



A Union of Professionals

Staff Guild

Local 1521A

Communications Committee Newsletter

December 2025

We're excited to announce that the Communications Committee is back! After some time away, we're eager to reconnect and keep you informed with updates, highlights and helpful resources. Our goal is to keep you engaged, informed, and connected and we can't wait to share what's ahead.

We Want to Hear from You!



Help us shape the future of our communications by taking a quick [Communications Input Survey](#). We'd love your input on what topics matter most to you, how often you'd like to receive updates, and what format works best. Your feedback will help us create a newsletter that's useful, engaging, and tailored to your needs.

Upcoming Events



Holiday Party

Saturday,
December 6

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

[Odyssey Restaurant Granada Hills, CA](#)

Voting Updates

November 1 Voting Results:

- Vacancies for “Other Elected Officials” (Article III) — **Passed** (Electronic Voting)
- Ethical & Transparent Operations (Article I) — **Did Not Pass**
- Guaranteed Access to Union Records (Article II) — **Did Not Pass**
- Emergency Executive Board Meetings (Article IV) — **Did Not Pass**
- Standardized Committee Governance (Article VII) — **Did Not Pass**
- Executive Board Access to Legal Counsel (New Article XII) — **Did Not Pass**

November 3 Voting Results:

- AFT Convention Delegate Election — **Passed** (Electronic Voting)
- Districtwide Officers Election (2026–2029) — **Passed** (Electronic Voting)

COPE Corner

The Committee on Political Education (COPE) helps our union stay politically active and informed. It supports member-to-member communication about political issues, interviews and endorses candidates who champion education and labor, and contributes to campaigns in key races. COPE contributions strengthen our collective voice and ensure educators have a say in shaping policies that impact schools and our profession.



PROPOSITION 50 PASSED!



Thank you to everyone who voted, participated in the campaign, and supported our phone banking efforts. Your time and dedication helped make this achievement possible. Every conversation, call, and vote made a difference!

Together, we continue to strengthen our collective voice and advocate for the issues that matter most to our communities.

Get Involved!

Join COPE today by clicking the link below, completing the membership form, and selecting a monthly dollar amount to contribute at the bottom of the form. Your participation helps build a stronger voice.

[Sign Up](#)

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) and Student Debt Relief Updates

Big Win for Borrowers!

The **American Federation of Teachers (AFT)** has achieved a major victory in *AFT v. U.S. Department of Education*, ensuring that student loan borrowers continue receiving the relief they've earned.

Key Updates:

- The Department of Education will keep processing PSLF, IDR, and Buyback applications, including those delayed by shutdowns or backlogs.
- Overpayments will be reimbursed once forgiveness is granted.
- PSLF forgiveness remains tax-free and if your discharge is delayed due to backlog or shutdowns, you will **not be taxed**.
- The Department must file monthly public reports showing progress on applications and discharges.
- Parent PLUS loans are eligible for PSLF.

AFT Takes Further Legal Action

AFT and its allies have filed a new lawsuit:

[Cities, Unions, Civil Society Organizations Sue Trump-Vance Administration for Weaponizing Public Service Loan Forgiveness to Silence Critics and Stifle Dissent](#)

This case challenges an unconstitutional attempt to **rewrite PSLF rules** that could punish public service workers or employers based on political or social viewpoints. This united legal effort defends PSLF as the **bipartisan promise it was meant to be**.

You're Not Alone - Union Strong

The AFT continues to stand with borrowers, offering tools and live support to guide you through the forgiveness process.

 **Learn more:** aft.org/pslf

 **Get help:** debtclinic@aft.org

 **Join a Debt Clinic Webinar:** go.aft.org/DebtClinicWebinar

 **Upcoming AFT Debt Clinic Webinars**

Date	Time (PT)	Registration Link
December 9, 2025	4:00 PM	Register for December 2025 Debt Clinic Webinar
January 8, 2026	4:00 PM	Register for January 2026 Debt Clinic Webinar
January 26, 2026	4:00 PM	Register for January 2026 Debt Clinic Webinar

CBA Tip of the Month: Vacation Requests (Article 10.H)

When you submit a vacation request, your supervisor has three (3) working days to respond. If they don't, your vacation is automatically approved. Be sure to follow these steps:

- **Submit your request in writing!** (Paper or email)
- **Keep a copy**

Use your time. Protect your rights. Enjoy your vacation!



Thank you!

Let us know what you'd like to see in upcoming newsletters here!

Survey

Questions?

Reach out to Kimberly Jovel at kimjovelaft1521a@gmail.com.