

# UNION ORGANIZING AT CRC

By Jason Newman

During the fall semester of 2011, the LRCFT leadership team at CRC will continue to engage in contract education, membership outreach, political organizing, and contract enforcement with management and faculty. Over the past two years, establishing a Workload Committee, open communication channels with management, filing labor grievances, and motivating faculty to take part in local and statewide political events have dominated the activities of the LRCFT on campus. The next year will include more emphasis on contract education, membership organizing, and political outreach.

To help faculty comprehend the complexities of our new contract, the LRCFT president and representatives at CRC, in conjunction with CASSL (the Center for the Advancement of Staff and Student Learning), will hold three contract education workshops this semester. The first workshop focused on the Performance Review (September 27, from 1:30-3:00). A second workshop, entitled Writing the Self-Study (October 19, from 1:00-2:30), will assist both new and veteran faculty in writing an effective self-study as part of the Performance Review process. To address the concerns of part-time faculty regarding future employment, the workshop, Solutions for Part Timers in Challenging Times will take place on November 2, from 4:00 to 5:30. The workshops, as well as other events on campus sponsored by the LRCFT, are available for flex and college service credit.

Other public informational events, forums, and social gatherings sponsored by the LRCFT will take place during the semester at CRC. On September 22, President Dean Murakami of the LRCFT provided a large-group presentation on the impact of declining state revenues on students and faculty within the Los Rios Community College District. In partnership with the CRC Senate through the Senate-Union Joint Issues Committee (SUJIC), faculty forums on the implementation of a College Hour at CRC, and the effectiveness of the Compressed Calendar system, will be held sometime during the semester. The faculty Workload Committee will continue to meet as it has done here since early 2010. Mid-year cuts and the reallocation of FTE continue to dominate the discussions between faculty and management. The holding of faculty social gatherings at a local family-owned restaurant, a process that began last year at CRC, continues this semester to provide faculty with an off-campus venue to unwind and discuss important issues. An average of 20 people attended each of these events last semester, and the first two held this semester as well.



Political organizing and encouraging faculty to take part in shared labor struggles in our community remain a central focus of the LRCFT at CRC. The Ami Bera/Dan Lungren election for the 3rd congressional district, the most important congressional race in the nation for both the Democratic and the Republican parties, places Elk Grove and Cosumnes River College in the forefront of the 2012 election. Election-related events, from debates between the candidates to information sessions on the election, will take place on campus over the next academic year. Recent solidarity actions by LRCFT members from CRC include attendance at the several marches held by the United Farm Workers between May and September, and the on-going three year demonstrations at the Hilton Hotel off Arden Way in Sacramento. In both instances, workers are fighting for a fair contract and to be able to effectively unionize. The LRCFT leadership at CRC will continue to publicize other social justice events and shared labor struggles taking place in our community. ■

## UPCOMING CRC WORKSHOPS:

more info: Jason Newman, [newmanj@crc.losrios.edu](mailto:newmanj@crc.losrios.edu)

WRITING THE SELF-STUDY	OCTOBER 19	1-2:30 PM
SOLUTIONS FOR PART TIMERS	NOVEMBER 2	4-5:30 PM