

Academic Freedom for a Free Society
Akron-AAUP Monthly Newsletter
for January 2012

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Official Call for Nominations for Chapter Secretary and Treasurer: All Akron AAUP Members: The chapter is soliciting nominations for the upcoming April election of the Akron AAUP Chapter Secretary and Treasurer. Each officer is a voting member of the Akron AAUP Executive Committee. The term of office for these two positions will be two years. You may nominate yourself or someone else for either position. Only chapter members are allowed to hold office or participate in chapter elections. If you are not currently a Chapter member, this is an excellent time to download and send the Chapter Membership Form (<http://akronaaup.org/documents/MembershipForm.pdf>) to our current Treasurer, Richard Elliott, as indicated on the form.

Many of the *old guard* among our leadership team will soon be retiring or stepping away from AAUP responsibilities. It is time for new blood and new leadership. The work of Akron-AAUP is ongoing, and includes protecting your contractual rights as well as securing those same rights and responsibilities for future colleagues. It is important work for individual faculty members, and also for our collective professional experience.

We encourage you to become involved in this engaging and rewarding work.

Nominations for Secretary and Treasurer are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 23rd, 2012. If you would like to nominate someone, please send your nomination to: Jennifer Holz (Past President, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee) at jh16@uakron.edu or drjenniferholz@yahoo.com, or phone 330-972-8790.

The election will be held in early April, 2012, after nominations have closed. All active Akron AAUP chapter members will be receiving an electronic ballot for these two important leadership positions. Members of the Nominations and Elections Committee are: Jennifer Holz (Past President, Chair), Dave Witt (Chapter Member), and Steve Aby (Chapter Member).

Employee Rights - Take Two: While Ohio citizens soundly rejected Senate Bill 5/Issue 2 and retained bargaining rights for public employees, the story is not over. As reported by **Sara Kilpatrick of the Ohio Conference AAUP**, there are numerous states around the country that have introduced similarly objectionable legislation to limit the rights of employees. In fact, in Ohio, a group is attempting to submit language to get a Constitutional amendment on the ballot

that would make Ohio into a right-to-work state. To read the Ohio Conference article on these developments, go see the link at

<http://ocaaup.org/news/story/4f0c4e1f94a9976816000002/20120110050000/The-Assaults-on-Unions-Continue>.

Update the BGSU-FA and 1st Contract Negotiations: All will recall the herculean efforts of our colleagues in the Bowling Green State University Faculty Association (BGSU-FA) in electing to bring collective bargaining to their campus faculty in October 2010. Much has happened since their win, notably the fight to repeal SB5/Issue 2, in which their chapter members and students were very active. The legislative threat to workers rights had a cooling effect on negotiations, but they are back in earnest and at the negotiating table.

Many of you will remember the 26 month negotiation for Akron-AAUP's first contract. BGSU-FA is negotiating under many of the exact conditions as we did. We know the pressures they are under because we felt them not so long ago. If you have friends or colleagues at BGSU, please take the time to wish them well and offer moral support. Both the Ohio Conference of AAUP and Akron-AAUP leadership are monitoring their progress, keeping an eye out for opportunities to positively contribute to their ultimate success.

Contract Update - Raises in Place: With the January 2012 paychecks, all negotiated pay increases for faculty should be effective. And without crowing too loudly, the UA faculty should know that, our NT negotiated one of the best raise pools in the nation, and certainly in Ohio, among organized university faculty. We are able to accomplish this achievement because of the talent residing in our negotiations team, but also because of our members. Without our members, none of the protections we've negotiated would be in place. It's that simple - Please consider joining the chapter by contacting dave.witt@akronaaup.org

Organizing around the Nation: Faculty should never labor under the idea that we are alone in our commitment to faculty rights, responsible stewardship, and our commitment to AAUP's academic principles. In addition to the BGSU-FA win last year, there are several organizing successes in other states.

- While our colleagues in **Wisconsin** were battling mounting anti-union forces by organizing new AAUP/AFT collective bargaining chapters at **Univ. Wisconsin campuses at Madison and Eau Claire**, their activism has contributed to the gathering of hundreds of thousands of signatures, delivered to their state house this week, to recall Gov. Scott Walker. One of the lead organizers in these campaigns was our good friend, Julie Schmid, who was Akron-AAUP's contact during our first campaign.
- Our colleagues at **Univ. Illinois-Chicago** have a new AAUP/AFT c.b. chapter, and are now negotiating their first contract. Kira Schuman was AAUP's primary organizer on that campaign.

- **University of Oregon** faculty have just this month begun their c.b. election campaign in a joint affiliation with AAUP and AFT. Craig Flannery is a longtime friend of our chapter and the AAUP presence in Oregon.
- The **New Mexico State University AAUP** chapter is planning to begin collecting pledge cards this semester.

Thus it is clear to us that the reactionary over-reach of anti-union forces has reignited a passion for fairness and transparency among higher education faculty.

Contact us anytime at communications@akronaaup.org

Visit the Chapter Website Often - <http://www.akronaaup.org>

Akron-AAUP
Communications Committee