A Union of Professionals
Staff Guild
Local 1521A

JUNE 2026 EDITION

Communications Committee Newsletter

AFT 1521A Victory • July 2026

Another Win for Our Members: **Backpay Victory**

Good morning, Union Siblings 👋

We have some great news! Last Friday, many of our members received an off-schedule check for backpay related to their Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification and the Computing Differential.

For the past several years, the District has not been honoring our Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) by failing to continue the Computing Differential for eligible employees. There have been no new MOS certification exams since 2019, and under our agreement, employees who previously qualified should have continued receiving the differential automatically.

As a result, President Andrea Edwards and Deputy Chancellor Nicole Albo-Lopez signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** to provide backpay to members whose Computing Differential should have continued automatically but did not. Because of the delays in processing and verification, the Guild also

requested an extension of the MOS certification timeline to ensure that no impacted member is disadvantaged.

This is what your Union does. We fight to enforce our CBA and hold the District accountable. Years ago, the Guild successfully negotiated the Computing Differential in recognition of our members' specialized skills and to help offset the cost of union dues. We are proud to continue protecting and enforcing those hard-earned contractual rights.

If you have not yet joined AFT Staff Guild Local 1521A, we encourage you to **become a member today**. Every victory like this is possible because members stand together in solidarity.

📋 We Need Your Input

Remote Work Survey

This survey is intended to gather member input on remote work practices to help inform recommendations for the upcoming collective bargaining agreement (CBA). Your responses are confidential and will be used in aggregate form only.

Deadline: Friday, July 31, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Take The Remote Work Survey

Get Involved: Our Committees

Victories like the Computing Differential backpay don't happen on their own: they happen because members do the work through our committees. Committee work is where that participation actually happens: where the contract gets written, the budget gets watched, and the decisions that shape your workday get made.

Below is the full picture: our internal standing committees, the districtwide tables our officers sit at, and the shared governance committees at your campus. You do not need experience. You need to show up.

Who We Are

Meet Your Communications Committee

We're the members behind this newsletter, working to keep you informed, connected, and engaged with the union that represents you. Our job is to make sure the work your union does never happens in the dark.

Kimberly Jovel Chair
Leslie Cruz
Melinda Ung
Elonda Austin

AFT 1521A Standing Committees

COMMITTEE	WHAT IT DOES	WHO SERVES
Communications	Produces this newsletter and keeps members informed.	K. Jovel, L. Cruz, M. Ung, E. Austin
Negotiating Team	Represents the membership at the bargaining table.	K. Ryan-Rubio, D. Faamasino, C. Contreras, M. Ung, R. Villanueva, W. Madrigal, A. Campbell, M. Medina, A. Edwards, S. Becerra, J. Haywood, K. Jovel, K. Walker
Grievance Review	Reviews grievances and decides which cases proceed to arbitration.	K. Walker, A. Edwards, J. Jackson, R. Smith-Kersaint, V. Enriquez, A. Campbell, C. Laughlin
COPE	Political education, endorsements, and legislative advocacy.	S. Becerra, R. Martinez, C. Contreras, I. Tranner,
Activities	Plans and coordinates member events, holiday socials, and activities.	A. Campbell, J. Haywood, K. Ryan-Rubio
Professional Development	Training and growth opportunities for classified	S. Becerra

COMMITTEE	WHAT IT DOES	WHO SERVES
	professionals.	
Financial Oversight	Safeguards how your dues are spent.	L. Narkevicius, E. Austin, V. Enriquez, L. Duffin, L. Wood Resource: J. Hooker
Stipend	Reviews activity sheets and determines stipend distribution. One member per worksite.	E. Austin, J. Ramirez, M. Hernandez Resource: J. Hooker
Elections	Runs all Executive Board elections.	M. Bergquist, N. Embrey, G. Garcia, R. King, A. Olivares-Dias
Constitution & Bylaws	Reviews and recommends changes to our governing documents.	J. Haywood, R. Nwaogu, A. Campbell, A. Vargas, A. Alvarez, M. Medina
Internal Review	Handles internal disputes filed by members against the Guild or its officers.	J. Jackson
Tuition Reimbursement	Reviews and supports member tuition reimbursement requests.	S. Becerra, A. Edwards, M. Ung
Classified Service Committee	Advocates on issues affecting classified staff professional standards and working conditions.	A. Edwards, S. Becerra, M. Ung

Beyond Our Local

Regional Committee: California Federation of Labor Unions

Sergio Becerra • Andrea Edwards • Robert "Sonny" Martinez • Cesar Contreras • Kimberly Jovel • Mike Romo

The California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO brings together more than 1,300 affiliated unions representing over 2.3 million workers statewide, construction, health care, hospitality, trucking, public sector, and education among them. Our delegates carry the concerns of LACCD classified professionals into that room, so what happens to us doesn't stay siloed inside the District.

Where Your Officers Sit: District Shared Governance

Your Districtwide Officers represent Unit 1 at tables across the LACCD. When budget, facilities, benefits, or technology decisions get made, we are in the room.

COMMITTEE / TABLE	WHO REPRESENTS US
District Budget Committee (DBC)	A. Edwards J. Hooker (alt)
Executive DBC	A. Edwards
Budget & Finance	J. Hooker J. Haywood (alt)
Personnel Commission	K. Walker A. Edwards (alt)
Joint Labor-Management Benefits (JLMBC)	K. Walker A. Edwards (alt)
Facilities Master Planning & Oversight	J. Haywood
Institutional Effectiveness / Student Success	K. Jovel
Student Affairs	K. Jovel
Legislative & Public Affairs	J. Haywood K. Jovel (alt)
Safety & Security Oversight	S. Becerra
Technology Policy & Planning	S. Becerra J. Hooker (alt)
Consultation: Personnel Commission & Management	A. Edwards, J. Haywood, S. Becerra, J. Hooker, K. Walker, K. Jovel
Chancellor Consultation	A. Edwards, J. Haywood, S. Becerra, J. Hooker, K. Walker, K. Jovel
Board of Trustees	A. Edwards, J. Jackson J. Haywood (alt)

At Your Campus: Worksite Shared Governance

Your Chapter Chair appoints members to sit on worksite and shared governance hiring and selection committees, then collects written reports from those attendees. These are the seats where campus-level decisions get shaped and they are open to rank-and-file members, not just officers.

Committees at your campus may include:

- Accreditation Steering Committee
- Budget Committee
- College Planning Committee
- College Professional Development Committee
- Diversity Committee
- Enrollment Management Committee
- Facilities Advisory Committee
- Student Support Committee
- Sustainability Committee
- Technology Committee
- Work Environment Committee
- College Council & College Council Executive

Committee names and structures vary by campus. Contact your Chapter Chair to find out what is open at your worksite.

Election News

Special Election Update

2026 Special Election for Worksite Officers

Los Angeles City College • District Office/ESC • Los Angeles Trade Tech

With open seats at three worksites, the Executive Board called a Special Election to fill the open **Chapter Chair** and **Grievance Representative** seats. Nomination and candidate information is currently being finalized and reviewed. Watch your LACCD email for ballot details and voting timeline.

*Questions? Contact the Elections Committee at **1521Aelections@gmail.com**.*

View Election Details

Member Spotlight

Thank You & Congratulations

Katrelia Walker

Districtwide Officer, Grievance Secretary

Outgoing ESC Chapter Chair, July 2025–June 2026



After one year as Chapter Chair at ESC, Katrelia Walker is stepping into a new role as the districtwide **Grievance Secretary** which allows her to continue serving members across the district. Over the last six months she has been fighting for members districtwide in her role as Chapter Chair; that's why she ran for Grievance Secretary and won. Her move to this new role is why the ESC Chapter Chair seat is open.

Department/Role:

Wellness & EAP Administration (Districtwide)

How long have you been a union representative?

Since 2023

Fun Fact/Interests:

Singing • Floral Arranging • Training & Teaching

What does being a union representative mean to you?

> **“My priority is simple: to advocate for members, protect our contract, and make sure every member has a strong voice in the workplace.”**

Serving as the Chapter Chair at ESC, my priority was simple: to advocate for members, protect our contract, and make sure every member has a strong voice in the workplace. I’m here to support members—whether that means addressing concerns, helping navigate workplace issues, or ensuring our rights under the contract are respected. I also wanted to keep our chapter informed, connected, and engaged as we work together to strengthen our collective voice.

> **“Our strength comes from standing together.”**

I welcome every member (dues paying and non-dues paying) to reach out to me, stay involved, and share what matters most to them. Every member’s experience and concerns help shape the work we do as a union. Working together across AFT 1521A strengthens our union and helps us build an active, united labor force.

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

Here are a few important rights that every member should know because too often, these rights aren’t talked about, and they matter in our day-to-day work lives.

You have the right to a safe workplace.

If you see or experience unsafe conditions, you can report them without fear of retaliation. Your safety is not optional—it’s protected.

You have the right to request reasonable accommodation.

If you have a medical condition or disability, you are entitled to a good-faith interactive process. You should be supported, not dismissed, when you ask for what you need to do your job.

You have the right to equitable treatment under our contract.

That means rules must be applied consistently, no favoritism, no unequal enforcement. Fairness is not a privilege; it's a right.

You have the right to receive information.

Your union can request information from management to investigate concerns and enforce the contract. That right exists to protect you and ensure transparency.

These rights are powerful but only if we know them and use them. So stay informed, speak up, and remember, **you are not alone.**

Best way for members to reach Katrelia in her new role:
kwalker@aft-1521a.org

Self-Care Tip of the Month

💧 Stay Hydrated

Simple goal: Aim to drink a glass of water first thing in the morning and another with each meal to help maintain hydration throughout the day.

Keep a reusable water bottle with you and take a few sips whenever you transition between activities, such as after using the restroom, before meals, or when starting a new task.

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	**Vacant**	See note below
ESC	**Vacant**	See note below
ELAC	Rowena Smith-Kersaint	ccelac@aft-1521a.org
LAHC	Nadine Muro	cclahc@aft-1521a.org
LAMC	Cesar Contreras	cclamc@aft-1521a.org
LAPC	Sean McDonald	cclapc@aft-1521a.org
LASC	Ruben Villanueva	cclasc@aft-1521a.org
LATTC	**Vacant**	See note below
LAVC	Aleta Campbell	cclavc@aft-1521a.org
WLAC	Maritza Medina	ccwlac@aft-1521a.org

LACC, ESC, and LATTC members: your Chapter Chair seat is currently vacant, and a Special Election is underway to fill it (see above). In the meantime, you can reach out to any Districtwide Officer or the Staff Guild office for support, call **323-851-1521**.

Resources

AFT 1521A Website

AFT 1521A Constitution & Bylaws

2023–2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA)

Union Plus Member Benefits

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Communications Committee

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

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

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