



SPRING 2023

# AFT GUILD 1931

Standing in Solidarity, Building Our Community

## AFT UNION & ME 2023

JIM MAHLER, AFT GUILD PRESIDENT

Since the US Supreme Court's anti-worker Janus decision in 2018, union dues have been voluntary. Thus, the Union can only be as strong as the workers it represents desire it to be.

I am happy to report that since that ill-fated decision was handed down, we have done a great job in not only maintaining a strong Union, but in building it to make it even stronger as well. Our successes could not have happened without you, our members, working to ensure we stayed strong despite being vastly out-spent by corporations and billionaires.

However, despite our solid gains on both the contractual and political fronts over the past four and one-half years, there is always room for improvement in order for us to realize our full potential.

To that end, your AFT Guild Executive Council has made the decision to hire a full-time organizer, Larissa Dorman-Cobb, to augment our current hard working AFT organizing staff. In the months to come you will be hearing more from Larissa and from your fellow Union members in general as we work to build an even more solid and powerful Union which will in turn benefit you and your families.

In Solidarity,  
Jim

## Meet Our New Organizer/Trainer



LARISSA DORMAN-COBB

In November, Larissa joined our staff at AFT Guild 1931. She isn't a new face to many of you who worked with her back in 2008-2015 when she served as an AFT Vice President of Political Action, AFT Internship Co-Coordinator and Political Science/Labor Studies Professor at City and Cuyamaca. Larissa has spent the last eight years organizing Lecturers, Librarians and K-12 Teachers at UC San Diego with UC-AFT. She served as Field Representative and Chief Negotiator for the Preuss School. We welcome Larissa back to her home union where she will support our plans to build out our union community.



## BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

LARISSA DORMAN-COBB, AFT ORGANIZER/TRAINER

"Building community is to the collective as spiritual practice is to the individual" -Grace Lee Boggs

Over the past few months, we have worked to understand the culture of our campuses--the impact of the pandemic, online learning and physical separation. What we learned is no surprise. Folks are feeling significant burnout, a lack of community on campus and a sense of isolation, even as we return to in-person. Our aim in this work has been to consider how our union can support the goal of building a renewed community culture--a culture of care, connectedness, collaboration and trust.

This year we will be building upon our member-led union structure through the creation of a liaison network.

Our liaison network will:

- organize to build a more democratic, horizontal, dynamic and connected union;
- create new ways for members to get involved in our union by building upon our relationships with each other;
- activate membership through community building, workshops, social events and trainings;
- educate members about the importance of a strong union
- build a member-led committee structure based on member interests;
- communicate member needs to leadership to improve representation and understanding;
- act as a conduit for information and union support for colleagues.

Our union has achieved so much already--to sustain these gains, we are focusing our efforts on building this new liaison structure.

If you are interested in joining your colleagues as a member of our liaison network, please [CLICK HERE](#) to provide your information!

## Spring 2023 Events

Find our AFT 1931 events at:  
<https://linktr.ee/aftguild1931>

- Fri. Feb 10th: SDCCD Paycheck Happy Hour Celebration at 4pm ZOOM
- Wed. Mar 1st: GCCCD Paycheck Happy Hour Celebration at 4pm ZOOM
- Early April: Liaison Network Training Retreat TBA
- April Union and Me 2023 Kickoff Event TBA
- Sun. Apr 30th: AFT 1931 May Day Picnic TBA

The  Guild  
Local 1931 of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO