



On the following pages, you'll find the Candidates Statements for the 2023/2024 District Wide Officers Election.

The candidates are presented in randomized order for those running for the office of:

- President
- First Vice President
- Second Vice President
- Treasurer
- Recording Secretary
- Grievance Secretary

Thanks to all who are participating in this process.

Candidate for President: Hazel Alonzo



<https://solidarity-aft1521a.com/>

My name is Hazel Alonzo, and I am running for the office of **President**.

In my tenure as President for AFT1521A from the term 2020-2023, I have participated and represented the membership as a voting member for the Joint Labor Management Benefits Committee (JLMBC), Executive Committee of the District Budget Committee (ECDBC), District Budget Committee (DBC), and Co-Chief Negotiator of the 2020-2023 Negotiations Team. I have continuously served as a committee member for the Council of Classified Employees (CCE) at the national level, garnishing more attention towards classified needs at the community college level. And lastly, I am also very proud and honored to currently serve as A Union of Educators & Classified Professionals (CFT) Vice President for the term of 2023-2025. In the pool of 24 CFT Vice Presidents for all of California, only 4 are within the ranks of classified staff, only 2 being within the community colleges and it is a great privilege to serve in this coveted role.

My goal as President is to strengthen the fight for equity and equality for all Unit 1 members. I will strive for unity, ensuring that our voices are heard as one, and together we will be an unstoppable voice. I am here for all of you, as a fellow member and an advocate for our fights against the administration.

I promise to be a President who listens, acts, and delivers. Your concerns will always be my top priority, never wavering with my convictions and fortitude. Together, we can build a stronger, more integrated union and as such, I am committed to working tirelessly for each and every one of you. Join me on this journey.

I humbly ask for your vote to serve as your President once again.

**In Strength and Unity!**  
**Hazel Alonzo for President**

## Candidate for President: Andrea Edwards



### **Andrea Edwards** **Candidate For AFT1521A President**

I am honored to announce my candidacy for re-election as the President of AFT1521A. As a Union, we have faced various challenges, including internal conflicts that have left some members vulnerable and disillusioned. Nevertheless, my focus remains on serving our members and fostering a culture of unity and cooperation, which is vital for building a strong and resilient Union.

As the elected President of AFT 1521A, my commitment to fighting for our members' rights has never wavered despite unrelenting challenges. My sole focus is on upholding the dignity of our Union's rich history and legacy, which I hold in the highest esteem, and restoring our reputation.

When I took office in July 2023, I prioritized reestablishing our presence and strength within the District. When the District violated our contractual agreement (CBA) and withheld our Union's release time, I took immediate action to protect our rights. Union funds should support and protect members, not oppress them. As fiduciaries, we must act by our obligations to our members.

Through hard work and effective communication, we've established positive relationships with key stakeholders crucial to our Union's success. I understand that using force in the political arena may sometimes be necessary, but knowing when to use it is critical. Diplomatic communication and constructive correction through education and the law can be just as effective. If we come together as a united front, we can accomplish anything. I am committed to consistently seeking input and feedback from our members, as our collective knowledge is the bedrock of our strength.

Members deserve exceptional leaders who prioritize results and address concerns. I am committed to working diligently to safeguard the welfare of our members and ensure a thriving future for AFT1521A. I humbly request your consideration.

## Candidate for President: Aaron Chan



### Statement of Candidacy

It is clear to me and many others that our union has a profound lack of leadership. Our leaders have lost sense of what rank-and-file members need in their jobs. We need visionary and transparent leadership, which has been missing in action for too long.

I, along with other members, feel that representation is dismal and that members are losing faith in our union's ability to provide adequate representation. It doesn't have to be that way.

This new election presents us with an opportunity to change the direction of our union.

Brothers and Sisters! My name is Aaron Chan. I have worked for the District for twenty-two years at five different campuses. And I have decided to run to be your president.

I have extensive experience, understand our members' challenges, and can provide solutions to their problems.

I am big on transparency, and my decisions will be driven by what is in the best interests of our members.

Unlike the previous and current leaders, I believe in a more aggressive approach to demand the basic raises our members deserve.

Serving you as your president and representing your interests would be an honor. I want to thank you in advance for your consideration and ask you for your support.

If you have questions about my ideas, please email me or call me anytime!

## Candidate for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Jo-Ann Haywood



***Elect Jo-Ann Haywood  
First Vice President,  
AFT College Staff Guild, Local 1521A***

It's been my esteem honor to serve in the following capacity: First Vice President, Chapter Chair at West Los Angeles College, and Co-Chair of 2020 – 2023 Negotiations Team.

My progression through various positions within the union has afforded me the opportunity to work with great union professionals at our worksites and throughout our district. It has allowed me to advocate for my union brothers and sisters, addressing concerns in a proficient and confidential manner.

As 1st Vice President, I am committed to upholding our Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and our Constitution and By-Laws by continuing the legacy that empowers us as the heart of our UNION. I will continue to foster relationships that bridge gaps, and encourage a collaborative environment for our members.

Understanding the responsibilities that comes with this position and the work required to implement the wins we gain through every contract negotiation, cement my commitment to serve in this role with dignity, and integrity. Working together as a team, I will ensure we remain in good standing with our affiliates American Federation of Teachers (AFT), American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organization (AFL-CIO), and the California Federation of Teachers (CFT).

I will not shy away from the challenges our members face, or refrain from answering the hard questions with honesty and respect. I am a true believer in “an injury to one, is an injury to all” and I understand that our concerns vary from person to person, but we are equally deserving of the best from our employer.

Thank you for your continued support!

In Strength and Unity!

"Consider The Rights Of Others Before Your Own Feelings,  
And The Feelings of Others Before Your Own Rights"

~John Wooden~

## Candidate for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Jesse Saucedo



Dear Esteemed Members,

It is with profound gratitude and a deep sense of duty that I accept the nomination for re-run election to the position of AFT Local 1521A First Vice President of our College Staff Guild. As we embark on this journey together once more, my goal remains steadfast: to restore our union's proud legacy of boldness and unwavering service to its members.

In addition to revitalizing our union internally, I am determined to strengthen our position within the community college district. We must prioritize enhancing our presence and influence, both within our union and throughout the community college district. Through actively and respectfully engaging with stakeholders and advocating for the needs of our members, we can ensure that we are listened to and our concerns are resolved.

My vision for our union underscores inclusivity, transparency, and enabling individuals to thrive. I am dedicated to fostering an atmosphere that honors every member's input, prioritizes transparency, and cultivates an environment where individuals feel empowered. Together, we can strive towards a union that authentically represents and serves the varied interests of its members.

As we approach the upcoming election, I urge you to reflect on the progress we have made as a unified front to uphold our internal democratic process. Your support and trust have been instrumental in our collective achievements, and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue serving you. Let us reaffirm our commitment to each other and to the principles that unite us as we strive for a better, stronger union- one marked by resilience, solidarity and progress.

Thank you for your continued support and confidence in my leadership.

With heartfelt gratitude and unwavering dedication,

Jesse "Jesse" Saucedo

Re-Run Election Nominee for First Vice President

AFT College Staff Guild, Local 1521A



# FOR 2ND VICE PRESIDENT



# MAIRA CRUZ



ESTEEMED MEMBERS OF AFT 1521A, I HOPE THIS MESSAGE FINDS YOU WELL. I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOUR KIND CONSIDERATION AND SUPPORT AS I SEEK REELECTION AS THE AFT 1521A 2ND VICE PRESIDENT. IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR TO SERVE AS YOUR REPRESENTATIVE THESE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, AND I WANT TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR YOUR TRUST IN ME.

IN MY ROLE AS 2ND VICE PRESIDENT, MY MISSION WILL REMAIN THE SAME, TO CONTINUE STRIVING TOWARD A HEALTHIER UNION COMMITTED TO SERVING WITH PROFESSIONALISM AND INTEGRITY. I WILL RESUME WORKING DILIGENTLY WITH ALL MEMBERS AND OFFICERS TO ACHIEVE OUR SHARED GOALS OF EQUITY, RESPECT, SOLIDARITY, AND GROWTH. AS 2ND VICE PRESIDENT, I HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ASSISTED MEMBERS WITH THE RECLASSIFICATION PROCESS, ADDRESSED ISSUES AND CONCERNS THAT HAVE RISEN, I'VE INFORMED MEMBERS OF CHANGES WITH CLASSIFICATION STUDIES, AND HAVE PROVIDED SUPPORT WHEN NEEDED.

THROUGH OPEN AND HONEST COMMUNICATION, I HAVE FOSTERED AN ENVIRONMENT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT WITH OUR MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATION, ULTIMATELY LEADING TO SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTIONS FOR OUR MEMBERS. MY APPROACH WILL ALWAYS BE TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH ALL PARTIES INVOLVED, ADDRESSING MEMBER CONCERNS AND I WILL NOT HESITATE TO POSE CHALLENGING QUESTIONS WHEN ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF OUR MEMBERS.

I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT MY DEDICATION TO A HAPPIER AND HEALTHIER UNION IS UNWAVERING. AS A UNIT, WE OFTEN DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AFFORDED TO US AND THE POWER OF OUR UNION IS IMMEASURABLE. AS A COLLECTIVE, MY ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO EFFECTIVELY NAVIGATE ANY CHALLENGES WE ENCOUNTER WHILE PROTECTING OUR MEMBERS' RIGHTS AND BRINGING OUR UNION BACK TO THE HIGH STANDARDS AND IDEALS ON WHICH IT WAS FOUNDED ON.

I APPRECIATE YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION; TOGETHER WE ARE POWERFUL!

Candidate for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Mario Perez

Elect Mario Perez For Second Vice President of the AFT College Staff Guild Local 1521A

Hello, my name is Mario Perez.

I was your 2nd Vice President and am hoping for your continued support in my re-election into the position. I have been employed in LACCD for the last twenty-seven (28) years as a Network Engineer, providing IT support to Los Angeles Valley College, Los Angeles Mission Colleges, Los Angeles Pierce College, and West Los Angeles Colleges.

I have been actively involved with the union for the last eleven (12) years. I served as the ESC Chapter chair for six (6) straight years, before later being elected into the position of 2nd Vice President at the Districtwide level. It was as Chapter Chair, that I first realized the importance of the union and how preserving its power and influence should be at the forefront of everyone's focus. I strived to be as involved as I could and through my experience within the union, I have been able to establish personal relationships with assembly persons, Miguel Santiago and Luz Rivas. Through my interactions with them, I have been able to advocate AFT1521A needs at a legislative level and have strived to garnish their support for the push for higher wages and increased staffing for our local. Being able to serve as a voice for our members has been fulfilling and rewarding and I aim to continue in this service.

I would like to further my commitment to AFT1521A and ask for your continued support. There is more that can be accomplished in this role and I feel that my experience and dedication will only deepen as I continue to fight for all of you. Thank you and I hope to garnish the continued honor and privilege to serve as your 2nd Vice President.

Vote for the Slate of Solidarity

Thank you for your continued support

Mario Perez



## Candidate for Treasurer: Phillip Highley

Fellow members,

I am excited to announce my candidacy for Treasure of 1521A

I have a tremendous amount experience of being a treasurer as a board member of my 100 unit condominium project here in Los Angeles. In 2007 I purchased a condo with an underfunded HOA reserve. My neighbors understood the fact of how I was able to buy property on such a shoestring budget that they asked me to be treasurer that election year.

I learned that signing checks was not the only thing that had to be done. Projections on expenses were at the top of the list. Understanding how to pay the vendors, the utilities, and save money in order to avoid assessments(increased dues in our case).

I became a long-term thinker when it came to making sure that we had everything saved as to avoid increases on our dues. I also understood that I had to be prepared to pay the bills when due as to avoid paying additional fees and to create the savings needed to stay away from financial issues.

I continued as President of that association for another 9 years, taking us from an 85k reserve to over 700k in reserves without creating additional assessments. We spent over 3 million on projects as well. As a treasurer of 1521A I will do what it takes to make timely payments, forecast future expenses, and consult with our e-board on how conserve and keep the dues at minimal levels.

Phillip Highley  
Candidate for Treasure AFT1521A

## Candidate for Treasurer: Kristine Ayvazyan

I worked as an unclassified staff member for over 15 years where I learned that there is power in numbers. I worked with seasoned classified staff members that were informed and knowledgeable about their rights, they taught me to fight for what was right.

When the position for the Grievance Officer at LAPC was posted, I saw an opportunity to help, an opportunity to make a change. I was appointed Pierce College's Grievance Officer in October of 2017. During my time as Grievance Officer I worked with the Chapter Chair and the District wide officers to represent our members in grievances, title IX investigations, and disciplinary actions. During this time, I also put forth a request for a review for the District wide A&R Evaluation Technicians, with the idea of power in numbers, we won our members a fair wage for the position and correction to the job description.

During the trying time for our union in 2018, I wanted to really put my analytical skills to work and help with our records and books. It was during that time in an e-Board meeting that I decided that I would run for Treasurer. I do this because I like to see change and progress in action. That is what I have done for this union. We went from paying our per caps at random times to paying like clockwork, we went from making deposits once every two months to a regular deposit as we get the checks, we went from receiving partial funding formula to a fully paid funding.

I chair the Finance committee regularly and we have put forth multiple policies and recommendations. The policies are reviewed on the regular bases for updates and improvements based on what feedback we receive. We also have completed our audits with no audit findings. \*

\*Candidate Statement limited in length per election rules. Rules Section II.3

Candidate for Recording Secretary: Melinda Ung

## INSCRIBING ACCOUNTABILITY & ENSURING TRANSPARENCY

### YOUR VOTE MATTERS



- ✔ Trust
- ✔ Transparency
- ✔ Thoroughness



SUBSCRIBE

**VOTE**  
**MELINDA**  
**UNG** Recording Secretary

## Brothers & Sisters,

I am honored to formally announce my candidacy for the position of Recording Secretary. With a deep-seated commitment to transparency, efficiency, and precision, I am eager to serve our union in this vital role.

With more than a decade of experience as an Online Multimedia Specialist at Los Angeles Pierce College, my experience in meticulous record-keeping, I understand the importance of accurate documentation in fostering trust and accountability. My professional experience in technology has equipped me with the organizational skills and attention to detail necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of this position effectively.

As chapter chair, I prioritized transparent communication channels within our chapter, ensuring that all members were regularly updated on important decisions, upcoming events, and union business. This commitment to openness and inclusivity helped strengthen trust among members and promoted a culture of collaboration. Through professional and respectful interactions, I effectively conveyed our chapter's values, interests, and initiatives to external stakeholders, earning their trust and respect.

If elected, I pledge to uphold the highest standards of integrity and professionalism in maintaining comprehensive records of our executive board and other meetings. I will ensure that every motion, decision, and action taken by our organization is documented accurately and in a timely manner.

Moreover, I recognize the importance of accessibility and transparency in promoting inclusivity and engagement within our union. I am committed to making our records readily available and understandable to all members, fostering a culture of openness.

I humbly ask for your support and trust as I seek to serve as your Recording Secretary. Together, let us work towards a future where transparency and accountability are the cornerstones of our organization. Thank you for your consideration.

## Candidate for Recording Secretary: Yovanna Campos



<https://solidarity-aft1521a.com/>

Hello AFT 1521A members,

My name is Yovanna Campos and I am seeking re-election as Recording Secretary.

I have been a member of AFT 1521A for almost 15 years. I have served this union in the capacity of a delegate, grievance rep, and chapter chair at several campuses.

I am currently serving as the Recording Secretary for the local and take the role that this membership has voted me to do very seriously. I have been in this position since April of 2021 after the previous Recording Secretary stepped down.

I would like to continue to serve and represent all of the members in the many meetings that we have with District management, Personnel Commission, and the Board of Trustees.

As a District-wide Elected Officer, I have also served in these roles:

- **Chief Negotiator** for the 2023-2026 Contract
- **Co-Chief Negotiator** for the 2020-2023 Contract
- **Communications Committee Chair**
- **Tuition Reimbursement Committee** (review and approve applications)
- **Personnel Commission Liaison**
- **Los Angeles Southwest College Officer Liaison**
- **Los Angeles City College Officer Liaison**
- **West Los Angeles College Officer Liaison**
- **Council of Classified Employees (CCE)** Conference Planning for the LA, San Francisco, and Orange County conferences
- **Paraprofessionals & School-Related Personnel (PSRP)** Conference Delegate
- **AFT Convention Delegate**
- **CFT Convention Delegate**
- **CFT Union Summer School** attendee
- **AFT-Cornell Collective Bargaining Certificate Program**
- **CFT March Summit** attendee
- **California School Personnel Commissioners Association (CSPCA)** Conference attendee

I have been able to speak on behalf of members at each meeting that we represent you in and will continue to do so with the same passion and assertiveness that I have shown in the last 3 years. I have fought and will continue to fight for our members' rights in all aspects of our contract.

I hope to have your vote for Recording Secretary in this election.

In Strength and Unity!

## Candidate for Grievance Secretary: Chad Baugher



<https://solidarity-aft1521a.com/>

My name is Chad Baugher, and I am running to retain my position as YOUR Grievance Secretary.

Before joining LACCD, my knowledge of unions was limited to what I learned from shows like The Sparano's. However, my experience has shown me that unions provide a unified voice to advocate for better working conditions and the respect that hardworking individuals deserve.

My journey of service to OUR UNION began as the Grievance Representative at Valley College. Through direct and open communication with administrators, I successfully resolved issues before they escalated into grievances, showcasing my strong people skills and proactive approach.

Continuing my dedication, I served as the Chapter Chair at Valley College, fostering open communication and transparency between members and leadership. This ensured that everyone felt informed and empowered within OUR UNION and campus community.

Expanding my involvement, I joined the 2023-2026 Negotiations Committee, where I honed my negotiation skills through a collaboration with AFT and Cornell University, earning a Certificate in Bargaining Negotiation. With meticulous attention to detail and a keen ability to understand people, I contributed to the creation of a strong contract of benefits for OUR Sisters and Brothers.

Despite inheriting a position with no guidance and horrible record keeping, I have worked tirelessly to uphold the contract that OUR UNION has fought for, becoming a barrier between supervisors and members. Over the past 9 months as YOUR Grievance Secretary, I have transformed the office into one that is accountable, respectable, and accessible to all AFT 1521a Members.

I humbly ask for your vote to continue serving as YOUR Grievance Secretary, ensuring that YOUR VOICE is heard, and YOUR RIGHTS are protected within OUR UNION. I will uphold the values of solidarity and progress that define our organization.

**In Strength and Unity!**

Chad Baugher for Grievance Secretary

## Candidate for Grievance Secretary: Troy L. Pierce

Brother and Sisters;

A vote for **Troy L. Pierce** is a vote for a Formidable, Fair, and Forceful Grievance Secretary – One with the requisite experience to get the job **DONE**.

A Unionist since 1990, I have served as your Political Coordinator, as well as being appointed to represent our Guild on CFT Statewide Committees. Served twice as a Sgt at Arms for AFT National Conventions.

I am the most **experienced** Grievance Secretary candidate:

I have served as a Campus Grievance Representative for over 15 years and as Guild Grievance Secretary from 2020 – 2023. During the Covid Pandemic, **successfully won** arbitrations to save members job and to remove undue discipline from members

Also successfully advocated for members at Skelly Hearings to reduce discipline or remove it entirely.

My years of advocacy have given me the necessary **knowledge and skills** to engage with the Personnel Commission, as well as represent members effectively in front of the Board of Trustees.

I hold an Associate Degree in Hazardous Materials Technology, as well as a Baccalaureate of Science in Public Health. I have taken Labor Studies courses at LATTC and have attended Union Leadership Institute (ULI) at San Jose, CA. **There is no other candidate for Grievance Secretary with the experience and training that I possess; none.**

As a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, I bring a no-nonsense and **disciplined** approach to how I handle grievances; I believe in working an issue and **planning for success** for our members; period.

As **YOUR** Grievance Secretary, I will be committed to upholding your/our contract; as **Your** Grievance Secretary, I will utilize all of my training and experiences to advocate for **YOUR** rights!

For the most Experienced, Tenacious, and Trained Grievance Secretary **Troy L. Pierce** is the Right Choice!

