

CGE Members Attend AFT-OR Convention

This past April 17-19, the highest number of CGE members ever attended the yearly AFT-Oregon Convention. (CGE is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers.) Every spring, representatives from the various AFT-OR locals meet to pass resolutions that help determine the direction of the state federation for the coming year. As well, members discuss state politics. Finally, Convention CGE delegates included Ashley Bromley (Geo), Mark T. Ford (Geo) B.J. Walker (Geo), Rama Goud (MIME), Jim Duncan (Geo), Rob Hess (EECS), John Osborne (COAS), and Dennis Dugan (CGE Staff).

The main order of business was the current percaps structure. Percaps (standing for per capita, as in, per head) are what a local pays to be affiliated with a larger body. For each member, CGE pays percaps to AFT-Oregon, AFT National and the Oregon AFL-CIO. Percaps are assessed monthly and based on the salary of each member. Thus, the higher an individual's salary, the greater the percap for that person paid by the local, and the more individuals in a local, the higher the total percaps (also called affiliation fees). However, AFT-OR has a regressive percap structure, so that those who make the least are assessed a larger percentage of their income. In attempt to rectify the situation, changes were proposed to make the system more progression. Unfortunately, the proposal was defeated. It is likely that a proposal to reform percaps will return next year.

In other convention news, CGE members B.J. Walker and Angela Brandt were elected as officers of AFT-Oregon and will be offering a graduate student's perspective on the issues facing the state federation. Mark Leyman of the GTFF was elected treasurer. CGE thanks our members for representing the Union at this year's Convention!



Upcoming Events

*Association of Graduate Employee Locals Spring Conference:
June 5th-7th, Eugene, OR*

Weekly EC Meetings: Tuesdays, 4PM, Westminster House

Summer Health Insurance Update

Keep your head-up for a letter from Health Services regarding summer health insurance options. As CGE understands it, GA's without an appointment over the summer have several options for summer health insurance.

1. No summer coverage. This allows a lapse in coverage and requires re-enrollment in Pacific Source come Fall Term.
2. 50% University-subsidized coverage in Pacific Source. No lapse in enrollment/coverage- must have handed in enrollment form already. You must unenroll by May 15th to avoid the triple deduction if you no longer want this option
3. COBRA coverage with 65% subsidized by government stimulus. Must apply for enrollment AND return paper work to Manly Services by sometime in June. This program saves GA's ~\$36/month or ~\$100 for the summer.

**IF YOU TAKE OPTION #3, YOU MUST UNENROLL
IN PACIFIC SOURCE BY MAY 15th.**

If you have questions about health insurance, contact Erin Palmer in Student Health Services: erin.palmer@oregonstate.edu, 737-7568 or Plageman 110.

New Officers

John Osborne
President
Oceanography



Rob Hess
*VP of Collective Bargaining
and Grievances*
EECS



Andrés Vaughan
VP of Organizing
MMP



Ian Pfingsten
VP of Communications
BPP



Julia Michaels
Secretary-Treasurer
MPP



Good-Byes



Jim Duncan



Angela Brandt



**Maddy and Allison
Weinsteiger**



Super Liz Dickinson

Spring GMM



On April 20th, about 45 CGE members gathered at the Corvallis Senior Center for an evening of good times, good food, and good company. The agenda included discussing the ins and outs of summer health insurance, recapping the AFT-OR Annual Convention, hearing from the Budget Committee about the status of the union's finances, being invited to a conference for graduate employees (AGEL), recapping CGE's progress in passing legislation that would reduce fees, and announcing the departure of Liz Dickinson, the Business/Office/Everything Manager.

From the Officers

From the President

This next couple of weeks mark a period of transition for CGE. The new officers are attending the EC meetings to learn their roles with guidance from the outgoing officers and they will officially begin their term on June 1st. Also, our new office manager will be hired and trained soon, under the leadership of Dennis.

The school year is almost over and this summer will be a financial first for CGE. With Fairshare in place, CGE stopped receiving funds from AFT. CGE had to plan ahead with saving to make the summer survivable on a limited income- there are very few GA's over the summer.

This was a great year to be a Union member, and we expect continued growth and strength next year. I look forward to serving as President next year and working with everyone again; we have some great stuff planned- like making fees rolled into tuition a reality!

In Solidarity,

- John Osborne, President

From the VP of Communications

For the last 3 years, I have been your faithful CGE Independent writer. I joined CGE and the Bargaining Team in the fall of 2005 and then in the spring, AFT-OR Field Representative Brett Nair solicited me for the open position of VP of Communication.

Those of you who know me understand the amusingness of the total mismatch I am for this job. Creating a monthly newsletter means you need good communication and computer skills. I have neither. I keep my head low and sentences short, choppy, and to a minimum as I type with my two pointer fingers. I nudge pictures up and down, up and down, mutter an obscenity, and then just put a box them so they appear level (see above).

I plan on finishing my PhD in geology by the end of this summer and am I thus handing over the reins to my replacement from BPP, Ian Pfingsten. I am confident he will do an even better job than I. We (Madeleine and I) look forward to his future publications and the unique style he adds to the Independent and Union.!

- Allison Weinstein, VP Comm. '06 - '09

In the News

Liz Dickinson is Leaving the Office

As many of you might already be aware, our long-time Business Manager, Liz, is leaving at the end of the academic year. Liz has done a tremendous job in the four years she has been here, not only handling the union's finances, but providing invaluable institutional memory and advice to officers and other staff on all aspects of CGE. It is safe to say that CGE, as an organization, would not be where it is today without her support.

As a result of Liz's moving on, CGE will soon be hiring a new Business Manager. At this point, the EC has reviewed ~10 applications and is contacting candidates for interviews in the upcoming weeks. However, the position is open until filled, so if you or someone you know is interested, please contact the CGE at info@cge6069.org for more information.

Departmental Meetings

This semester, CGE tried a new way to communicate with members and reach out to non-members. No office visits, phone banking, and letter mailings! Department Reps scheduled GA meetings within their department to talk about next year's bargaining (in grad time, that's practically next week), what grads can expect in light of the economy, and to get input from grads on what we would like to see change about our employment. Many meetings have occurred, but we could always use more input. To set up a meeting of grads in your department, email unite@cge6069.org.

HB 2508 Lives!

House Bill 2508 successfully passed out of the House Education Committee in late April and is now in front of the Ways and Means Committee. This is both good and bad – good in that it survived the House Ed Committee, but bad in the sense that Ways and Means will take a hard look at the cost of the bill. However, we are working to craft the bill to be as revenue-neutral as possible, and with any luck, we'll get the chance to head to Salem and speak directly to Ways and Means Committee members about the importance of eliminating certain fees for graduate employees. For more on HB2508, see here:

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/asures/hb2500.dir/hb2508.a.html>



GTFF's: Rockin' the South

2009-2010 Officer Election Results!

President - Libby Schoene

VP-Organizing - Sam Bernofsky

VP-Operations - Jessalynn Strauss

VP-Grievance - Dan Andersen

VP-External Relations - Wes Shirley

VP -Member Communications - Heather Holmquest

VP - Political Education - Keith Appleby

Treasurer - Jacob Dittmer



The GTFF also made a strong showing at this year's AFT-OR Convention. They sent 21 Delegates to Sunriver!

Member of the Month

Allison Weinstein



Allison Weinstein is ending her third year as the CGE Vice President for Communications. With any luck, she'll be finishing her dissertation in the fall and moving on. You can read about her experience as the Comm. VP elsewhere in the newsletter, but we wanted to take this opportunity to point out that during the time she's been working on her PhD, she's had a daughter (Madeleine Mae), been more often than not solely responsible for the newsletter, been to hundreds of EC meetings, and sat on the bargaining team (which is the biggest time commitment one can make to the union) – *twice*. In fact, it's probably true that the only reason she hasn't been Member of the Month a few times by now is that she's been the person behind the newsletter. So, to Allison: THANK YOU!

- The CGE Officers & Staff

Office Hours for the Spring Term:
Monday – Thursday, 10 am to 5 pm.

Contact CGE by phone or email to answer
any of your questions!

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