



YES on Prop 30/NO on Prop 32 Campaign Moving Strongly

The CFT's electoral program to pass Proposition 30 and defeat Proposition 32 is well under way. Our union's strength in politics depends on member involvement. As we did in 2010 with our work on passing Proposition 25, during this campaign, local unions are stepping up coordinating with the state affiliate and implementing plans to increase member participation.

The CFT is helping design the strategies, disseminate best practices, and build a political program that aids local unions in winning at the ballot box this November. Our internal program combines dozens of field staff, regional coordinators consisting of our PLUCC organizers and release-time members from various CFT locals. Field Staff are aggressively working on reaching locals



Tax Millionaires and Stop Their Power Grab

that have large capacity and a history of political involvement.

Our goals are to contact 50% of the CFT's members, with three quarters of those contacted being positively identified as YES on Proposition 30 and NO on Proposition 32. We will also be recruiting additional volunteers through these member contacts.

As of October 1, all CFT staff will be released to help with the larger

campaign efforts, mostly through the California Labor Federation. Some CFT field offices will be staging sites for precinct walks and other volunteer opportunities.

Working with Reclaim California's Future and other partners on the Prop 30 school revenue effort, we are conducting a number of outreach activities, including a speaker's bureau that in the end will have trained roughly 150 speakers. In addition,

the CFT is mobilizing and engaging people across the state through a number of K-12 and community college events.

The CFT is also coordinating efforts with the Alliance For A Better California 2012 on our NO on 32 campaign. Proposition 32 was intentionally written to create special exemptions for corporate special interests and the wealthy, giving them even more political power to write their own set of rules. Working together, we will defeat this blatant power grab at the polls.

"This is the type of coordination we are going to need to win in 2012," said State Affiliate Political Organizer Jessica Ulstad.

>For more information on how you can help please contact Jessica Ulstad at julstad@cft.org or by phone at (510) 523-5238.

Next round of MOC grants in November...

THE NEXT ROUND of Member Organizing Committee (MOC) grants will go out in November and will be awarded before the end of the year. We encourage all locals who would like to get better organized to apply for a MOC grant.

For more information contact Sandra Weese at 510-523-5238 ext. 318 or sweese@cft.org.

First Combined PLUCC / Member Organizing Committee Training Generates Enthusiasm

Why do we organize? How do we organize? These were the central questions that dozens of local leaders grappled with when they met together on September 14-15 for the 2012 Orientation to the CFT's Member Organizing Committee (MOC) and Political Leaders United to Create Change (PLUCC) programs, both pillars of the CFT's Strategic Campaign Initiative (SCI). The SCI's purpose is to align resources and programs on political and member organizing to build capacity and strength within the CFT.

The MOC program funding is used to hire organizers who will help locals build their capacity to carry out internal membership campaigns and new worker organizing campaigns, while developing future organizing leaders. For the 2012-2013 terms, 11 MOC grants were awarded, and 14 PLUCC grants were awarded. Most locals receiving grants began their work in August or September 2012.

In the 2-day MOC/PLUCC orientation, local MOC and PLUCC organizers learned about the CFT's Strategic Campaign Initiative and worked on developing and refining core organizing skills:

- Identifying worksite leaders and involving



JIANA RYGAS

- them in the union;
- Conducting effective 1:1 organizing conversations;
- Making assessments and using maps/charts to develop strategic plans; and
- Setting program goals and developing local plans that reach goals.

Whether organizers are working on internal, external or political organizing efforts, these skills are essential to a campaign's success.

Attendees also heard from 2012 MOC recipients Mike Rotkin (UC-AFT) and Sharon Kerr (Fresno State Center Federation of Teachers) on their early successes in motivating fee payers to join the CFT. Both stressed the importance of 1:1 organizing

conversations and setting goals to help structure and organize their work.

A favorite part of the 2-day orientation was the Saturday morning presentation by UC Berkeley Labor Economist Sylvia Allegretto, titled "The American Dream: Fraying of the Folklore," in which she contrasted basic tenets of the American Dream with the reality using economic data. For example, in discussing the belief that in America we can all "pull ourselves up by our bootstraps," Dr. Allegretto pointed to data showing that intergenerational economic mobility is significantly worse in the US compared to Canada, Australia, and most European countries. Dr. Allegretto's presentation is available for use in

classrooms or within your union. To obtain a copy, email Sandra Weese, CFT Organizing Director.

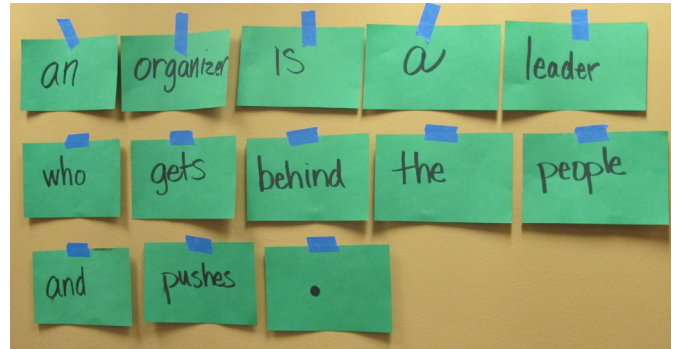
MOC recipients' program goals include building a stronger internal leadership structure by identifying and recruiting leaders, growing local membership by encouraging fee payers to become members, and helping with targeted new worker organizing campaign.

PLUCC recipients' goals include developing a year-long plan that integrates locals' internal work in recruiting and identifying activists and building long-term capacity; increasing COPE participation so that each PLUCC local has a minimum of 15% of membership con-

tributing; creating a local endorsement process; and being active in statewide solidarity work by participating with their area Central Labor Council and other community partners.

Applications for the Spring MOC program will be available in November.

For questions relating to the MOC grant program, contact Sandra Weese at sweese@cft.org or by phone at (510) 523-5238. For questions specific to the PLUCC grant program, please contact Jessica Ulstad at julstad@cft.org or by phone at (510) 523-5238.



JANA RYGAS

Extensive Member Training Program Advanced at CFT Summer School

By all accounts the annual CFT Union Summer School held from August 13-17, 2012 at the University of California, Los Angeles was a smashing success.

Over one hundred members participated in this week long comprehensive training program designed to equip local leaders with the skills needed to organize successful campaigns, expand union membership, involve members in union activities, increase the union's political power, and establish excellent representation and collective bargaining programs.

Geared for emerging and veteran leaders who want to take their skills to the next level, the summer school included courses on: Winning the Best Contract - in which participants learned how to organize members in the effort to win a great contract, build community support, and act

strategically at the table; A Voice at the Worksite - for new site reps and stewards that covered the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively organize around issues at the worksite and basic grievance handling; Treasurer Training -- here about 16 union treasurers participated in this course led by Secretary Treasurer Jeff Freitas, Controller Elizabeth Soto and Administrative Coordinator Leticia Castro, which focused on the best practices essential in union administration.

"The CFT Union Summer School was one of the best union training experiences I've had since I joined 11 years ago" said: Sarah Henne, a MOC/PLUCC organizer with the Pajaro Valley Federation of Teachers. "I attended the Building a Stronger Union class. They definitely got us fired-up and ready to come back to our locals with specific ways to strengthen and activate our membership."



SANDRA WEESE

Three general sessions were held. During one on CFT Vision & Goals, CFT President Josh Pechthalt and Secretary Treasurer Jeff Freitas talked about our effort to win for education at the ballot box by passing Prop 30 and defeating Prop 32 this November. Another talk on Building Strong Community Partnerships featured speakers from the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, AFTs Human Rights & Community Relations Department, and the Peralta Federation of Teachers. Kent Wong,

CFT VP and Director of the UCLA Labor Center, along with two UCLA graduates who are Dream Organizers, led a talk on Undocumented & Unafraid: Immigrant Youth Organizing and What It Means to the Students of California.

The week was filled with rigorous workshops, motivated and skilled trainers, and applied learning with team projects. Many members came away inspired, commenting on how important it was to have time to share best practices with peers from across the state.

AFT 2121 Moves Campaign to Save City College of San Francisco

The largest provider of higher education in the state, City College of San Francisco (CCSF), AFT Local 2121, is being threatened, and the CFT is rallying to help.

The community of San Francisco was rocked earlier this summer with an unanticipated “show cause” accreditation sanction levied against CCSF by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). Fourteen areas were identified where the college was not meeting

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-AFT 2121 Organizer
Kathe Burick

standards, including measuring student learning, school governance, and managing finances. This sanction requires the college to demonstrate why it shouldn’t lose its accreditation after this academic year.



AFT 2121 Website

CCSF’s problems stem in large measure from the state’s ongoing budget crisis. Over the last three years, funding for community colleges in California has been cut by a total of \$809 million, with \$53 million coming from CCSF alone.

The AFT 2121 and the CFT have gone all in to try and shore up the CCSF’s fiscal footing. Working with SEIU 1021, AFT 2121 has served as the organizing center of the campaign to pass Proposition A, a local \$79 per parcel tax exclusively for City College of San Francisco. Passage of this parcel tax will generate more than \$14 million per year, helping put the college’s finances back on track.

In addition to efforts to pass Proposition A, AFT 2121 is mounting an aggressive campaign to pass Proposition 30, which as a result of the CFT’s efforts last spring includes \$50 million for community colleges. Clearly, the stakes are high! Passing

Prop 30 will bring a couple of million dollars to CCSF and restore thousands of seats for students in community colleges across the state. Whereas if Prop 30 were to come up short, CCSF stands to lose another \$10 million this year, forcing it to reduce course offerings and shrink the college.

The CFT is providing significant financial support to these efforts: issuing an emergency Member Organizing Committee grant to help with organizing the response to the accreditation issue; giving additional funding for release time support for an organizer to work on the YES on 30 and NO on 32 campaigns; and providing resources to the general parcel tax effort.

“CFT’s timely funding makes a huge difference in our ability to organize our members and turnout the San Francisco community in support of our Yes On A and 30 and No on 32 campaign,” said AFT 2121 Organizer Kathe Burick.

California Federation
of Teachers
AFT, AFL-CIO
A Union of Professionals



The California Federation of Teachers is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO. The CFT represents faculty and classified workers in public and private schools and colleges, from early childhood through higher education. The CFT is committed to raising the standards of the profession and to securing the conditions essential to provide the best service to California’s students.

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