



THE SUPPORTER

A PUBLICATION OF AFT 6049 OKLAHOMA

MEMBERS PREPARE NOMINATIONS FOR 2014-2015 NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

OPEN NOMINATIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE SET TO TAKE PLACE IN FEBRUARY

AFT 6049 Oklahoma leaders are gearing up for contract negotiations with Tulsa Public Schools in the coming months, but they want to hear from you first.

The annual nomination of Negotiations Committee Members is scheduled for Thursday, February 27, 2014. The meeting is open to all Tulsa Public School support employees, but only those employees who are currently AFT union members will officially be eligible to vote for nominees.

The Negotiations Committee is a team of activists who will meet on a regular basis prior to and during contract negotiations. Accepted nominees will be in charge of developing proposals for collective bargaining. Committee members will also conduct research and provide the Union's chief negotiator with relevant data for the upcoming bargaining session. Committee members are in charge of planning and writing an

employee survey that will be sent to TPS support staff departments around the District. Using the survey responses, Negotiations Committee Members will outline the needs of TPS support staff and construct a negotiations strategy that addresses employee's priorities regarding wage increases, fringe benefits, working conditions, and health and safety concerns.

The meeting to submit nominations is one of the biggest meetings of the year, and Local 6049 President, Ed McIntosh, is optimistic about prospective nominees, stating, "We have a lot of talented and skilled professionals in this union, and I'd like to see at least one member from each TPS department on the committee. That way, we'll have representation from all of the trades in our District."

AFT members can nominate themselves or their coworkers for a seat, and negotiations training

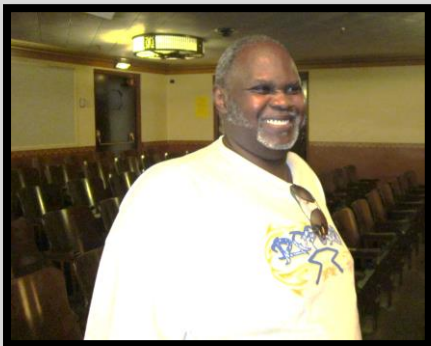
sessions will be provided for committee members that are new to the collective bargaining process.

Once the committee is established, Local 6049 Officers will select a small team to negotiate the 2014-2015 Collective Bargaining Agreement for all Tulsa Public Schools support employees.

Interested members must attend the meeting to submit their nominations in-person, and the Committee will be decided by a majority vote before the meeting concludes. This gives AFT members a chance to collaborate about the best leaders from their respective departments and make their final decisions together.

To learn more about the collective bargaining process, the rights and responsibilities of Committee members, and/or to nominate yourself or a coworker for a seat at the table during your upcoming contract negotiations, join your Local 6049 leaders next week in the AFT 6049 Union office.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



Dear Brothers & Sisters of AFT 6049,

It's been quite a while since our last communication, and a lot has happened during that time. We've had our annual audit, and we did okay with that. For those of you who haven't been to our office lately, we've moved to a new office across the hall. We're still Suite #101 and we're still in the same building, so our mailing address and phone number remains the same. I've become more active with our state

federation (AFT OK), and I was honored when I had the opportunity to share lunch with our AFT National President, Randi Weingarten. She impressed me with how down-to-earth she is, and also her dedication to the labor movement in Oklahoma. We're on track to do some good things with Local 6049 this year, but only with your help. I received an invitation to the AFL-CIO Statewide Strategic Planning Meeting, scheduled for the end of February. We have a lot more on the agenda in the next few months—we have to set-up our Elections Committee, hold elections for Local 6049 Officers, nominate the Negotiations Committee, and appoint the Negotiations Team, just to name a few. Our plate is full, but I know we can do it with your help. Please pay attention to the dates posted in the "Upcoming Events" section of our newsletter, and plan on attending as many events as possible. We're counting on you just as much as you all count on us, and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Thursday, February 27.

In solidarity,

Ed McIntosh
President, AFT 6049 Oklahoma

BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTES 6-1 TO CLOSE TPS FOR MARCH 31 EDUCATION RALLY

Earlier this month, the Tulsa Public Schools Board of Education voted 6-1 to close the District on Monday March 31, so that Tulsa Public Schools administrators, teachers, support employees, and students can hitch a ride to the Oklahoma State Capitol building for the lobby day event. The rally will serve as a platform for Tulsa's education professionals to call on legislators to secure state funding for Oklahoma's school districts.

In a statement released on February 4, TPS Director of Public Information, Chris Payne, writes "[...]Oklahoma school districts have experienced the most severe state funding cuts in the nation. Teachers and support personnel have not had a state funded pay increase in seven years, and school districts across the state have been forced to cut academic and student enrichment programs, as well as increase class sizes, because of funding cuts."

The decision to close schools on March 31 was a bold move for the TPS Board of Education. The upcoming rally will provide an excellent opportunity for public educators and elected officials to open up a dialogue about the quality of education in Oklahoma, and TPS faculty,

staff, and students will have the chance to stand in unity at the State Capitol building.

While support personnel that have 9 & 10-month contracts will not report to work on March 31, 12-month employees will have to clock-in and report to work as usual, or they can opt to use their own paid-time-off to attend the rally. No public funding can be used for transportation to the event per Oklahoma state laws, and teachers and staff will not be paid for the day.

"This will be a great opportunity for us to show our legislators that we support an increase in state funding," Local 6049 President, Ed McIntosh notes, "the bottom line is about supporting our students and Oklahoma's public school districts. We're ranked 49th in the country in per pupil funding, and our students deserve better than that."

Local 6049 leaders are still working on a plan to provide TPS support employees with free lunch and transportation to the rally on March 31, and they expect an official plan will be announced to AFT members within the coming weeks. Members interested in attending the rally must contact AFT 6049 Oklahoma offices no later than Friday, March 14, 2014.

UPCOMING EVENTS

•**THURSDAY, FEB. 27, 2014**
6:00-7:00PM
[NEGOTIATIONS
COMMITTEE
NOMINATIONS]

•**TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2014**
6:00-7:00PM
[EXECUTIVE BOARD]

•**TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014**
6:00-7:00PM
[GENERAL ASSEMBLY]

•**MARCH 17—19 2014,**
MIAMI FLORIDA
[AFT COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING
CONFERENCE]

•**THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2014**
[START DATE: NOW
ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS
FOR AFT 6049 OFFICERS
AND EXECUTIVE BOARD]

•**FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2014**
[AFT 6049 OFFICER
NOMINATION
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND
INSTRUCTIONS OUT FOR
DELIVERY VIA USPS]

•**THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2014** 6:00-7:00PM
*ALL DEPARTMENTS:
[BUILDING
REPRESENTATIVE &
STEWARDS MEETING IN AFT
H.Q.]

•**MONDAY, MARCH 31 2014**
EDUCATION LOBBY DAY-
OKLAHOMA CITY

•**TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2014**
6:00-7:00PM
[EXECUTIVE BOARD]

•**TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014**
6:00-7:00PM
[GENERAL ASSEMBLY]

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FEBRUARY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



BRIAN & NANCY LEONARD

TPS bus drivers, AFT activists, and devoted husband & wife! This dream team duo has worked for TPS since August! Pictured here, Nancy and Brian pose together in union solidarity and happy matrimony!

"Actually, I was a member of two unions before I moved to be with Nancy in Tulsa. Years ago, when I was working in the coal mines in Pennsylvania, I was a member of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). I was also a member of the United Steelworkers (USW), back when I did some welding work. I'll tell ya why I'm pro-union, point blank. Without a union, an employer can really pull some fast ones on you, and the employees are the ones who will get a bum deal out of it, every time." —Brian

"Exactly. You'll get buffaloed, bullied, and strong-armed without a union. Being a member means having job security, and safety in numbers. It's good to know that our union has our back on the job, so that we don't have to stand up for ourselves alone. It's important that workers stand together, not just for each other, but we stand united for our students too. They need good union workers just as much as we do." —Nancy