

FACT SHEET

What is the California Federation of Teachers?

- The California Federation of Teachers is a union of professionals affiliated with the more than 1.4 million member American Federation of Teachers, and through it with the AFL-CIO.
- The CFT is made up of the state's 136 local unions chartered by the AFT. Each local is affiliated with its regional AFL-CIO Central Labor Council and the California Labor Federation.
- Through its local unions, the CFT represents more than 120,000 educational employees working at every level of public and private education from Head Start to the University of California.
- In all segments of education, CFT is committed to raising educational standards and to securing the conditions necessary to provide the best services to California's students.

Why is there a CFT?

- The CFT was founded in 1919 to provide a labor union alternative for classroom teachers. To gain employee rights taken for granted by other workers, CFT lawyers and courageous teachers tested the courts again and again, building a strong body of case law. One observer said, "The AFT in California is responsible for having won 90 percent of the cases dealing with teachers' rights during the 1960s."
- To provide essential workplace rights, the CFT in 1953 introduced the first teachers' collective bargaining bill in the California Legislature. It reintroduced similar bills for the following two decades, until passage of the Educational Employment Relations Act in 1975 finally brought collective bargaining rights to K-14 teachers and classified employees working in public education. Since then CFT has represented these employees in professional and employment-related matters.

- Three years later, in 1978, CFT helped pass the Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act, bringing the benefits of collective bargaining to university employees. Today the CFT represents lecturers and librarians at the University of California.

What has CFT achieved?

- **PRE-K AND K-12 TEACHERS** The CFT leads the state's movement for reform based on high academic standards for both students and teachers. Through the collective bargaining contract, AFT faculty unions became trailblazers in establishing successful peer assistance and review programs, and other professional development, still in place today. CFT works to secure universal preschool for all California children as well as lifelong learning for adults.
- **CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES AND PARAPROFESSIONALS** The union works to ensure that classified employees are recognized for the valuable work they perform. CFT believes the work of qualified school and college support staff is essential to building strong campus communities and enhanced student learning.
- **COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACULTY** CFT represents a majority of community college faculty in California. To better the working conditions of more than 30,000 part-time faculty, CFT has successfully worked in coalition with other organizations and has led efforts to win equity funding to boost part-timer salaries, and continues to seek legislation that will put an end to the exploitation of adjunct instructors.
- **UC LIBRARIANS AND LECTURERS** The CFT organizes academic workers at the University of California and has negotiated one of the best contracts in the nation for non-tenured faculty.
- **PRIVATE SCHOOL AND COLLEGE FACULTY AND STAFF** The CFT organizes education workers at private schools and colleges, Head Start, and job training centers who need a union on their side to secure the most basic employee rights.

California Federation
of Teachers 
AFT, AFL-CIO
A Union of Professionals

Representing faculty and
classified workers in public and
private schools and colleges,
from early childhood through
higher education.

President
Joshua Pechthalt

Secretary Treasurer
Jeffery M. Freitas

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
2550 N. Hollywood Way, Suite 400
Burbank, California 91505
818-843-8226
818-843-4662 fax

BAY AREA OFFICE
1201 Marina Village Pkwy, Suite 115
Alameda, California 94501
510-523-5238
510-523-5262 fax

SACRAMENTO OFFICE
1127 Eleventh Street, Suite 806
Sacramento, California 95814
916-446-2788
916-446-2401 fax

www.cft.org



FACT SHEET

CFT VICE PRESIDENTS

- L. Lacy Barnes** Senior Vice President
State Center Community Colleges
- Velma Butler**
Los Angeles Community Colleges
- Cathy Campbell** Berkeley Unified
- Robert Chacanaca** Santa Cruz Unified
- Kimberly Claytor**
Newport-Mesa Unified
- Melinda Dart** Jefferson Elementary
- Warren Fletcher** Los Angeles Unified
- Betty Forrester** Los Angeles Unified
- Ray Gaer** ABC Unified
- Miki Goral** UCLA
- Carolyn Ishida**
Santa Paula Elementary
- Dennis Kelly** San Francisco Unified
- Jim Mahler** San Diego & Grossmont-
Cuyamaca Community Colleges
- Elaine Merriweather**
San Francisco Unified
- Alisa Messer**
San Francisco City College
- David Mielke**
Culver City Unified
- Dean Murakami**
Los Rios Community Colleges
- Francisco Rodriguez**
Pajaro Valley Unified
- Sam Russo** North Orange County
Community Colleges
- Linda Sneed**
Los Rios Community Colleges
- Joanne Waddell**
Los Angeles Community Colleges
- Carl Williams** Lawndale Elementary
- Kent Wong** UCLA
- David Yancey**
San Jose/Evergreen Colleges

CFT DIVISION COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

- Gary Ravani**
Early Childhood/K-12 Council
- Velma Butler**
Council of Classified Employees
- Carl Friedlander**
Community College Council
- Bob Samuels**
University Council-AFT

AFT VICE PRESIDENTS

- Dennis Kelly** San Francisco Unified
- Laura Rico** ABC Unified

Who are the CFT's elected officers?



JOSHUA PECHTHALT, a teacher in Los Angeles, was elected CFT President in March 2011 after serving as a CFT Vice President and president of the largest AFT local union in California, United Teachers Los Angeles, Local 1021. Pechthalt has worked to build alliances of education unions, social service and healthcare providers, and community-based organizations.



JEFFERY M. FREITAS, a credentialed secondary math teacher currently serves as CFT Secretary Treasurer. He has advocated on behalf of members for more than a decade as president of the Carpinteria Association of United School Employees, AFT Local 2216, and as a field representative and lobbyist for the CFT.



L. LACY BARNES, an instructor of psychology at Reedley College is the Senior Vice President of CFT. Barnes, who holds a Ph.D, is also president of the State Center Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 1533, representing faculty at Reedley and Fresno City Colleges in the Central Valley.



CARL FRIEDLANDER is president of the CFT Community College Council and former leader of the Los Angeles College Faculty Guild, AFT Local 1521. He also serves as a vice president of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and teaches English, ESL and linguistics in the Los Angeles Community College District.



GARY RAVANI, a middle school teacher for 31 years in Petaluma, heads the Early Childhood/K-12 Council. Ravani served as president of the Petaluma Federation of Teachers for 19 years, has been a vice president of CFT for two decades and is chair of the Education Issues Committee.



VELMA BUTLER is president of the CFT Council of Classified Employees, the division of support staff and paraprofessionals. Butler leads the AFT College Staff Guild, Local 1521A, representing clerical technical employees in the Los Angeles Community College District and worked as an athletic secretary for 17 years at Southwest College.



BOB SAMUELS, a lecturer of Writing at UCLA, leads the CFT's University Council, which represents the librarian and lecturer (non-tenure track) bargaining units in the University of California system.

How does the CFT work?

- The highest political body of the CFT is its annual Convention. At the Convention, hundreds of delegates elected in local unions throughout the state debate and decide issues facing the organization. Every other year, delegates elect the CFT president, secretary treasurer, and 24 vice presidents.
- Between Conventions, the State Council, to which all local unions may send delegates, makes decisions for the CFT. Between these meetings, the Executive Council, comprising the officers of the CFT, makes decisions for the Federation.
- At State Council and Executive Council, the CFT Committee on Political Education (COPE) reviews ballot propositions and political candidates and their positions on issues. Through COPE, CFT participates actively in the campaigns of endorsed candidates.
- CFT's four division councils correspond to the major groups of education employees: Pre-K/K-12, Classified, Community College, and University. The councils meet quarterly to share information relative to their constituencies and to formulate policy proposals for the State Council, Executive Council and Convention. Council officers are elected by their constituent local unions.

Where can the CFT be found?

- AFT local unions can be found throughout the state, from Lassen County in the north to San Diego in the south. Many locals employ their own staff.
- The Federation's officers and staff work in the administrative office in Burbank, the legislative and political office in Sacramento, the regional office in the Bay Area and the seven field offices in Costa Mesa, Fresno, Gilroy, Los Angeles County, Petaluma, Santa Cruz and Ventura.