Hail and Farewell to Palomar’s Governing Board

As we say goodbye to three amazing Trustees, PFF welcomes our incoming Governing Board with great hopes for our college’s future.

After five terms of service - that’s 20 years! - Trustee Mark Evilsizer decided to retire as a Governing Board member. We heartfelt gratitude for his devotion to Palomar and the relationship we enjoyed with him over the past few years particularly, we wish Mark all the best. He was a steadfast ally in helping faculty support their choice for his replacement, and after the toughest campaign we’ve ever faced, PFF is thrilled to have helped elect Dr. Judy Patacsil as the Trustee for Area 1. Many of us got to know her over the course of the campaign, and we congratulate Dr. Patacsil on her important win!

We also say goodbye to Trustees Kartik Raju, Area 4, and Norma Miyamoto, Area 5. Trustee Raju served one year as an appointed Trustee. In that time, he made real connections with Palomar’s students, faculty, staff, and administration, and we will all miss working with him. Trustee Miyamoto’s full Trustee term followed years of being a member of Palomar’s faculty, staff, and administration, and we will miss her special insight and leadership. It was an honor to work with Raju and Miyamoto on their election campaigns, and we send them off with our gratitude and respect.

Our sincere congratulations to new Trustees Michelle Rains and Jacqueline Kaiser who were elected by the voters in Areas 4 and 5, respectively! Given the current political climate we are especially grateful that all candidates took the high road and ran positive campaigns, so we can look forward to building our relationships with the newest Trustees. PFF was in the most fortunate position to support incumbents this election, and while not all our endorsed candidates won, all candidates focused on themselves and their own campaigns, and we’re excited that the voters’ choices will bring new perspectives to our college. We’re eager to learn each Governing Board Member’s goals as we share ours with them, and then discover how we can support each other’s ambitions. For over five years, PFF’s leadership has connected with each Trustee individually at a monthly standing meeting, and we hope to continue this custom with the three newest Governing Board Members.

Here’s to everyone for their tireless service and campaigning, and to the 2022-24 Palomar Governing Board!
Debbie Forward, PFF Executive Director and COPE Director
Barbara Baer, PFF Co-President, Part-Time Faculty
Lawrence Hamilton Lawson, PFF Co-President, Full-Time Faculty

Hey, what happened to the turkeys this year?
Since early in the pandemic, PFF has supported North County with food distributions coordinated in Parking Lot 12 with our brothers and sisters in CCE, the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, and local food banks. In 2020 and 2021 we had a blast at our special November Turkey Distributions, and many of you asked about volunteering at it again this year.

With a projected turkey shortage this fall (who knew?!) the Labor Council and food banks couldn’t secure turkeys to organize with potential distributors like us. We were sorry to not continue what we’d hoped would become a tradition, and we’ll let you know if we can pick it up again in 2023.
NEGOTIATIONS

PFF’s Negotiations Team continues to make progress with the District on our 2022-25 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). Our own team meets weekly (sometimes twice a week) to prepare for our sessions with the District, which are scheduled for twice a month (only once in December, however, on the 14th). Please visit the CONTRACT page of our website for detailed updates of each negotiations meeting.

The District has employed the expertise of Joey Sanchez as Lead Negotiator, and to date we’ve found him to be knowledgeable, fair, and prepared, making the experience as productive as we’ve been hoping for. Dean Justin Smiley and HR Director Christine Winterle round out the District’s team. Jenny Fererro continues as PFF’s Lead Negotiator and is joined by Barbara Baer, Will Dalrymple, and Lawrence Hamilton Lawson.

The work it takes for PFF to negotiate the CBA is immense. Our team’s expertise involves training, studying, time, and energy, and Union dues make that happen. PFF’s membership numbers bring strength to the table, and the more faculty who belong to the PFF, the more bargaining power we have. In short, membership plays a key role in the gains Jenny, Barbara, Will, and Lawrence have recently achieved for faculty!

What does it take to be on the PFF Executive Board?

As happens every spring, next semester PFF will hold elections for some of its Officer and Executive Board Member seats. This term, our fearless Part-Time Co-President, Barbara Baer, has decided not to run again after four remarkable years. We will miss her strong leadership as we revel in the foundation she has established for part-time faculty, and we wish her some real relaxation - and time with that new grand baby!

Along with the Part-Time Co-President seat, elections will be held for:

• Two Full-Time positions
• Two Part-Time positions
• Two At-Large positions (open to either FT or PT)

Terms are for two years (May, 2023 through May, 2025). One must be a PFF Member in Good Standing to run for a seat and able to attend regular meetings one the 2nd & 4th Thursdays from 4-6pm when school is in session.

More information and the Call for Nominations will be emailed to your @palomar.edu address early next semester, or you can email us anytime at palomarfacfed@gmail.com

Barbara Baer, PT in Economics, has served as PFF’s Co-President since she was elected in the Spring of 2018

Fall Membership Report

Palomar Faculty Federation continues to grow! As new FT faculty are hired, they overwhelmingly tend to join the Union and maintain a 92% membership rate. As we connect with more PT faculty, they’re increasingly joining the ranks, too, and PT membership hovers just below 60%. Overall, 69% of Palomar faculty belong to PFF.

Increasing membership naturally brings more faculty power at the bargaining table, where PFF negotiates for wages, benefits, and working conditions. Stronger membership enables more training for the Union’s Grievance Officers who need to step in when needed to represent or assist faculty.

PFF is also able to better support members with programs like its Conference Funding, Emergency Funds, and Scholarships (see here for more), as well as the traditional Holiday Giving you read about in campus emails.

Colleagues who belong to the Union contribute 1.4% of their gross pay to Union dues, which in turn, benefit all faculty. Thank you to our members, and if you’ve got questions about PFF or are ready to join, you can contact our Executive Director, Debbie Forward, at debbieforward1@gmail.com or visit the BELONG page on our website.