



# Corpus Christi AFT UNION VOICE

*A Union of Professionals*

## CCAFT Weekly Update 4-23-13

### In This Issue:

1. CCAFT General Membership Meetings
2. New Executive Board Swearing In on May 2, 2013
3. CASA 5K Run on May 4, 2013—CCAFT All Families Together!
4. CCAFT Leadership Training/End of Year Banquet
5. Habitat for Humanity on June 1, 2013—CCAFT All Families Together!
6. Coughatta Bus Trip to Louisiana- June 9, 2013
7. Texas AFT Tele-Town Hall Meeting
8. Professional Development Academy
9. Eyes on the Board
10. Legislative Review

### 1. Membership Meetings —

All members are welcomed to attend the next two general membership meetings. The meetings are held at the new CCAFT office at 4455 SPID, Suite 48. The meetings are from 5:00-7:00 P.M. The Union will meet on April 25, 2013, and May 16, 2013. With a very

important legislative session going on and local consultation talks about the budget for next year, we have plenty on the agenda. The May 16 meeting will nominate and elect delegates to the 2013 Texas AFT State Convention in Houston, Texas June 21-23.

### 2. CCAFT's New Executive Board —

The new CCAFT Executive Board will be sworn in on May 2, 2013, at the CCAFT office during the first executive board meeting of the new term. Judge Tom Greenwell will be present to swear-in the new board members. The 2013-15 Executive Board and officers were elected by acclamation and will take office in May.

Ray McMurrey — President  
Dr. Nancy Vera — Vice-President/Carroll  
Carolyn Markos — Secretary-Treasurer  
Catherine Stein — At—Large Rep. /Tom Brown  
Dr. Linda Moffett — Middle School Rep. /Cullen  
Nelda Ibarra — Auxiliary Clerical Rep. /Driscoll  
Angelina De Los Santos — Custodian Rep. /Cunningham

Elizabeth Moreno — Auxiliary Para Rep./Cullen  
John Gluth — Auxiliary Maintenance Rep.  
Marsha Hardeman — Retired Rep.  
Mike Liñan — Auxiliary At-Large/Agnes shop  
Elizabeth Vera — Auxiliary At-Large/Grant  
Mike Elliot — Outlying Districts/Calallen HS  
\*Jolitta Vonasek — Certified Elementary Rep./Gibson  
\*Felicia Treviño — Certified Elementary Rep./Rose Shaw  
\*Penny Kaminski — Certified At-Large Rep./Wilson  
Steve Wheeler — At-Large Rep./Ray  
\*Mark Carbajal — Certified HS Rep./Collegiate  
\*Pamela Brown — At-Large/Cullen  
(\* - Will be appointed May 2, 2013.)

3. CASA 5K Run: Volunteer with CCAFT—  
CCAFT is continuing with our “All Families Together” initiative. Our belief is that public education works best when we fully understand that it takes a village to raise a child. Engaging with the community and giving back to our city is paramount for those of us in public education. The CCAFT Executive Board has selected several community groups and events to partner with

providing volunteer opportunities for our union. On Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at Heritage Park at 8:00 A.M. to help CASA with the 5K Run. We will have an AFT Table and will deliver water to the runners as they finish the race. Please join us and wear your AFT shirt! Call 855-0482 if we can count on you as a volunteer.

4. CCAFT Leadership Team: Mark Your Calendar, May 25, 2013 —

CCAFT Leaders will have the end of year training event at the Omni Hotel on Saturday, May 25. The event will include a buffet breakfast and guest speaker as we close out the 2012-13 school year and begin organizing for 2013-14! The time is 9:00-11:00 A.M. This

will be a special event as we say good bye to some long- time members who are retiring. The hotel is providing free parking for AFT in the parking garage. Leaders can begin calling Dolly to RSVP for this end-of-year event.

5. Habitat for Humanity: Volunteer with CCAFT —

CCAFT members are invited to volunteer on Saturday, June 1, 2013. Habitat for Humanity builds homes for deserving families. The children of these families end up in our classrooms and home ownership is part of

the American dream. This is a worthy cause. Call CCAFT at 855-0482 to RSVP. Reserve your spot on the job site with Habitat for Humanity and CCAFT on June 1!

6. Coushatta Bus Trip to Louisiana —

On June 9, 2013, school will be out! Our members deserve a chance to relax and get away. We have a bus reserved and ready for Louisiana. \$70.00 per person gets you a hotel room at Coushatta, the bus ride and a \$23.00

voucher from the establishment. You can find more information on our website [www.ccaft.org](http://www.ccaft.org) A \$25.00 deposit is requested to hold your seat.

7. Texas AFT Tele-Town Hall Meeting (Thursday, April 25) with Linda Bridges—

Some lawmakers are pushing an extreme agenda of privatization at the state Capitol that includes:

- Takeover of neighborhood schools by charter operators
- Taxpayer money to private schools in the form of vouchers
- Misuse of testing and over-testing to label our schools as failing
- Free rein to cut teacher pay and nullify contract rights
- Loss of teacher planning periods

- Eliminating safeguards like the 22-1 class-size law

- Cutting already-earned TRS pension benefits from school employees

Join us for special Tele-Town Hall to learn how you can defend public education against privatization!

WHEN: Thursday, April 25, 7 p.m.

WHERE: We'll call you. Just RSVP at [www.txcandobetter.org](http://www.txcandobetter.org)

WHO: Linda Bridges (Texas AFT President),  
Louis Malfaro (Texas AFT Secretary-

8. CCAFT Professional Dev. Committee Ready for PD Academy —

Teachers wishing to obtain professional development exchange hours applicable to the 12-hour mandate by CCISD can count on CCAFT's providing a workshop at the end of the year. We will run an all-day workshop allowing teachers to obtain quality professional learning for exchange credit. Our CCAFT-led classes will be available for registration in Eduphoria as we get closer to the end of school. The days are not finalized

yet with CCISD. However, we want to remind you that as the year ends, we will be providing these classes and you may begin obtaining your expected PD hours for next year. CCAFT PD Director Linda White has developed a broad selection of courses and we will be sending more teachers for training in Maryland this summer to broaden our professional development curriculum.

9. Eyes on the Board —

The April 22, 2013, CCISD School Board meeting addressed the 2013-14 budget and potential salary increase. CCISD board member Carol Scott was the most vocal advocate last night for a pay raise for all employees. Furthermore, she stated current levels of funding were inadequate to meet all of the needs we have in public education. The board identified some future district goals that amount to about \$16 million dollars in targeted spending:

- New staffing guidelines = \$2,695,000
- Salary Increase = \$6,200,000 (represents a district-wide 3%)
- Middle School Initiative = \$1,980,000
- Security related items = \$604,810
- Technology for non-E-rated schools = \$6,527,000

The fairly good news is that the legislature is putting some of the money back that they cut in 2011. So, instead of losing money this time, there will be at least some new money

for this biennium. Of course, we will not know for sure how much until the session is over in early summer. Texas AFT is fighting every day for the FULL restoration of the \$5.4 billion dollars cut in 2011. CCISD has a projected enrollment increase of 541 students for 13-14 which also translates into additional funding. However, with the Federal sequestration coming from Washington D.C., the district is scheduled to lose \$1,070,114 targeted primarily for special education and Title I. While the district is placing the three percent salary increase at roughly \$6 million dollars, we believe there is more money on the table than is currently disclosed in their figures. Moreover, we have been given 2 and 3 percent increases with no new money coming from the state in the last biennium. Surely with new money coming we can do more for employees this year. CCAFT and the consultation team are asking for a 5% increase for 2013-14.

10. Legislative Review —

CCAFT has travelled the district visiting campuses and delivering "Legislative Updates" for employees. If your campus would like the CCAFT staff to visit before or after school to discuss the legislative session, call the CCAFT office to set a date. We will be at Carroll HS on Wednesday, April 24, 2013, and Berlanga ES on Tuesday, April 30, 2013. These meetings are after school. Recently, we

have witnessed two bad TRS bills—HB 1884 and SB 1458. These Republican-sponsored bills would threaten the existing TRS retirement plans that so many employees have already paid into and expect. These bills raise the eligibility age to 62 before full benefits could be realized and, if not grandfathered, would reduce benefits annually by 5%. These are harsh bills and

have led to a massive response by our members statewide. If you have not done so, please click or enter the link to send an easy letter directly to your legislator.

[http://action.aft.org/c/435/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=6124](http://action.aft.org/c/435/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=6124)

Teachers should also be aware of SB 1403 that would change the teacher evaluation system in Texas to include student results on STARR as a basis for PDAS results. Do you

think it is fair to evaluate teachers based on high-stakes testing results? AFT believes both students and teachers deserve a fair and comprehensive evaluation process that does not view the test as the be-all and end-all of measuring success. Please click or enter this link to weigh in on the bill.

[http://action.aft.org/c/435/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=6222](http://action.aft.org/c/435/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=6222)

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