A Union of Professionals
Staff Guild
Local 1521A

APRIL 2026 EDITION

Communications Committee Newsletter

May 17–23, 2026

Classified Appreciation Week

Classified Professionals: We Do It All!



This week, we take a moment to celebrate the people who truly make our colleges run: **our members**. Whether you're managing student records, to supporting departments, keeping our facilities

running, coordinating campus events, and everything in between, your work matters. It matters to the students we serve, to the faculty we support, and to the communities that depend on these colleges every single day.

We see you. We appreciate you. And we are proud to be in your corner.

So from all of us to all of you: **Thank you**! Thank you for showing up, for doing the work, and for being the backbone of the Los Angeles Community College District.

We Want to Hear from You!

Scan to take the survey

Shape Our Future

Help us create content that matters to YOU. Take our quick **Communications Input Survey** to tell us what topics interest you, how often you'd like updates, and which formats work best. Your voice shapes our newsletter!

Take The Survey

Upcoming Events

Board Meeting

Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, May 21, 2026 • 3:00 PM

Join us for the Hybrid Executive Board Meeting at Mission College or via Zoom.

Please note: Executive Board meetings are open to dues-paying members only. All Zoom registrations will be verified against our membership roster. If you are not yet a member, we encourage you to **join and register today**.

Register for E-Board Zoom

Wear Your Union Shirt!

Friday Union Shirt Day

Friday, May 22, 2026

Close out the week by wearing your union shirt to work as a local-wide show of pride and solidarity!

Political Action

COPE Corner

The **Committee on Political Education (COPE)** keeps our union politically active and informed. We support member-to-member communication about political issues, interview and endorse candidates who champion education and labor, and contribute to campaigns in key races. Your COPE contributions strengthen our collective voice and ensure educators have a say in shaping policies that impact schools and our profession.

Get Involved Today

Join COPE by clicking below, completing the membership form, and selecting a monthly contribution amount. Every dollar builds a stronger voice for educators.

Sign Up For COPE

Member Spotlight

Kristine Ayvazyan, LAPC Alternate Delegate



Department/Role:

Admissions & Records Evaluation Technician

How long have you been a union member?

Since 2009

Fun Fact/Interests:

Gardening

What does being a union representative mean to you?

Union representative means representing the members for the benefit of the larger body. Even if we are representing one member regarding an issue they are having, we should look at the outcome benefitting the majority.

What is one thing members should know about their union rights?

Members should learn the difference between years of service and service credit. From the current SRP offer from the district, multiple questions have come up regarding years of service and service credit and members should know the difference between the two.

Nominated By:

Kimberly "Kim" Jovel

CBA Tip of the Month

Know Your Rights

CBA Digest – Contract Corner Spotlight

Schedule Changes & Overtime Protections

Your CBA includes important protections related to work schedules, overtime, and shift changes. The contract requires written justification when permanent schedule changes are made based on “reasonable business necessity,” and volunteers must first be solicited before certain shift changes occur.

Did You Know?

The contract also outlines overtime protections for classified employees, including overtime pay or compensatory time for authorized hours worked beyond the regular workday or workweek. Additional protections exist for employees whose schedules or shifts are changed permanently.

Understanding these provisions can help employees recognize when workplace practices are consistent with the contract and when questions may need to be raised.

If you have concerns, connect with your supervisor or union representative.

Reminder: *This section is for general awareness. For specific situations, please contact your union rep.*

View The Full CBA

Know Your Union Rights

Weingarten Rights ensure your right to have union representation during meetings with your supervisor that may lead to discipline. Use the statement below to assert your rights.

Say this word-for-word to your supervisor if you believe a meeting may lead to discipline:

> **"If this discussion may result in disciplinary action, termination, or impact my working conditions, I respectfully request the presence of a union representative. Without representation, I respectfully decline to participate in this discussion."**

SAVE THIS STATEMENT FOR EASY ACCESS:

- Bookmark or save this page
- Print and keep a copy at your desk
- Email it to yourself for quick reference

Member Benefits

Exclusive perks for AFT members



Gym Memberships
Discounted fitness plans



Entertainment
Ticket discounts



All Benefits
Explore everything

Contact Your Chapter Chair

Have questions or need support? Reach out to your campus chapter chair directly.

CAMPUS	CHAPTER CHAIR	EMAIL
LACC	Mitchell Polin	cclacc@aft-1521a.org
ESC	Katrelia Walker	ccesc@aft-1521a.org
ELAC	Rowena Smith-Kersaint	ccelac@aft-1521a.org
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LAVC	Aleta Campbell	cclavc@aft-1521a.org
WLAC	Maritza Medina	ccwlac@aft-1521a.org

Resources

AFT 1521A Website

2023–2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA)

Union Plus Member Benefits

Communications Committee

Leslie Cruz • Kimberly "Kim" Jovel • Chair: Melinda Ung

Questions? Please reach out to **Kimberly “Kim” Jovel**

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