



PROFESSIONAL VIEW
PEA'S NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY-MARCH, 2005

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Submitted by David Peterson, President

It may seem strange to you that you are getting another PEA newsletter, when you got one just a month ago. The Executive Committee has decided to send the quarterly PEA newsletter during the second month of the quarter, instead of after the quarter is over. This timing change will make the PEA newsletter available for formal notices such as general membership meeting topics, bylaw changes, elections, etc., reducing the need for separate mailing notices.

The Executive Committee has continued its schedule of monthly Tuesday night meetings at the union office.

The agenda is dominated by committee reports, negotiation topics, and the Business Agent/Legal Counsel Report on current grievances and other issues.

Some of the other current activities and discussion:

- Annual evaluation of the Business Agent/Legal Counsel services;
- Election of Mary Ann Miller to serve as PEA representative to the Libraries Labor Management Committee;
- Discussion on whether to continue with TCF for banking services (due to the TCF executive management extreme participation in partisan politics);
- Review of a City proposal to eliminate Civil Service Rule 8.A.4, which prohibits PEA and SPSO members from Departmental Preference in hiring that is available to other city unions under Civil Service Rule 8.A.3;
- Review of the PEA bylaw that limits the maximum PEA fund balance for a 12 month period;
- Updating the computerized union files;
- General office clean up and storage arrangements;
- Assignment of negotiation reading material to leaders on the Negotiation Committees;
- Setting dates for the two General Membership meetings for 2005;
- Setting dates for the two Executive Committee and Steward combined meetings for 2005 (these meetings generally provide in-service training to Stewards); and
- Setting dates for the Quarterly PEA newsletters.

Under the initiative of John Larson, the PEA website (www.peaonline.org) has become an excellent source of information and updates for PEA members.

The Executive Committee has continued to be

involved and active. I would like to thank the many other active PEA members for their support.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION
REFUND INFORMATION

Submitted by David Peterson, President

Individuals who contribute in 2005 to a Minnesota political party, a candidate for state office, or candidates for the Minnesota Legislature are eligible to apply for a refund of their contributions.

Only those contributions made to candidates who signed an agreement with the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (formerly Minnesota Ethical Practices Board) to observe state campaign spending limits qualify for the refund.

Minnesota Statutes defines "contribution" for purposes of the political contribution refund, as "a gift of money." Eligible candidates and parties should therefore not issue an official Form EP-3 (receipt) to contributors who donate goods or services.

The maximum refund contributors can receive is \$50 for single persons and \$100 for married couples. A single person or married couple can file one refund application per year.

Anyone who is registered to vote or eligible to vote in Minnesota is eligible to apply for a refund.

To apply, a contributor must:

1. Get a receipt (Form EP-3) from the political party or candidate to whom the contribution was made.
2. Fill out Form PCR, obtained from the party, candidate, or Minnesota Department of Revenue.
3. Attach the EP-3 to the 2005 Form PCR (2005 contributions only).
4. Mail it to the Minnesota Department of Revenue at:

Minnesota Political Contribution
Refund
Minnesota Department of
Revenue
St. Paul, MN 55146-1800

This refund program is not tied in any way to the state income tax form. Form PCR must be filed separately. Taxpayers can only file a claim once there is no amending to the PCR.

A taxpayer may file a claim for the PCR immediately after making the contribution.

Claims for contributions made during 2005 can be filed any time between January 1, 2005 and April 15, 2006.

PEA EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR WINNERS

Mary Ann Miller 2001
Jaber Alsiddiqui 2002
Steve Roy 2003
Steve Olson 2004

The Legal Corner
by Mike Wilde

Some changes in our daily lives are barely worth mentioning. In the newspaper industry they used to characterize those occurrences as “dog bites man” stories. You know the kind of run of the mill developments that we come to expect. I consider rising milk prices, higher costs at the gas pump and the inflated housing market to fall into that category. But public employees recently got news of a “man bites dog” story.

Increases are now being sought from both public employees and their employers to adequately fund the public pension plan. This means that each of you will be required to pay more out of your paycheck to maintain the existing plan benefits. Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) Executive Director Mary Vanek will be asking the Minnesota Legislature to increase the necessary contributions to keep the plan financially healthy into the future. Ms. Vanek succinctly stated recently that “it’s a case of pay us now or pay us later.”

Everyone probably agrees that pension and retirement security is of utmost importance, well ... except for those who are now pitting “security” against “privatization” in our social security system. But as for PERA it looks as though these increases are almost inevitable. However, it will still be another unwelcome deduction from our members’ paychecks.

A PEA member currently pays 5.10% of his or her paycheck into PERA. That rate is expected to increase to 5.50% by January 1, 2006. The following year it will rise to 5.75% and by January 1, 2008 it should settle at 6.0%. For a better perspective we could say that a \$60,000 annual income is currently reduced by \$3,060 to fund PERA. In two years and 10 months that deduction will grow to \$3,600, or by about \$45 per month.

This deduction will be matched or exceeded by the City’s PERA contribution. All public employers are expected to face increases from the current employer rate of 5.53% to 6.0% in 2006, 6.25% in 2007, 6.5% in 2008, 6.75% in 2009 and 7.0% in 2010.

Although you might feel a small sense of justice in knowing that the employer is sharing in this financial pain, keep in mind that this setback will only serve as another reason for the employer to try and deny future wage increases. Our focus here should be on the end result. Specifically, our members should realize the cumulative effect here. The dog-bites-man story of a 2.7% inflation rate means your paycheck purchases less. To compound that situation the man-bites-dog stories of increased health insurance costs and higher PERA deductions from your paycheck means that you have less pay available. And to make things worse you should know that the City is currently offering a wage freeze for 2005. I hope every member takes some interest to call the PEA negotiations team or their steward and discuss their concerns. Because right now it’s going to the dogs.

CHANGE IN PEA’s BANKING FACILITIES

At the February 1, 2005 Executive Board meeting, the Executive Board agreed to change PEA’s banking facilities to the City and County Employees Credit Union.

PEA currently has its checking account and all of its CDs at TCF. The change in banking facilities is due to PEA’s fiduciary responsibility for supporting workers and worker wages. PEA’s checking account will be transferred first and PEA’s CDs will be transferred when they expire at TCF. All PEA bank accounts will be transferred to the City and County Employees Credit Union by the end of 2005.

Rhonda Gillquist, Treasurer

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

First. Our next general membership meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2005 at Joseph’s Grill. Mark your calender and join your other PEA members and attend. The worst that can happen is you will get to eat a very good free meal!

Next. Mark your calender for our December general membership meeting. We will again be enjoying each others hospitality at Mancini’s on December 7th. With this much advanced notice everybody should be able to attend. As an added bonus, we will be having a vote to elect the 2006 Executive Board. It will be a time to reward the current board for a job well done (assuming they run again) or a chance to “throw the scoundrels out!” Either way it should be fun and again the worst that can happen is you will get to eat a very good free meal!

Finally. This will be my last article as a Vice President, as a member of the Executive Board, as a member of PEA and as an employee of the City. NO I am not moving onto another job elsewhere. I AM RETIRING! I have enjoyed my time serving PEA and always found it rewarding, but lately working for the City has been challenging and not rewarding. I see no reason to continue working. I don’t have to and I’m not going to.

Best wishes to all,
Steven Olson

YOUR CITY NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

On Thursday, Mar. 3, our City Negotiations Committee had its third meeting with the City. The issues that are being discussed are listed on our website at: http://www.peaonline.org/City_Proposal.pdf

Please go and read the City’s proposal. What do you like? What do you hate? What would make you vote “no” on the contract? Let our Committee know what your bottom line is!

City Negotiations Committee Members

Sheila Winderlich, Chair: 501-6309

Karin Anderson: 266-8765 Mary Ann Miller: 642-0411
Susan McMahan: 699-6756 Mike Wilde: 612-227-8425

PEA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
DECEMBER 1, 2004

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Olson, President; David Peterson, Vice President; Rhonda Gillquist, Treasurer; Karin Anderson, Personnel Chair; Sheila Winderlich, City Negotiations Chair; Jaber Alsiddiqui, ISD Negotiations Chair; Brian Krawiecki, Secretary; 11 Stewards, 58 regular members and Mike Wilde, Business Agent.

INTRODUCTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STEWARDS: Executive Committee Members and Stewards were introduced followed by comments from Mike Wilde on grievance procedures and issues.

BUSINESS AGENT / LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE: Mike believes there may be some grievable issues that are not being pursued by members. Members are encouraged to contact Mike, their Steward or a member of the Executive Committee if they feel they may have a grievance issue.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the June 6, 2004 General Membership meeting were adopted as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer: Rhonda presented the 2005 budget. There was some discussion of specific budget items. It was noted that a very conservative approach was used to develop the 2005 budget.

Personnel: There has been some realignment of Steward and members. Issac Afwerke has taken over all of the Water Office and Labor members, Bruce Riebe has taken over all IS and Public Works Office members and Jamel Anderson has taken over all Parks members. There are currently 304 PEA members, 238 City employees, 27 of which are fair share and 66 School District employees to include 4 fair share members.

City Negotiations: The City Negotiations Committee will meet with the City negotiators next week to present our contract demands. Our contract demands were developed using the membership surveys that were submitted to the Negotiations Committee last fall.

ISD Negotiations: AFSCME Labor contract negotiations have gone to mediation. Jaber will stay apprised of the AFSCME Labor contract negotiations to gain a perspective for the next PEA School District contract issues.

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE: Article XIII, Donations Approval Requirements was changed to increase the donation limit of \$50 to \$200. This amount only needs to be approved by the Executive Committee quorum. Amounts in excess of \$200 need to be approved by majority vote at a General Membership Meeting. **MOTION** by Linda Valen to accept the change, **SECOND** by Paula Peterson, **MOTION CARRIED.** The PEA Bylaws are available at <http://www.peaonline.org/bylaws.html>.

ELECTION OF 2005 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MEMBERS: The Executive Committee for 2005 retains the same personnel with the only change being the President and Vice President switched positions. Steve Olson stepped down to the Vice President position and Dave Peterson will assume the President position.

PEA MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD: Steve Olson received the 2004 PEA Member of the Year award as presented by Mike Wilde and Karin Anderson.

NEW BUSINESS: MOTION by Paula Peterson requesting a donation to Bill Gillman of \$500 for his dedication to PEA throughout his career, to help cover his medical expenses. **Second** by Dave Peterson, **MOTION CARRIED.**

Door prizes were awarded to all in attendance. In addition gift certificates were awarded to Susan Henry, Joanna Brooks, Kathy Korf, Steve Olson, Bill Voss and Peg Doheny.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:05pm

2005 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	DAVID PETERSON	SCHOOLS - 360 COLBORNE, 55102	696-9626
VICE PRESIDENT	STEVE OLSON	LIEP - 350 ST. PETER ST., #300, 55102	266-9139
TREASURER	RHONDA GILQUIST	SPPD - 367 GROVE ST., 55101	266-5544
SECRETARY	BRIAN KRAWIECKI	LIEP - 350 ST. PETER ST., #300, 55102	266-9134
NEGOTIATIONS			
CITY	SHEILA WINDERLICH	LIBRARY - MMC, 2109 WILSON AVE., 55119	501-6309
SCHOOL	JABER ALSIDDIQUI	SCHOOLS - 360 COLBORNE, 55102	767-8352
PERSONNEL	KARIN ANDERSON	CAO - 550 CITY HALL, 15 W. KELLOGG, 55102	266-8765

STEWARDS

CAO	JIM JEFFERY	500 CITY HALL, 15 W. KELLOGG, 55102	266-8764
FIRE	PAULA PETERSON	100 E. 11 TH ST., 55101	228-6203
LIBRARIES			
CENTRAL	SUSAN HENRY	MMC, 2109 WILSON AVE., 55119	501-6305
PART TIME	SUSAN McMAHON	HIGHLAND PK, 1974 FORD PKWY., 55116	699-6756
BRANCHES	MARY ANN MILLER	ST. ANTHONY, 2245 CARTER AVE., 55101	642-0411
LIEP	FRANK BERG	350 ST. PETER ST., #300, 55102.	266-9072
OFS	CORRINE HAAS	160 CITY HALL, 15 W. KELLOGG, 55102	266-8815
PARKS & REC	JAMEL ANDERSON	300 CH ANNEX, 25 W. 4 TH ST., 55102	266-6361
P.E.D.	CRAIG O'BRIEN	1100 CH ANNEX, 25 W. 4 TH ST., 55102	266-6695
POLICE	MARSHA PANOS	367 GROVE ST., 55101	292-3781
PUBLIC HEALTH	KAY WITTGENSTEIN	555 CEDAR ST., 55101	266-1285
SCHOOL DISTRICT	LYLA GRIFFIN	360 COLBORNE, 55102	767-8288
	COLLEEN SHIELDS	360 COLBORNE, 55102	767-3472
TMS & PW	BRUCE RIEBE	700 CH ANNEX, 25 W. 4 TH ST., 55102	266-6091
WATER	ISSAC AFWERKE	1900 N. RICE, 55113	266-6267

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