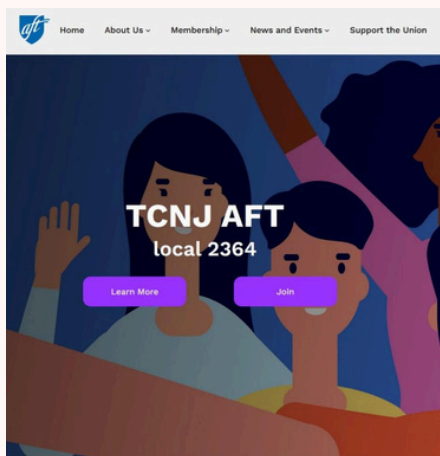
FALL 2024

HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS RISE

Starting in 2025, our healthcare premiums will increase by 4.5%. While this may sound like a lot, the state was proposing a much greater amount. To avoid this situation, a coalition of unions provided several proposals for cost-saving measures that the state rejected. This is not an ideal situation, and we will continue to pressure the state to consider our options in order to avoid another cost increase to our healthcare. As an example of what to expect, if you are currently contributing \$100 per paycheck to your health coverage, that amount would go up to \$104.50 per paycheck.

For more information, please refer to the email from TCNJ AFT President Mathew Wund on 10/18/2024 as well as review “The Councils” prepared [FAQ_Council of NJ State College Locals](#)

WEBSITE REDESIGN LAUNCHES



We launched our new website on October 15. View our beautifully designed homepage and revamped theme.

» tcnjft.org

This is the first step to our exciting expansion in digital offerings. Offer your own feedback and suggestions for the web and reach out to Alex Reinhard (alexbreinhard@gmail.com).

TCNJ AFT NEWSLETTER

FALL 2024

OUR END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION



Thursday, December 5, we celebrated the TCNJ community and the achievements of our AFT Local with delicious food and good company. Thank you all that joined for the annual get-together!

MEETING RECAP

SEPTEMBER

The SHOP Campaign 193, NTPP Promotion MOA, AFT Scholarships announced, gratitude and well-wishes for our outgoing Office manager Merilee Hutton, NJ higher ed reorganization discussion, presentation from Jen Higgins, president of AFT NJ, LIONS Plan discussion on faculty workload re-negotiation, discussion of constitution revisions.

OCTOBER

Constitution revision discussion, LIONS Plan discussion on faculty workload re-negotiation, announcement of updated website, financial reports on TCNJFT finances, membership, professional staff, librarians, and adjuncts, Social Justice/Community Outreach report, and Legislative Liaison/COPE report.

NOVEMBER

New website, photography needed; Local negotiation update; LIONS plan update; Evaluation process for VAPs; CWA/IFPTE layoffs; Constitution revision update

TCNJ AFT NEWSLETTER



FALL 2024

COMMITTEE UPDATES

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

This semester we are continuing to create our semesterly newsletter. The website has also gone live at <http://tcnjft.org/> . To join the communications committee, email John Marshall at marshalj@tcnj.edu.

COPE COMMITTEE

The COPE committee has been quite busy with attending fundraisers and talking to some of our representatives. As we know, public education relies on public money. The Committee on Political Education works to support leaders in New Jersey who advocate for a better higher education system. If you want to help us lobby or engage in other political action, or just want more information, email COPE Chair, Susanna Monseau tcnjft2364@gmail.com.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

The financial committee's regular duties are setting and managing the annual budget. To join, email Marc Brescia at bresciam@tcnj.edu.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Investment Committee is dedicated to reviewing and finding investment opportunities for budgeted funds. To join the Investment Committee, email Terrence Bennett at tbennett@tcnj.edu

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Partnered with the SHOP food pantry to support Campaign 193 to help the Shop become self-sustaining; survey AFT membership for SJ priorities and desired union events; planning biweekly emails of TCNJ SJ opportunities and a speaker series for the coming semesters. To join the Social Justice Committee, email Zach Gall at gall4@tcnj.edu.

TCNJ AFT NEWSLETTER



FALL 2024

EVENTS

PAST EVENTS

Thursday, December 5: Brews & Bites—to celebrate the TCNJ community and the achievements of our AFT Local

UNION RESOURCES

CONTRACTS

New contracts for 23-27 were approved in December 2023. Find both the full time and adjunct faculty agreements on [CNJSCL.org](https://cnjscl.org).

MOAS

MOA #145, (Intellectual Property and Scholarly Works Agreement), was established in January 2024. Find a full list of MOA's on tcnjft.org/memoranda-of-agreement/.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

MEETINGS

We want your voice heard. The easiest way to get more involved is to attend our monthly meetings.

COMMITTEES

If you want to take a more active role in shaping our union, consider joining one of our many committees.

EVENTS

Attend one of our many events from trainings to resource education.