



# Corpus Christi AFT UNION VOICE

*A Union of Professionals*



## CCAFT Weekly Update-- 3/27/14

### In This Issue:

1. Teacher Contracts
2. Cesar Chavez Marcha—3/30/14
3. Senator Wendy Davis to visit Corpus Christi—4/11/14
4. PD Committee seeking applicants (Special Ed, ESL)

1. **Teacher Contracts** - The Consultation committee is working diligently to preserve the strongest teacher contract possible for new teachers. In the fall of 2014, CCISD will issue term contracts to teachers finishing probation for the first time in memory. Those who are already on continuing contracts get to keep them. All teachers deserve a continuing contract and CCAFT is working collaboratively with the other employee organizations in CCISD to convince the school board to reverse the policy ending continuing contracts. However, if term contracts become a reality in CCISD, AFT believes a 5 year term contract is the most desirable for long term teacher development and student achievement. Please sign our petition that will be given to the school board. Timing is important, and the time to make a significant decision about how CCISD views teachers and teacher contracts is now. We believe strong teacher contracts :

- **Recruit new teachers (attract the best teachers)**
- **Retain teachers (keep productive teachers)**
- **Provide due process (chance to appeal wrongful termination)**
- **Provide free speech (chance to speak freely about issues)**

**The next school board meeting is April 14, 2014. We encourage employees to observe this process and get involved by attending the next meeting as we respectfully request a fair contract. This becomes even more important with the possibility of high stakes testing and tying teacher evaluations to student test scores.**

2. **You're Invited to Cesar Chavez Marcha—3/30/14-** The life and legacy of Cesar Chavez will be honored this Sunday, March 30, 2014 in Corpus Christi. We are asking members and students to attend the march and celebration. Cesar Chavez worked tirelessly to advance educational opportunities for Hispanics and particularly migrant students. Most of his work came through the union movement. It is right for CCAFT to honor him. We will march with other unions of the AFL-CIO in solidarity. Participants can wear their AFT shirts (if you have one) and meet at the intersection of Port and Agnes at 10:30 a.m. This is a short march to the Garcia Arts Center where free food, music, dance and guest speakers will present. Call our office for more information 855-0482. See the event's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/cesarchavezmarch>

3. **Teachers for Wendy !** Senator Wendy Davis is coming to Corpus Christi on Friday, April 11, 2014! We have an event planned for 7:00 p.m. in the Retama Room at Del Mar College (Student Center). Wendy Davis will meet with educators and explain her education platform and ideas. This is free to the public and an excellent opportunity to meet Wendy and take photographs. Call CCAFT for more information
4. **Professional Development Committee Seeking Applicants-** The CCAFT PD Committee continues to grow and expand course offerings. This summer, CCAFT will once again send a team of trainers to Baltimore, Maryland. Through this process we enhance and deepen the curriculum of professional development offered by the union. This is an excellent opportunity to grow professionally that dedicates the union through service to other teachers. Specifically, we are seeking new trainers that have an expertise and background in the following areas:
- \*special education
  - \*ESL/ELL
  - \*Parent facilitator
- Call the CCAFT office to inquire about joining our team of professional trainers!

In Unity,  
Ray McMurrey  
CCAFT President