To RIC/AFT Members:  
Please RSVP ASAP

Three items need your immediate attention and action:

Rx. Reimbursement: We received a letter from Anne Marie Coleman, Associate Commissioner of Higher Education, reminding our membership that the deadline for submitting all claims for prescription reimbursement is July 15. Any reimbursement requests received after that date will not be processed. We have included with this Newsletter, another copy of the reimbursement form. Please fill it out and send it to: Anne Marie Coleman, BoG, Office of Higher Education, 301 Promenade St, Providence, RI 02908-5748.

Contract Survey: The Negotiating needs to know the faculty's priorities for the upcoming Contract negotiations. Enclosed in this Newsletter is a survey for you to complete and return to the Union Office (in the enclosed return envelope), ASAP. We ask just a few questions and it will take a couple of minutes for you to provide important input to us. Please do it now - and mail it back today!

Another survey is enclosed: This survey is about indoor air quality at the College. Last month, we included a "Request for Action" Form with the Newsletter. We're doing it again to provide our members with another opportunity to respond. Look for the yellow survey in this packet, and its accompanying data sheet. Send it back to the Union Office.

Announcements

On October 27-31, the National AFT once again will run a Campus Equity Week. Its focus is to draw attention to the inequitable working conditions of contingent faculty, particularly part-time/adjunct faculty and graduate employees. Our local will participate in this program, under the leadership of Dr. Joan Dagle(English Dept.).

The Institute for Labor Studies and Research's 23rd Labor Education Awards Evening will be June 19th, 6 PM at the Westin Hotel. The keynote speaker will be the US House Democratic Leader, Rep. Nancy Pelosi. The RIC/AFT sponsors all members who wish to attend. Call 456-9842 to reserve your seat.
Letters

I read with great interest in the May 1, 2003 "RIC/AFT Newsletter" on page 3 and I quote "No member of President Bush's cabinet except Colin Powell has ever served in the military...". Needless to say this is an incorrect statement from the RIC Faculty/Staff/Students Against this War group that meets outside Adams Library.

1) Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense served in the U.S Navy as a Naval Aviator from 1954-1957.

2) Norman Mineta, Secretary of Transportation served in the U.S. Army as an intelligence officer in Japan & Korea.


4) Anthony Principi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs is a 1967 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and commanded a river patrol unit in Vietnam's Meekong Delta.

5) Andrew Card, President Bush's Chief of Staff is a graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

As a retired RIC faculty member I want to be sure that the RIC community is receiving correct information about the Bush administration.

Sincerely,
Frank P. Notarianni
Former Govt. Publications Librarian - Adams Library

Response from Maureen Reddy

My apologies for the error. Our sentence said "No member of President Bush's cabinet except Colin Powell has ever served in the military, nor are any of their children now in military service." We should have checked further, but the letter of correction needs some comment as well. The facts are that there are fifteen members of Bush's cabinet plus six cabinet-rank officials. Of that 21, five have military service listed on their biographies on the official White House web site (www.whitehouse.gov), plus Andrew Card attended the Merchant Marine Academy, which I'm not sure most of us would see as equivalent to military service. This record is particularly interesting considering that the ages of most cabinet-level officials would have made them eligible for service in Vietnam. Of those five with military service, three saw combat. A more accurate statement in the original piece would have read, "Of those directing this war, only five have served in the military and just three have ever seen combat; none of the children of cabinet-level officials are now in military service." The basic point stands: the children of the working classes and poor were being sent to fight a battle directed by the rich and in the interests of the rich, who are themselves remote from danger.

Sincerely,
Maureen Reddy
RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE-AFT
Program Development Committee

During this busy time of the year, please try to find a few minutes to make your concerns known to the Program Development Committee so that a plan can be constructed that reflects your concerns in the upcoming contract negotiations.

1. Suggest the % increase in salary that you believe is adequate and fair to negotiate in the upcoming contract negotiations._____________________________________
   Comments______________________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

2. Faced with a choice of increasing a co-pay for health insurance or an increase in salary, what would be your priority?__________________________
   Comments______________________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

3. Merit Pay is often a contentious issue among our members. What is your opinion regarding Merit Pay, (Take it, Leave it; Develop a fair process for distribution, etc.) Suggestions are welcome._______________________________________________________________________________
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   6. Please identify any other area that you believe needs to be addressed in the negotiation process. Please be specific.
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Please place this questionnaire in the envelope enclosed with this Newsletter.